

**Chester Marathon**  
**Sunday 9 October 2011**  
**Report by Kay Farrow of Beverley AC**



Whilst their club mates were tackling the hilly cross-country course at Bishop Wilton three Beverley athletes were running the Chester Marathon.

Rob Snaith was the first of the trio to finish. He completed the 26 mile course in 2:50:07 in 23<sup>rd</sup> position overall and in 12<sup>th</sup> place in his age category. Andy Johnson was next to cross the finishing line. The event was tougher than he expected but he finished in a respectable 3: 24:24. Paul Evans, who has been concentrating on Iron Man Triathlon events recently, recorded his fastest time for a marathon for some time. He covered the course in 4:10:26.

**Archive photo of Rob Snaith**

Conditions were perfect for running and the flat course offered a good opportunity for personal bests. At the half-way stage all three Beverley athletes were running well and on target for challenging their personal best but they all slowed down significantly in the second half.

The flat course on closed roads covered 17 miles in England and 9 in Wales. It started and finished at the racecourse where the stands were packed with spectators. Athletes ran through the historic city centre passing many of Chester's iconic landmarks before heading out to Cheshire and North Wales on country lanes. There was great support from spectators on the route for the 4000 runners taking part.

The race was won by Ben Fish of Blackburn Harriers in 2:27:25 and the first lady was Debbie Mason of Rotherham Harriers in 2:48:11.

**Beverley AC finishing times:**

Rob Snaith 2:50:07; Andy Johnson 3:24:24; Paul Evans 4:10:26



**Archive photo of Andy Johnson**