

Special Thanks

Referee

Marie Ball

Judges

Charlotte Brooks
Steven Smith
Matthew Buckler
Vinny Aitken
Richard Eve
Paige Aitken
Paige Nuttal

Time Keeper

Ellie Wymer / Gareth O'Reilly

Trophies and Medals

Sharon Tongue



2018 UK SPEEDSKATING MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS



29TH September 2018
ODD DOWN CYCLE TRACK
BATH

Welcome

Welcome to the final race in this year's calendar. And welcome to a new track and skating location. There are probably few alive who can remember the last time a speed skating event took place in Bath. In fact in the early 1900s, there were three local teams with multiple indoor rinks. The most famous, The Pavilion, still hosts roller skating twice a week for adults and at weekends for families.

Alongside our marathon races we are holding a 100m challenge. This is becoming increasingly popular across Europe and will almost certainly be integrated into a road race series which is penciled in for creation next year.

Also breaking from the norm we will be hosting the Marathon presentations, Overall Champions presentation and the Annual Awards presentations one hour after the track has been cleared following the marathons (all assistance in tidying away everything will be greatly appreciated (and get us all home a little earlier)).

Looking forward to seeing you all in Bath, and good luck to all those racing.

Gareth O'Reilly
Chairman

Masters Ladies Marathon

Sharon Tongue	BWRSC
Pamela Murray	BWRSC
Angela Wymer	EMR

Masters Men Marathon

Glenn Quadros	LSST
Alex Wymer	EMR
Luke Fray	WISS
Derrick Ritchie	BWRSC
Markus Thierstein	LSST

Half Marathon

Jana Honzova	LSST
Paige Nuttal	EMR
Fiona Dunlop	
Karl Bates	WISS

Full Marathon

James Ashby	
Richard Alamo	LSST
Ben Peake	EMR
Stephen Ingall	LSST
Neil Clark	LSST
Robert Hopkin	

Entrants

Youth Boys Half Marathon

Flynn McGurk	WISS
Warren Eve	WISS
Alexander King	EIS
Harrison Tuck	EIS
Aaron Smith	BWRSC

Junior Girls Marathon

Maya Bathgate	EIS
Heather James	BWRSC
Lucy McInerney	BWRSC

Junior Boys Marathon

Bobby Ball	EIS
Daniel King	EIS

Senior Ladies Marathon

Emilia Marence	LSST
Ellie Wymer	EMR

Senior Mens Marathon

Michal Roman	BWRSC
Gibran Ghazali	LSST
Michael McInerney	WISS
Dan Ibbotson	EMR

Event Schedule

Morning

09:30	Chip Collection
10:00	100m Challenge
11:30	Mini 3000m/Pupil 8000m
12:15	Cadet 15,000m/Youth 21Km

Lunch

13:15

Afternoon

14:00	Junior/Senior/Masters Full/Half Marathon
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Evening

18:00	Marathon/Overall Champions/ Annual Awards Presentations
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History

HISTORY OF THE BRITISH MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Let's take a trip back to the early 1980's. Around this time veteran speed skater, Cliff Sheard, had this idea of piggy backing a roller skating race with an established running marathon, using the same course but setting off ahead of the runners. Cliff was a member of the Leeds Roller Skating Club, along with the likes of Derek Unsworth and Peter Hawksworth, all of which were in their competitive twilight years and known for their distance skating.

Cliff approached the organisers of the Humber Marathon, a full 26 mile running event from Hull to Grimsby that took athletes across the Humber Bridge as part of the course. The organisers were more than pleased to welcome skaters into the fold. It was not an officially sanctioned NSA (forerunner to FISS) event but Cliff asked skaters from the Birmingham based Mercia club if they would also like to take part and in 1982, with just 10 skaters, the first Humber "Roller Skating" Marathon took place. The marathon was held every September for the next 10 years with more and more federation skaters taking part each time.

Mini Girls 3000m

Sophie Cook	SWF
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Mini Boys 3000m

Arthur Buckler	WISS
Logan Pennington	Ind

Pupil Girls 8000m

Elizabeth Gilbert	BWRSC
Megan Llewellyn	BWRSC
Keira Wordsworth	Nth Lon

Pupil Boys 8000m

Ethan Smith	BWRSC
Toby Wymer	EMR
Aden Brown	ASH
Sean O'Reilly	BWRSC

Cadet Girls 15000m

Rebecca Gilbert	BWRSC
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Cadet Boys 15000m

Jake O'Reilly	BWRSC
James Eve	WISS

Youth Girls Half Marathon

Dion Everill	BWRSC
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Entrants

100m Challenges

Race 1

Arthur Buckler	Sophie Cook	Logan Pennington
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Race 2

Megan Llewellyn	Elizabeth Gilbert	Keira Wordsworth
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Race 3

