

Harvey, Lesch Stride to Winner's Circle In Roxbury 2017 Finale, Merrick Captures Sixth Consecutive Season Title, Masopust Tops Female Division

ROXBURY – Dave Harvey and Donna Lesch wore the blankets of carnations following a 2.4-mile jaunt that concluded the 41st season of the Roxbury Road Races Club series and Ken Merrick again wore the season crown.

Harvey, 53, a former Bridgewater resident and former season champion in the weekly series, covered the layout, which included a trip up the steep hill on Chalybes Road - 16:01 – a 6:40-per-mile pace – to annex his third win this year at Roxbury.

Chris Deming, 51, of Danbury placed second in the Saturday, December 2, race with a clocking of 16:56.

Lesch, 50, of Southbury was the first female division for the second time in three races and took 11th overall in 20:01.

Ken Merrick, 48, of New Fairfield garnered the season title for a sixth consecutive year with 1,436 points in the standings. Chris Deming, a former season champion, was second with 1,361 points.

Lou Denaro was third with 1,078 points, Ross Levy placed fourth with 1,021, Rick Lowry was fifth with 988 points and Nolan Legere tallied 959 points for sixth place.

Alison Masopust, 33, of Morris was the female season champion with 1,004 points. This marked her first season title. Cynthia Degirolamo, 50, of Newtown, who had taken the women's season crown the last three years, placed second with 895 points.

Lesch was third with 791 points, Mary Mahrer placed fourth with 626 points, Anita Hannan was fifth with 513 points and Debby Valin was sixth with 463 points.

Each of the top six men and top six women received plaques.

Gift certificates were awarded to Mahrer, the executive committee president; Janet Levy, the treasurer; Scott Cooney, an assistant director; Scott Benjamin, race director; Chris Deming, an assistant director; and Larry Deming, an assistant director; for their efforts during the season.

Assistant Director Lee Anne Zarger selected the recipients.

The runners also took donations of unwrapped toys from the race to the collection center at the Roxbury Market & Deli.

The runners will discuss the 2018 schedule in the coming weeks and the 42nd season will start in late February or early March.

The 14th annual Roxbury Marathon will be held on Saturday, December 9, at 8:30 a.m. Electronic registration recently ended.

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

For further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (860) 354-3521 or access www.roxburyraces.net.