

London Marathon Sunday 17 April 2011 Report by Kay Farrow of Beverley AC



Twenty-nine athletes from Beverley AC joined over thirty-five thousand runners and fundraisers to pound the streets of the capital in last Sunday's London Marathon.

After training through the coldest winter on record they were faced with a warm sunny day which was ideal for spectators but a bit too hot for running.

After the event there was much to celebrate including new personal bests for Ian Boardley, Andrew Brant, Debs Brant, Mark Dalton and Tony Hunter; Tony Hunter also finished in the top 10 in his age category; Pam Atkins finished 22nd in her age group; Jacqui

Jacqui, Pam, Debs and Andrew at the start

Dickinson and Steve Evins both completed their first road marathon; and several Beverley runners recorded times that are considered very good for their age and will gain automatic entry to the race next year.

The first three Beverley runners, James Pearson, Rob Snaith and Ian Boardley, all finished in less than three hours and in the top 500. While Pearson and Snaith slowed down in the second half of the race, Ian Boardley increased his pace and put in a strong performance to finish in 2:50:09 beating his previous best by almost two minutes.



Ian Boardley out on the course



Ian with mum and dad, John and Sylvia

It was a special day for Boardley with mum and dad, John and Sylvia, also taking part in the marathon, albeit at a more leisurely pace. They completed the course together in 06:51:30. It was Sylvia's first marathon and she took it all in her stride.

The Boardleys were supported by Ian's wife Vicky who carried their six month old daughter Emily around the course and cheered them all on at various points.



Lucy Stamford

The big race atmosphere was new to Beverley's current female marathon champion, Lucy Stamford. She was running in London for the first time and found it "quite an experience!" as her previous marathons were much smaller events. She finished in 03:37:41 and was followed three minutes later by Julie Donald who was competing in London for the fifth time. Turning into the last bend Donald saw club mate Steve Evins who was running his first road marathon. He had found the last few miles tough but Donald cheered him on and encouraged him to sprint down the Mall with her to the finish.



Pete Watkinson

Several Beverley runners have completed the London marathon a number of times including Pete Watkinson. This year was his 16th attempt and he said "I've never seen such crowd support." Pete will no doubt be back next year supported as usual by his wife Sue. In the meantime he is looking forward to running the Edinburgh marathon on 22 May where he hopes to record a faster time.

It was Chris Dunn's 11th London Marathon and this year he was running to raise money for Blind Sport UK. Chris enjoys the atmosphere of the marathon and runs in memory of his dad Brian who sadly died from meningitis in 1999 aged 48. "My Dad is my inspiration for running the marathon and when I start to feel the pain in my legs around 22 miles he's my inspiration that keeps me going." Chris is happy whatever his finishing time.

For Tony Beck the London Marathon is the ultimate runners' event in the world and it is what inspired him to start running. He had enjoyed watching the event on TV since it started 1981 and dreamed of running it one day but not really believing that he would or could. He has now run in London several times and was aiming to

finish in less than four hours this year. He missed his target by only three minutes but was pleased with his performance. "I keep going back to London because the whole event has an atmosphere that I have not found at any other event I have done. The support is unbelievable and the adrenaline you get from that support pushes you around the course."



Lucas Meagor

For Lucas Meagor completing the London Marathon was the half-way stage in his series of four marathons in four weeks. He finished in 04:13:41 and now has two weeks to recover before his next race in Limerick on 1 May.

This year's London Marathon was won by Emmanuel Mutai of Kenya in a new course record time of 2:04:40. Mary Keitany also of Kenya won the ladies race in 2:19:19.

Beverley AC finishing times:

James Pearson 2:43:55; Rob Snaith 2:47:24; Ian Boardley 2:50:09; Mark Dalton 02:51:46; Tony Hunter 3:01:09; Stuart Little 03:12:41; Andy Johnson 3:13:01; Paul Clark 3:13:05; Stuart Little 03:12:4; Ian Husband 03:17:34; Steve Jackson 03:23:24; Pete Watkinson 03:33:11; Lucy Stamford 03:37:41; Steve Evins 03:39:24; Julie Donald 03:40:19; Rob Reid 03:57:05; Tony Beck 04:02:19; Andrew Brant 04:03:57; Debs Brant 04:05:22; Maria Sellers 04:11:04; Lucas Meagor 04:13:41; Chris Dunn 04:38:26 ; Pam Atkins 04:58:47; Olly Johnston 5:04:19; Jacqui Dickinson 05:08:19; Julie Russell 05:11:50; Jörg Hardege 05:15:25; David Muschamp 05:20:30; Sylvia Boardley 06:51:30; John Boardley 06:51:31.



Andy Johnson



Mark Dalton



Paul Clark



Rob Snaith



Stuart Little



Tony Hunter