

# Olympics duo find it tough in Beijing

HUNTLY cross-country skier Andrew Musgrave was more mystified than at any time in his 13-year career by the way he slowed to 'crawling' pace in the Olympic 15km in Beijing.

The Scot was inside the top 20 through the first 3.5km but struggled badly on the second circuit of the course and finished 46th in a time of 41 minutes 44.7 seconds.

It left Musgrave searching for answers and for the first time, failing to find them.

"To be honest, I'm super disappointed and I can't really understand what went on," said the 31-year-old.

"In the build-up to the Olympics everything has gone to plan.

"I haven't got a clue what's gone wrong.

Musgrave covered the first 3km in a sprightly 8 minutes 36.6 seconds but faded, believing he got the balance of his effort wrong.

"At this altitude, you've got to go out and feel like you've got a bit of gas left in the tank for the second lap. I felt like the first lap was alright, not too bad, but going out on the second lap when you've got to try and increase the speed, I just felt

dead and didn't manage to increase the pace at all."

"Instead of doing that, I started crawling!"

It was also a tough day at the office for fellow skier Andrew Young, from Huntly, who like his long-standing team-mate favoured neither the distance nor the technique.

Young began his Olympic campaign in Tuesday's sprint and, having recently recovered from a bout of Covid, found the tight turnaround tricky and finished 51st in 42:24.0.