

Royal Berkshire Marathon. 29-April-2011

(Ian J Berry, Race Director)

The athletics track at Crookham Common saw forty-seven hardy runners celebrate the Royal Wedding Day in unusual style.

These energetic souls gathered at the former Greenham Common site to help raise money for the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance (TVACAA).

They each faced the challenge of running a full competition marathon race on the 400m running track – a total of one-hundred and five laps!

First to complete the 26.2 miles was Michael Arstein (498), in 2 hours and 32 minutes. Michael was working for one week in Great Britain and decided to make the most of his trip from New York by winning the race. In the ladies' race, Cardiff's Natasha Doyle (472) collected the winner's trophy in 3 hours and 28 minutes.



Behind the racing gazelles there were many inspiring stories. Laszlo Pekari completed his first ever marathon while Brian Mills continued his journey towards a total of one-thousand with his 776th marathon! Meanwhile veteran John Dawson, who started running marathons as the age of fifty-two is now approaching his four-hundredth marathon at the spritely age of seventy-three!



Race Director Ian J Berry was very pleased, "We chose to organise the Royal Berkshire Marathon for runners to celebrate the wedding in a special way. As well as fun and fast-times we also wanted to give something to the local community by raising funds for the Thames Valley & Chiltern air ambulance.

"The Greenham Common Trust and Team Kennet loved the idea and were instrumental in providing the facilities. My own club, Winchester & District AC as well as Hardley Runners assisted with the logistics too – it was a real team effort!

He continued, "On the day the amazing achievements of the runners and all the supporters ensured the event was a huge success."

The local air ambulance service is entirely funded by charitable donations. The Royal Berkshire Marathon raised over £1000 for this valuable charity helping to keep their red and yellow life-saving helicopter in the air.

The event was supported by the Greenham Common Trust, English Provender (with their Very Lazy cooking sauces), 9-bar healthy energy bars, Trion:Z, asics (athletics shoes) and Eden Springs Water.



Results (top three)

Pos	Number	Time	Pos	Number	Time
1	Michael Arnstein	2:32:49	1	Natasha Doyle	3:28:19
2	Adam Holland	2:38:31	2	Trinity Booth	3:50:50
3	Daniel Doherty	2:49:49	3	Anna Finn	3:59:50

