



Capital gains for six Stubbies at London

ANOTHER sunny, almost windless, April day, with a lovely cool air temperature, provided near perfect running conditions for the 29th Flora London Marathon.

Just over 35,000 runners took to the bright, sun-lit streets of the capital to run 26.2 miles. Some were there to chase the world marathon record, others were hoping for a new personal best time, while the majority were simply happy to make it to the finish line without walking!



An impressive run by Sammy Wanjiru (pictured), the reigning Kenyan Olympic champion, led the elite men home, in a personal best and new course record of 2:05:10. Wanjiru's time was six seconds

quicker than fellow countryman, Martin Lel's previous course record that he set in London last year.

However, all thoughts of beating Haile Gebrselassie's world record of 2:03.59 quickly evaporated when the three early pacemakers clocked 4.35 for the first mile and, in the early stages of the race, were on target to run a sub-two hour marathon.

In the ladies race, a superb run by Great Britain's Mara Yamauchi resulted in her knocking a sizeable chunk off her previous best marathon time, crossing the line in second place in a time of 2:23.12.

The German athlete, Irina Mititenko, won the race in a time of 2:22.11, retaining the prestigious London Marathon title that she won 12 months ago, and becoming the first woman to do so since Paula Radcliffe back in 2003.

For Stubbington Green Runners & AC, six members enjoyed a great day out in the capital. Zippy Grice took his pledge of allegiance to the club to new heights by dying his hair emerald green, before sauntering round while chatting away to anyone who would listen, and still finishing in an amazingly quick sub-3 hour time of 2:54.07.



Marathon men: (left to right) Jon Leigh, Tim Sullivan & Nick Kimber

Tim Sullivan justified his marathon club place with a great run to clock a well-deserved time of 3:15.41. Meanwhile, the mileage-mad marathon men, Nick Kimber and Jon Leigh, resumed their usual tit-for-tat race day battle with Nick finishing in 3:23.09, and Jon just behind in 3:23.40.

Finally, there were also impressive performances from two of the club's newer members, Annie Tomlinson and Andrew Briggs. The pair were spotted amongst the vast swathe of runners heading to the half way point at Tower Bridge, and both were running strongly. Annie finished in an excellent time of 4:01.27, with Drew a few minutes behind in 4:05.35.

SGRAC's London Marathon results

Zippy Grice - 2.54.07
Tim Sullivan - 3.15.41
Nick Kimber - 3.23.09
Jon Leigh - 3.23.40
Annie Tomlinson - 4.01.27
Drew Briggs - 4.05.35

