

Great North Run
Sunday 15 September 2013
Report by Lewis Holloway of Beverley AC

Ten Beverley Athletic Club members lined up with a record-breaking 55,000 participants in the 33rd Bupa Great North Run last Sunday. This is a very popular half-marathon race attracting a strong international field, with the 13.1 mile route beginning in Newcastle, crossing the Tyne Bridge and ending on the coast at South Shields. Conditions were wet and windy this year, making the race particularly challenging.

Adrian Messingham was first the first runner home for Beverley, in an impressive time of 1:31:37. He was followed by Peter Watkinson and Paul Evans, in 1:38:58 and 1:40:55 respectively. Beverley's first female runner was Deborah Brant, who recorded 1:54:51. Second and third women for the club were Nicola Glover (1:59:48) and Catriona Williamson (2:21:16).

For several club members the Great North Run is a regular event. Williamson was delighted to achieve a personal best time for this distance, knocking around seven minutes from her time last year at the same race. This is the fourth time she has completed the run. Other regular participants were husband and wife team Andrew and June Foster, who finished together in 2:25:01.

Many runners used the event to raise money for charity. Brant ran in support of the RNLI and raised over £100. Brant said 'This is an incredible event, and blustery winds, gales and icy temperatures didn't put me or 55,000 other runners off'. She is trying to run 200 miles of racing this year, and the Great North Run took her to within 30 miles of her target. Williamson ran to raise funds for Epilepsy Action. She commented that 'It is a fantastic race to run, not just for the atmosphere but because it is so well organised, everyone is so supportive and it is great to be part of such a big occasion'.





Cat Williamson, before and after the race

The elite runners put on a spectacular show at the race. The men's winner was the Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele, who finished in 1:00:09, beating Britain's Mo Farah in a thrilling sprint finish by just one second. The winner in the women's race was Kenyan Priscah Jeptoo, who recorded a time of 1:05:45, just 5 seconds slower than the world record. British athletes won the men's and women's wheelchair races, with David Weir completing the course in 43:06 and Shelly Woods finishing in 54:28.

Beverley AC times

Adrian Messingham 1:31:37, Peter Watkinson 1:38:58, Paul Evans 1:40:55, Ian Crawford 1:50:09, Deborah Brant 1:54:51, Nicola Glover 1:59:48, Catriona Williamson 2:21:16, Andrew Foster 2:25:01, June Foster 2:25:01, Sylvia Boardley 3:05:01

