



PRESS RELEASE
5th September 2017

A World Record Holder and Defending Champions to Compete in the 2017 Birell Prague Grand Prix

Kenyans Joyciline Jepkosgei and Viola Jechumba, representing Bahrain, have raised eyebrows and created headlines with their previous duels on the streets of Prague. Jepkosgei of *RunCzech Racing* proved the stronger of the two as she set four World Records on her way to victory over Jechumba in the 2017 Sportissimo Prague Half Marathon, but Viola is the defending Champion and course record holder of the IAAF Gold Label Road Race Birell Prague Grand Prix.

On a beautiful Spring morning in Prague Jepkosgei and Jechumba went through the 10K checkpoint in 30:04 and 30:05 respectively making them the two fastest 10K women in history. Joyciline went on to set additional World Records at 15K, 20K, and the half marathon becoming the first woman to run under one hour and five minutes with a time of 1:04:52. Joyciline and Viola were joined on the podium that day by their compatriot the 22 year old Fancy Chemutai who was making her debut at the half marathon distance.

Now the three fastest 10K women in the World in 2017 will toe the start line together once again in the Birell Prague Grand Prix to be held on the evening of September 9th. Viola is the defending champion having defeated Joyciline here in 2016 with a time of 30:24 only three seconds slower than Paula Radcliffe. They are the headliners but they will line up with other world class runners from many countries including Ethiopia, Japan, Sweden, and Ukraine who will challenge for top finishes. While the Czech Republic's current top female distance runner, Eva Vrabcova, will be looking to improve on her PR of 33:07 from this race in 2016. Anežka Drahotova will also be taking part.

The men's field may be overshadowed by the women but they will be looking to create their own headlines and records on the historic streets of Prague. The defending Champion, Abraham Kipyatich, who ran 27:40 here in 2016 will be challenged by his fellow *RunCzech Racing* compatriots Benard Kimeli who ran 27:18 in Padeborn this year and the 19 year old Mathew Kimeli who finished second to Mo Farah in Ostrava last month. Benard and Mathew are currently the two fastest 10K runners in the World this year.

The *RCR* trio will face strong challengers including Kenta Murayama of Japan and Jemal Mekonnen of Ethiopia and other men who meet the IAAF Gold Label standard from Norway, Brazil, Bahrain, and Tanzania. Given the strength of the field the course record of Geoffrey Ronoh (27:28) could certainly be in jeopardy.



BIRELL PRAGUE GRAND PRIX

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Should you require any further information or need print quality photos, please contact:

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Note: The attached photos may only be used in connection with this press release citing RunCzech as the source.

Notes for editors: <http://www.runczech.com/cs/pro-media/poznamky-pro-editory/index.shtml>

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