Twas a chilly Sunday morning around the misty Loch Rannoch when the PSUK Marathon Championships got underway on Sunday 16th October 2016.

A distance of just under 23 miles around the Loch provided a perfect platform to host one of the most scenic marathon locations. This is only the 2nd year
Run Nation has organised this event having resurrected it from the 1980s when it was used to hold the Scottish National Championships. The extra couple of miles required use to be run through a private school but alas this school is now private property leaving a few miles to be found to complete the 26 miles using local roads. Our thanks go to Richard Hunter and his team at www.runnation.co.uk for their support and cooperation in hosting our event.

The autumnal colours, peaceful open countryside and calm day could not have provided a better location. The athletes had plenty of focus if and when they had time to admire their surroundings. The course wasn’t as flat as all were expecting and some sneaky undulating hills proved a testing addition.

The morning was still and dry although a little cold. This didn’t deter the 50 Police athletes taking part. The start was on a small playing field next to the village church. The initial bit of the course took the athletes around a triangle of local roads before heading of north and anti-clockwise around the loch. The return back into the village and completing half of the triangle again before finishing back on the playing field.

The overall race lead was held for a long time by Rowan Boswood a local runner but his initial fast pace took its toll and Police runner Rob Grantha from Cheshire took him with a few miles left to go and secured overall first place and Police winner in a time of 2:43:34. Alex Daniels from D&C came 3rd overall and 2nd Police athlete home in a time of 2:45:34. 3rd Police athlete home went to Matt Oldham of GMP in a time of 2:50:07.

The ladies race was well contested with the overall win being taken by a local athlete namely Anne Hartmann in 3:01:35 closely followed by the first Police lady of Sarah Hill from Hampshire in 3:02:57. Both finishing in 13 and 14th place overall respectively. 3rd overall lady went to Jaqueline Rustidge in 3:11:12 who is a Police Officer from the Netherlands. 2nd Police was Tara Malone from PSNI in 3:16:18 and 3rd spot went to Lindsey Dixon from Cheshire in 3:25:52.

Team places are awarded to the first 3 male or female athletes from each team and their accumulative times. In first place was Police Scotland with Steve Cairns, Jonathan Peebles and Richard Cockbain. 2nd Team went to Devon and Cornwall with Alex Daniels, James Johnson and Andy Dudley. 3rd spot taken by PSNI with Darren Hamilton, Tara Malone and Andy Belshaw.

A full list of results can be found attached to this report as below:

Anyone interested in taking part in any PSUK Athletic events please refer to: http://www.policesportuk.com/sports/athletics/;
Inspector Katherine Willoughby, PSUK Athletic Section Road Running Rep’.