

# **Feather, Gawe Prevail In Handicap; Deming, De Marrais Fastest In Actual Time At Sandifer Event**

**ROXBURY – The handicap race with the staggered starts that Ed Sandifer, an accomplished distance runner, helped create in 1988, continues to be a source of enjoyment at the Roxbury Road Race Series.**

**Sandifer, who completed the Boston Marathon 37 consecutive years and was a 12-time season champion in the weekly Roxbury series, was on hand Saturday, September 26, as the Ed Sandifer Handicap. He has not run since suffering a severe stroke in August 2009.**

**The runners take off according to their ability. Usually there are clusters of competitors of different abilities heading toward the finish line during the final half mile of the 2.4-mile course that includes a trip down the steep hill on Chalybes Road.**

**Dirk Feather, 40, of Bridgewater captured the handicap title with a time of 30-minutes, 41-seconds. Bob Lewis, 51, of New Milford, the former head director of the series, placed second in 30:54.**

**Sharon Gawe, 62, of Bridgewater was the first female finisher and came in third overall in 31:16.**

**Each runners' handicap stagger was added to their actual time. Janet Levy, who has run in the series since the early part of the 2000s with her husband, Ross, developed the list of stagger times.**

**In the actual time results, former season champion Chris Deming, 48, of Danbury topped the field with a 14:51 clocking – a 6:11-per-mile pace. Ken Merrick, 46, of New Fairfield, the season champion the last three years, placed second 14:54.**

**Former Princeton University standout Marge De Marrais, 51, of Sharon took third overall and first in the women's division with a time of 15:50. She has won the female title in all three of her races this year at the Roxbury series.**

**The event raised \$195 through the \$5-per-runner entry fee for Sandifer, who donated the money to the Roxbury Road Race Series T-shirt/Grants fund.**

**The series will resume Saturday, October 3, at 8:30 a.m. with a 3.52-mile race that will include a trip up the long hill on Hemlock Road. There will be no entry fee.**

**The Mike Abraham MidAutumn Championship will be held Saturday, November 7, at 8:30 a.m. over a 3.95-mile course that will include a jeep trail. There will be a \$5 entry fee that can be paid that morning from 7 to 8:20 a.m. Proceeds will go to the Roxbury park improvement fund. The race is named after a former assistant director in the series.**

**The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.**

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