



**VINNERS** all: Robert Deakin who took first place, right and inset, with runner up, Cwyn Owen.

**Pictures by  
Stéphanie  
Durrant  
(who also  
braved the  
rain)  
Report by  
Karl Durrant**

# Bravery and endurance

Some 451 runners from all over the country turned out for the annual Nick Beer 10k road race at Llandudno last Sunday and competed in cool, wet and windswept conditions.

The event was very well organised by North Wales Road Runners Club, and as the noon start approached, it was obvious to all that the weather would not clear, so the runners faced a wet and buffeting time against the elements.

From the pier, the challenging course took the athletes around the Great Orme to the West Shore, and back along Church Walk to the promenade again, before a final sprint

to the finish line at the North Wales Conference Centre.

First across the line in an astonishing 33 minutes 6 seconds was Stoke born Robert Deakin, representing Birchfield Harriers - shaving just over a minute from last year's winning time.

Local runners Gwyn Owen (Eryri) 33.36, and Harry Jones (Colwyn Bay) 34.38, took the 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Colwyn Bay and Abergele Harriers were well represented with places within the top 20.

major runners of note included, Brendan Rothery (Eryri) 5th in 34.54; Darren Blazier (Abergele) 6th in 34.59 - whilst the winner of the recent Pier to Pier race, veteran Gary

Williams (Menai) could only finish 7th in 35.08, but collected the 1st vet prize. Ron Elliot of hosts North Wales Road Runners Club won the V60 prize in a magnificent time of 38.33.

The Bay's top youngster, Harry Jones, took 1st place for the under 20's, with club colleague Jac Hughes 10th (46.51). And Carmen Anthony (Belle Vue) held the torch for the Ladies with a 38.17 finish time. Isabel Redfern of Colwyn Bay was 3rd (39.37). The last runner over the line was Suzanne Welsh with an admirable 1.19.45. Eryri Harriers took the mens' team award with 21pts.



**RACING** ahead: Some of the sporting female competitors (above); the brave runners (below) fought driving rain as they clambered up the slopes of the Great Orme.

