

The final fixture of the 2006 Warwickshire Road Race League took place over at Rugby, where the 10-mile event saw 8 Stratford AC runners produce some excellent results, break 3 club records and also come away with a bit of silverware. Kate Wright (65:18, 27th) continued her fantastic vein of form with another sparkling run round this undulating 1-lap course and, as well as receiving a prize for 2nd female overall (and therefore 2nd in the Warwickshire County Championships), she broke two club records in the process. Her own female O40 record from last year (66:00 minutes) was comfortably beaten, but she also beat the senior women's 10-mile club record by 1 second – this was the longest standing women's club record, which had been held since 1990 by Cathy Lycett. Paul Johnson (67:53, 36th) paced it well throughout, and was spurred along by the thought of being caught by fine runs from Mark Francis (68:32, 43rd) and a rare competitive outing from the inspired Tony Jackson (68:46, 46th). Paul Hawkins (71:36, 65th) had competed in the Gloucester League XC event the afternoon before, but still managed a more than respectable run that put him as 6th O50, while Steve Kirk (72:57, 73rd) did a great job of pacing wife Lesley, apart from running the first mile slightly too fast and then completely blotting his copybook by overtaking her on the line! Despite this, Lesley's very strong showing saw her edge out another one of Jenny Green's O45 female club records, and also claim an age category prize on the day. Michael Oliver (75:56, 95th) completed the scoring for Stratford with another consistent run and, although the final WRRL placings are still to be announced, this final fixture will have done no harm at all to the club's position.

The second staging of the Lady Godiva Half-Marathon had a complete course redesign this year, so as not to cause the same traffic chaos in Coventry of its debut, and whilst this provided a much more interesting route for the runners it probably didn't actually make much difference traffic-wise. The race still started and finished in Little Park Street in the city centre, but only took in a small part of the ring road before heading out on a large loop through Spon End, Allesley Park, Mount Nod, Tile Hill, Warwick University and then back along the Kenilworth Road and the War Memorial Park. The 3 Stratford AC runners were as surprised as most of the 1,700 runners by the hills in the first half of the route, but Keith Hawkes (1:28:31, 62nd) still greatly enjoyed his trip out and was the first of the trio back. The most remarkable thing about Mark Francis' (1:34:17, 124th) performance was not so much his good time, but that after chasing Lady Godiva for a kiss and also having to be dragged away from the rather excellent cheerleaders at the University that he actually had enough energy left to get round. The complete professional Allan Coldicott (1:45:23, 406th) kept his mind on the job in hand though and came through the finish line looking as fresh as a daisy. Fine performances from ex-Stratfordians Stuart Curtis (1:21:06, 19th), in his first race as a veteran, and Claire Curtis (1:42:42, 324th), making her half-marathon debut, rounded off a pleasant event that was a credit to the city and the council.

Allan Coldicott was one of four Stratford AC members to celebrate the 5th November by running a 5-mile road race rather than playing with sparklers. Most of the fireworks in Tewkesbury's 'Guy Fawkes 5' were provided by Roger and Sue Wilson, who both comfortably won their age group categories. Roger clocked an excellent 32:53 minutes to come 75th and take the M65 honours, whilst wife Sue was equally

impressive as she made her Stratford debut, recording 41:49 for victory in the F60s and 242nd place overall. Allan was wedged in between this pleasant couple as he notched 35:07 and 108th position amongst the 331 finishers, with John Butler enjoying the perfect autumnal morning in a time of 46:34 and the 286th slot. A flat, fast and scenic course, which started from Tewkesbury School, seemed to be appreciated by the majority of an enthusiastic field, with only a couple of slight inclines over the M5 to slow them all up.

Stratford AC junior Edward Caswell showed his great potential recently by winning the Midlands Schools regional biathlon (run and swim) at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre. Representing Shipston Primary School (year 5) he had to do a 50m swim, and then an hour later a 1000m run with points awarded on the times for each. Edward had both the fastest swim and run, with the former in 39.4 seconds (a personal best) and the latter in 4 minutes 20 seconds on a very wet and muddy course, and he now goes forward to the national finals in February at Bath University.