

Hull Marathon
Sunday 8 April 2012
Report by Kay Farrow of Beverley AC



Members of Beverley Athletic Club are celebrating after achieving a record number of personal bests in a marathon in the inaugural Hull Marathon which took place last Sunday.

Running along familiar streets supported by family and friends and being cheered on by a large contingent of their club mates, Beverley athletes were spurred on to exceed all expectations.

Matt Chadwick was the first Beverley runner to cross the finishing line. He finished in 25th place overall in an excellent time of 3:00:22. Although he is an experienced cross-country athlete this was his first marathon. He set himself an ambitious target of three hours and came within a few seconds of beating it. He was fortunate to find a group aiming for the same time and they ran together for the first 18 miles. Although he suffered from blisters in the later stages of the race and was forced to slow down towards the end, he was able to pick up the pace for a fast finish down Alfred Gelder Street. He said: "Overall I enjoyed the



event and am pleased for the other runners in the club who all performed well."

The first Beverley lady to finish was Zoe Dale. She crossed the line in an impressive 3:24:26, the fastest time for a Beverley lady in a marathon since Carrie Millson recorded 3.11.25 in London in 2007. Dale was eighth lady overall and fourth in the F40–49 category. "I did really enjoy Hull marathon," she said. "It was great to be so near to home as there was so much support from people I knew which really spurs you on."

Photo top: Andrew Brant, Debs Brant, Helen Storr, Lucas Meagor and Zoe Dale;
Photo left: Matt Chadwick

Dale has recently transferred to Beverley from another local club and is now the main challenger for the club ladies' marathon title which has been dominated by Julie Donald in recent years. Donald had a good run in Hull but finished 9 minutes after Dale, was 14th lady and 6th F40-49. She was followed in 15th place by Lucy Stamford who ran well despite suffering from a heavy cold.



Those recording new personal bests did so in style beating their previous best times by a significant margin: Andrew Brant – 24 minutes, Debs Brant – 6 minutes, Chris Dunn – 30 minutes, Steve Hadley – 22 minutes, Jody Horth – 15 minutes and Helen Storr – 23 minutes.

Steve Hadley said he was “over the moon” with his time especially as his parents had travelled up from the Midlands to watch him race. He ran most of the route with Amanda Ritchie who recorded her fastest time for a marathon for eight years despite losing three weeks training due to illness at a crucial point in her training programme.



Chris Dunn has run the London Marathon several times but did not get a place this year. Running in his home town marathon proved a more successful experience and he finished 30 minutes faster than his best time in London.

It was the fifth marathon for Debs Brant and she was thrilled to break the four hour barrier for the first time to record a new personal best of 3:59:48. She will also be running in the

London Marathon in two weeks' time but decided that her best chance of a PB was at Hull. With fewer people to get in her way and a mainly flat course she beat her previous best by six minutes.

After last year's London Marathon Andrew Brant vowed he would never run a road marathon again. However, he was unable to resist the temptation to run his local marathon and he was rewarded with a PB. He said: “Knowing the area and a cool/cloudy day was a big help.”



Photos: Lucas Meagor and Zoe Dale (top); Amanda Ritchie and Steve Hadley (middle); Andrew Brant (left); Debs Brant (right)





All Beverley runners set themselves a target time and even if they did not record a new PB they are happy to have achieved their goal. Mark Walsh's target was to finish in less than 3:15 and he beat this by seven minutes. He felt that he could have finished earlier if he had paced himself better and not set off too fast.



It was Brian Lazenby's first marathon and he beat his target time of 3:30 by 4 minutes – an impressive time for a first attempt at this distance. Like thousands of other runners he has not yet succeeded in getting a place in the London Marathon so he decided to run his local marathon instead.



Frank Harrison chose to run for his first claim club, City of Hull, but his friends at his second claim club, Beverley AC, will be delighted that he completed the course in a very respectable time of 4:59:52 as the only M70+ in the race. Beverley's John Boardley will be joining the 70+ age group later this year. He finished just in front of Harrison in a commendable 4:55:13.