Toby Wymer	Ethan Smith	Aden Brown
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Race 4

Flynn McGurk	James Eve	Warren Eve
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Race 5

Karl Bates	Ellie Wymer	Dion Everill
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Race 6

Maya Bathgate	Heather James	Lucy McInerney
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Race 7

Alex Wymer	Luke Frary	Neil Clarke
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Race 8

Daniel King	Bobby Ball	Alex King
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Race 9

Gibran Ghazali	Michal Roman	Michael McInerney
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SKATERS LINE UP AHEAD OF RUNNERS FOR THE FIRST HUMBER MARATHON – 1982

L TO R: CLIFF SHEARD, DEREK UNSWORTH, DAVE TILDSLEY, JOHN TOY, JOHN E. FRY, RON BENNETT, PAUL TURNER, TONY OULDS, LYNN COLES AND ALEX HARVEY

In 1985 the Platignum Pen Company wanted to hold a marketing event in London and chose to hold a roller skate marathon (why not?) in Battersea Park. They had minor celebrities such as actress Stephanie Lawrence and Olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew in attendance. This too was a non-sanctioned event but again federation skaters took to the circuit. The event was repeated in 1986 and on the back of this the Roller Speed Committee held talks with Platignum who kindly agreed to sponsor the outdoor British Championships at Tatem Park later that year. Although not a sanctioned event the winner of the marathon, Derrick Ritchie from Birmingham Wheels, took home the Platignum Trophy.

History

Around that time the FFS, the French skating federation, sanctioned a proper marathon race in Le Mans. This became a regular event on the international skating calendar and was often frequented by British skaters over the years – and still is.

Back home, the Roller Speed Committee decided that they too wanted to hold a marathon. The first sanctioned marathon on British shores was held in 1988 on the perimeter road of the Billing Aquadrome, Northampton. The event was won by North London's Tony Marriott. There would not be another sanctioned event for another 5 years.

At the 1991 World Championships John Fry Senior was having a conversation with a USA competitor, Doug Glass, after watching him skate around the Zandvoorde track on some inlines. Glass told Fry that this was all the rage in the States and the future of the sport. Back home the British federation ignored it. They were slow to embrace change stating that inlines were too dangerous and just a fad that will go away and would not allow them to be used in any race. Fry, on the other hand, equipped all his Birmingham Wheels team with inlines and once a week got them to train on them.

In 1992 at the Humber Marathon, Fry Junior decided that he would use inlines. It was a non-sanctioned event and there was nothing to stop him. All the other skaters used quads. At the end of the race Fry won from the next skater by over 26 minutes. In fact they were still setting up the finish gantry when he rolled into view. It was a wake up call that quads had had their day.

The same year the World Championships were held in Rome and FIRS had decided that the events would consist of some "traditional" races, i.e. to be held on quads only, and some "open" races where either quads or inlines could be used at the choice of the athlete. As well as being the first World Championships where inlines were used it was also the first time that a World Marathon Championship was held. The British federation could ignore it no longer and on 16th May 1993 decided that they would have the very first British Marathon Championships and made the event "open" for both quads and inlines.

The event was held at Crystal Palace for senior skaters only. With no women entries the race was won by Michael McInerney (Fenland RSC) who became the very first British Marathon Champion.

Marathon Championships have been held every year since on road circuits such as Hereford, Chesterfield and Coventry. In an attempt to take the sport to the people it has even been held around the perimeter road of Butlin's in Skegness. Such is the cost of closing roads these days it tends to be on closed cycle circuits such as Hillingdon, Lee Valley or Stourport. The first ladies Marathon (Half Marathon actually) was a year later and won by Hayley Mephram (Derby Rollerspeed). Not until 2006 did the event become a full marathon which was won by Alexandra Geen (Birmingham Wheels).

The most successful senior male Marathon Champion has been Sutton Atkins, who between 1994 and 2015 won the event no fewer than 11 times...and with 6 different clubs! The most successful female has been Alexandra Geen with 7 titles to her credit.

In 1996 Masters Men and Women were introduced as Half Marathon Championships. Again, not until 2006 did these become full marathons.

Junior Championships were introduced in 2000 for all junior age groups. Initially the Junior age group did a Half Marathon, changing to Full Marathon in 2004. This year, Cadets compete over 15,000m, whilst Pupils compete over 8,000m (approximately 5 miles). The Minis compete over 3,000m or Mini Marathon. This year will see the introduction of the first Youth Half Marathon Championship.

So there you have it. A potted history of the British Marathon Championships. Fittingly, the Senior Men's trophy is known as the Cliff Sheard Memorial Trophy. Cliff sadly passed away in 1989 aged just 69 never seeing a British Championship Marathon. Despite this he was properly honoured in 1993 with a trophy that truly recognises him as the "father of British speed skating marathons". He would be humbled to know this, but very proud that his legacy lives on.