

Great North Run 2009

Report by Kay Farrow of Beverley Athletic Club

Ten members of Beverley Athletic Club travelled north last weekend to join thousands of other runners in the 29th Great North Run. For some it was their first taste of the big race atmosphere while others were returning because they had enjoyed the experience so much in previous years.

New member James Pearson was the first Beverley runner to cross the finishing line in South Shields. His time of 1 hour 20 minutes placed him in an amazing 115th position in a field of over 50,000 runners! James had expected to run even faster but he was slowed down by the crowds for the first few miles.



Another new member, Carolyn Towse, was competing in only her second race and her first at this distance. "What a wonderful day and a fantastic experience," she enthused afterwards. She was delighted with her time of 2 hours 33 minutes - a very respectable time for a new runner. Carolyn also raised £700 for Cancer Research UK.

It was Nicola Glover's third Great North Run and despite all the dodging and weaving through the crowds of runners she ran over two minutes faster than last year achieving a new personal best of 1 hour 57. Running close to Hull City manager Phil Brown, Nicola's family and friends were thrilled to see her on TV.

After setting a new personal best in the Great Yorkshire Run two weeks ago, Debs Brant ran her first half marathon in 1 hour 46 minutes. She loved the big race atmosphere and was very pleased with her time.

The race was won by Martin Lel of Kenya in 59 minutes 32 seconds. Jessica Augusto of Portugal won the ladies' race in 1 hour 9 minutes 8 seconds.

Beverley AC finishers

James Pearson 1.20.48; Jonathan Hudson 1.37.47; Andrew Foster 1.38.01; Debs Brant 1.46.53; Rob Reid 1.47.08; Sam Allen 1.51.36; Nicola Glover 1.57.29; Paul Evans 1.58.39; Carol Galloway 2.30.03; Carolyn Towse 2.33.49.

Photo

Carolyn Towse proudly shows off her medal at the finish in South Shields