The race started and finished outside the Guildhall in Alfred Gelder Street and took runners through the city centre and out to the Humber Bridge via West Park, the KC Stadium and Boothferry Road. After crossing the Humber Bridge runners returned to the city via Hesse Square, Pickering Park, Hesse Road, the Ice Arena, the marina, the Deep and Victoria Dock. For those who had never been to Hull before the race provided a whistle stop tour of the city's main places of interest while for locals the race was an opportunity to run through familiar areas and see them from a different perspective.

Least popular places on the route were the fish factories at 18 miles and the last few miles round Victoria Dock. A number of runners commented that the Victoria Dock section was too narrow and had too many turns for a marathon. This made it more difficult to maintain pace and the sharp turns tested tired legs. Helen Store found Victoria Dock a mental challenge: "Runners were really tested psychologically as a long there and back section with 10k to go meant that runners passed each other in opposite directions!"



Photos: Mark Walsh and Brian Lazenby (top); John Boardley (middle); Phil Buckley and Helen Storr (bottom)

12 April 2012
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Problems with this race are detailed at the end of this report

Although fading badly in this last section Storr was delighted to run 23 minutes faster than her previous best, set in London in 2009.

Being cheered on by people you know gives runners a huge boost when running a marathon and with many Beverley AC members watching or acting as marshals there was lots of encouragement. Lucas Meagor paid tribute to club mates and said: "Fantastic support from Beverley AC across the course as numerous club members were out and travelled the course to cheer us on."

When the Hull Marathon was announced in September last year many local runners were already committed to the bigger and more prestigious London Marathon which takes place two weeks after Hull. James Pearson and Rob Snaith will both be running in London and will be aiming to finish in less than 2 hours 45 so could not race in Hull. Instead they chose to volunteer as pacemakers and run at what was for them a more leisurely pace to help others achieve their goals. "I really enjoyed myself," said Rob Snaith "and got quite a lot to the time they wanted."



There were 876 finishers and they all received a medal in the shape of the Yorkshire rose and a t-shirt. The race was won by Phill Taylor of Bridlington Road Runners in 2:31:29, eight minutes ahead of second placed Michal Hargreaves of East Hull Harriers. The first lady was Dawn Broom of Barnsley Harriers in 3:08:51.

The Hull Marathon was organised by Toro CSC, an events management company, which also organises various triathlons and the Hell on the Humber event. The marathon was an ambitious project and like many first time events it had a number of problems which the organisers have promised to address before next year's race. On the positive side, the race allowed local athletes to take part in a marathon without the expense and disruption to pre-race routine of travelling away from home. For the average runner it is much easier to run a PB on the streets of Hull with a much smaller field of competitors than on the crowded streets of a big city such as London. It will be interesting to see how the Hull marathon develops in future but unless the timing is moved well away from London it is unlikely to attract all the best local runners.

Beverley AC finishing times:

Matt Chadwick 3:00:22; Mark Walsh 3:08:37; Lucas Meagor 3:21:25; Zoe Dale 3:24:26; Brian Lazenby 3:26:46; Andrew Brant 3:29:10; Julie Donald 3:33:51; Jody Horth 3:34:29; Lucy Stamford 3:34:27; Philip Buckley 3:49:20; Neal Madden 3:51:51; Helen Storr 3:52:55; Steve Hadley 3:57:18; Debs Brant 3:59:48; Amanda Ritchie 4:04:42; Chris Dunn 4:09:08; Graham Wright 4:28:24; John Boardley 4:55:13; Frank Harrison 4:59:52.



Beverley AC Pacemakers

James Pearson 3:26:45 (Pace 3:30)

Rob Snaith 3:55:44 (Pace 4:00).



All photos by Mike Atkins and Andy Grainger



Photos:

Top: James Pearson (left) Rob Snaith (right)

Middle: Chris Dunn, Jody Horth, Lucy Stamford

Bottom: Neal Madden; Steve Hadley, Graham Wright and Amanda Ritchie

See below for details of post-race controversy

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Post-race news

There was controversy after the Hull Marathon due to a last minute change by the organisers which resulted in the route being short of the marathon distance. The change of route was not approved by the official course measurer and the times achieved by all runners have therefore been invalidated.

The first woman to cross the finishing line was Jackie Lord, however she was later disqualified when it was discovered that she had inadvertently not completed the full course. First prize was then awarded to Dawn Broom of Barnsley Harriers.

