



## Ferguson Trophy - Ian Gebbie and Matt Dodds

It was 2009 when Kilmarnock last held a 10k road race but with entry numbers of under 100 the decision was taken to call a halt.

So, when in 2015 Ian and Matt decided it was time for Kilmarnock to get back on the road running scene as a venue for a 10k Road race and presented this to the Committee with a confident ambition of attracting 1000 runners, it was perhaps unsurprisingly met with some scepticism. Turn the clock forward 9 months and with some meticulous planning, endless meetings with the Local authority and other partners in the event, the financial support from many local businesses obtained, on the 12 June 2016 1,087 runners completed the first Roon the Toon Kilmarnock 10k. (Almost 1300 had pre-entered)

The event itself went smoothly and without incident. Comments from runners was almost universally positive and feedback from sponsors was an immediate desire to stay involved and support the 2017 event.

The profile of Kilmarnock Harriers in the community has benefited from the success and we've hopefully contributed to improving the health and wellbeing of many people in the town through their participation.

Planning for the 2017 event has already begun with an ambition to increase participation to up to 2,000 entrants, and in only its second year, Roon the Toon has been awarded the venue for the 2017 West District 10k championships which will not only increase the number of Club participants but add to the quality of the event.

From a standing start this has been a great achievement for Kilmarnock and Kilmarnock Harriers and would not have been achieved without the

dedication and commitment of Ian and Matt, living and breathing this event for weeks and months beforehand.

Over and above this Ian and Matt are stalwarts in the organisation of many other Club events from Cross Country & Ruby's Race to Club Xmas and summer handicap events.

In all senses of Improvement, Contribution and in particular Achievement and Participation, through their ambition and commitment to Roon the Toon, Ian and Matt are deserving of the Ferguson Trophy.



**Ian Gebbie - 'Ferguson Trophy' winner**



**Matt Dodds receiving 'Ferguson Trophy'**

