

#IllovoSugarChristmas Challenge2021

The Wrap Up Newsletter



After what felt like an absolute whirlwind of planning, stress and close calls, and of course the ever present COVID, the Westville race committee, along with the Illovo team, managed to pull off an awesome event - one which saw many from the KZN running community end the running year in style!



With over 900 entries and 789 finishers on the day, the scale may have been smaller but the atmosphere was as electric as ever. It was evident that whilst COVID may be forming a new normal, the running community is as keen to adapt and get on the road as ever. A special thanks to Eventtiming who, with assistance from Entries Chair Kelvin Strachan and his team, ensured a smooth entry and registration process, a key factor to the success of the event.

#ChristmasChallenge



Top 3 Men



Third Place: Ncedisani Phungula



First Place: Bonginkosi Zwane



Second Place: Makwande Mngwengi

The men's race was a closely contested affair with no outright first place leader throughout the course. In fact coming around the corner and heading under the infamous green Illovo arch there was still no distinct winner. Phantane AC's Bonginkosi Zwane visibly switched from 5th gear to 6th and managed to pull ahead right when it mattered, managing a brilliant finish time of 00:50:25 finishing a tight 5 seconds ahead of Makwande Mngwengi from Maxed Elite whose finish of 00:50:30 was equally fantastic. Rounding off the top 3 from iThemba AC was Ncedisani Phungula in an insiring time of 00:51:29.

#SportsPhotographyby
Kaz

Top Women

The women's race was equally thrilling. Janie Grundling from Murray & Roberts managed to pull out for an early lead and managed to hold it finishing in first place with a solid 01:01:23. Sailing through in second place and making it look easy was Umzumbe Development AC's Andisiwe Njunguza with an equally respectable 01:03:56. Rounding out the top 3 was Janene Carey, also from Murray and Roberts. The race for 3rd place was closely contested with Lisa Collett from DHS Old Boys. Well done ladies on a fantastic run .



First Place: Janie Grundling



Second Place: Andisiwe Njunguza



Third Place: Janene Carey



Fourth Place: Lisa Collett

The Main Event...



Well done Hillcrest Villagers for winning the title of BEST BUS 2021



#INSTAPIX

As intensely fought as the Elite race was, the real competition was in the bus category. There were many stunning submissions by teams who fully got into the competitive and creative spirit, with special mention to Chiltern for their stunning naartjie and Savages for their Santa inspired effort. However Hillcrest Villagers were a firm favourite throughout the race. Special mention must be made of Chilli Runners who, whilst they did not have a float, had the most electric spirit that lasted from the start gun all the way until they crossed the finish line. It is this element of the race that gives it such a brilliant vibe.



At the Finish...



Cafe Rose set up and gave the already electric atmosphere a bit of a caffeinated buzz... particularly to the helpers who needed a kick throughout the morning.



The Illovo Pancake station proved to be as popular as ever, providing the perfect end to a fun but tough race for the runners.



Congratulations to BDE Attorneys for winning BEST WATER TABLE. Year after year you prove yourself to be the fan favourite. A very well deserved win.

The tea station run by Fred McKenzie and his team was run smoothly and efficiently, ensuring runners got their much needed fuel before the start.



The Lucky Draw...

The prize that caught the eyes of the entrants on the day was donated to us by MTN Westville Mall. The prize itself was a Hisense Infinity H50 Soundbar. After giving entrants almost a week to get their race numbers in for the lucky draw the draw took place on Saturday the 18th of December.



A big thanks to Ryan, Bryson, Maryam and Zizo from MTN Westville for donating the fantastic prize as well as playing the role of impartial lucky draw judges. We are truly grateful for the donation



Congratulations to entrant 8399 Prince Hwenje on winning the brilliant prize. We hope it was a wonderful end to your experience at the race



A Charitable Note...



Each year we like to focus on giving back to the community in any way we can and the 2021 edition was no exception. A portion of the event funds will be donated to the Robin Hood Foundation to assist them in the continuation of their amazing work

It is especially important for us to remember all of our blessings as a running community. As a club we are fortunate to be in a position to give back and simply by taking part in the #IllovoSugarChristmasChallenge you, the running community, were able to give back too.

Passionate about bettering the lives and futures of those in need, the Robin Hood Foundation is committed to mobilising resources from businesses and individuals and putting them directly into the hands of the poor grannies, needy mums and children in our surrounding impoverished and AIDS-affected communities.



A Word to Our Sponsors and Partners...

We are grateful for all the club members who stepped up and helped us make this such a success with a special shout-out to the Zeros to Hero's group who chipped in as well. All of this under the leadership and guidance of the Westville Race Committee.

Thank you to Eventtiming for stepping up to the plate and organising the timing of the race.

We want to once again thank the awesome sponsors whose contributions all played a role in the success of this morning:

To our main sponsor ILLOVO SUGAR SA for being the reason the race is as legendary as it is as well as for the contribution of one of the water tables.

BDE Attorneys for donating spot prizes as well as sponsoring the fan favourite water table year after year.

Murray Square Pharmacy for donating much needed Covid Supplies.

TAC for additional sanitiser supplies.

Berg & Bush for supplying additional masks that were handed out to the runners at the finish.

MTN Westville Mall for their donation of some fun spot prizes as well as the incredible lucky draw prize of the sound bar.

Community Chest Durban and the Saundersons for sponsorship of their water tables.

Stuart Weston and IGS Investigation And Guarding Services for the security services provided.

There is no race without you and you all made it an epic place to be. We will see you all next year