There has been much comment in the media and on various websites. See below for comments from Race Director Karl Jackson on the BBC website on 10 April 2012 and a report by the Association of UK Course Measurers of their investigation into the length of the race.

Hull Marathon organiser admits 'mistakes were made'

The organiser of the first Hull Marathon has admitted that "mistakes were made" with the event.

Race director Karl Jackson said the errors were "not acceptable" and he would be holding meetings in an attempt to iron out the problems.

The winner of the women's race was disqualified after inadvertently taking a wrong turn.

More than 1,400 runners took part in the 26.2 mile race through the city's streets on Sunday.

Mr Jackson said there had been a problem with stewarding along the route.

"Stewards in a lot of the key places failed to arrive and failed to get on site on time," he said.

Despite the problems, Mr Jackson said he hoped to run the event next year.

"Mistakes were made," he said.

"Part of the review that I'm going through now is to address every one of those mistakes and ensure they never happen again."

Edwin Bellamy, who licenses race events in the Yorkshire region for the sport's governing body England Athletics, said he wished his association had been involved in the organisation of the race at an earlier stage.

Mr Bellamy, who attended the race, said: "I was only asked to provide a referee, and the referee and the starter were the only people who were qualified officials."

BBC website 10 April 2012

Association of UK course measurers website 18 April 2012

18 April 2012

Investigation of Hull Marathon course length

Hull Marathon 10k run on 8 April 2012:

Certificate of Course Accuracy: [11/284](#)

Measured by: Neil Pattison 28 October 2011

Distance: Marathon

Notification of Potential Problem: Phone call from Neil Pattison the day after the race. Followed up by viewing the various comments on Runners World Forum and viewing news footage on BBC iPlayer

Investigation: A number of Garmin traces have been viewed by myself and compared to the measured route. There is a significant difference (short) in Pickering Park, and two other points on the route where the measured line has not been taken. (Humber Bridge and The Square)

Action: This information was emailed to the race director on 17 April, indicating that the measurement certificate would be revoked.

Result: At 11.33 the race director responded thus:

Dear Brian, Thank you for your email. Unfortunately due to health and safety instruction from third parties a minor change was made to the route at very short notice. I am assuming that I can have the course run re measured to maintain accuracy of the event? Could you also advise on the future procedure for changes at short notice to maintain accuracy of distance? I am sure with any races which take place on the public highway that there is a procedure to follow should the police / health and safety or other authority force change to the route due to incident or accident at very short notice? Kind Regards, Karl

I followed this up with requests for documentary evidence of the nature if the enforced amendments and at 18:02 received the following:

Dear Brian, I am working on the requested documents, as statements as to why the required changes were made have been requested and I will forward them in due course. Please also note that I have made no such claims to have had the course officially re-measured. Karl

A [statement from the race organisers](#) was posted to their web site on 17th April after my email exchange:

Following the announcement on Tuesday 17th April by the AUK Course Measurer that they would be withdrawing the certificate of accuracy issued for the Hull Marathon due to the course not being run as measured we would like to make the following statement.

Following the final risk assessment ahead of the race a change was made to the route to protect the safety of runners, this change was both unavoidable and none negotiable. A further minor adjustment to the course was then made to ensure the correct distance of 26.2 miles was completed by all runners.

Due to the extremely short notice of the change it was impossible to have the route officially re measured before the race start.

The safety of runners is paramount and to allow the race to go ahead without the changes would have caused great risk to runners and the public.

A post event review and debrief, including consultation on safety and route measurement is currently progressing.

It is understood and appreciated that this may have caused problems for those runners who were using the Hull Marathon to register a qualifying time for other events, however for those running for charity or for personal achievement please be assured that the changes were made in such away as to maintain the distance and you have completed the 26.2 miles required for a marathon.

Regardless of your reason for running the marathon please accept our apologies for any distress this may have caused, but we hope that you understand why the decision was made.

Please note that while contributing to the review, the Toro CSC team will not be handling any contact regarding the marathon. Until the review is complete please forward all communications regarding this incident to the team managing the event review – hullmarathon@gmail.com

Conclusion: Measured course not followed. Certificate of course accuracy for this race date revoked.

INVESTIGATION REPORT BY: B. Porter, Measurement Secretary for the North of England. 18 April 2012, 10.00.

Association on UK course measurers website 18 April 2012
