

## **ATHLETICS REPORT**

**27.5.2008**

### **EDINBURGH MARATHON.**

Last Sunday saw East Lothian roads between Musselburgh and Aberlady blocked by a sea of nearly 10,000 runners taking part in the Albert Bartlet Edinburgh Marathon (three-quarter of which is now in East Lothian). On an overcast morning with a stiff head wind for the runners on their outward journey to Gosford House, runners of all shapes and sizes, some in various costumes and guises, and some down to walking pace after only two miles, were cheered on their way to the finish at Musselburgh Race course and the prize to the winner of a Golden plated Potato. The course modified from the 1970 and 1986 Commonwealth Games proved to be a challenge to one and all.

The organisers claimed that it was the biggest and best ever of the recent Edinburgh Marathons, and that over £3 million was being raised for charities throughout the UK.

The reward for the entrants £40 registration fee, or £100 for the Hairy Haggis Relay, was a commemorative T shirt and a medal, plus the satisfaction of completing the 26.2 miles.

Over 6600 runners completed the full course and over 500 Teams finished.

All three Local Athletic Clubs, Musselburgh, Dunbar and Paddington provided volunteer marshals for the route and only a very few casualties were reported along the way.

With full results only just available at time of writing there were some excellent performances from local Club runners notably Dunbar Running Club's veterans Ian Sills and Stuart Hay enjoyed both elation and frustration. Ian had the elation of running a personal best time of 2hrs 44m47s to give him 5th place in the O/40 category, but team mate Stuart watched the clock tick just 27 seconds over the 3hr mark as he desperately headed for the line having been sick just one mile before the finish.

HELP had a big squad running as well as helping and Gavin Lightwood, a one time 2hr 28 marathoner, turned in a respectable 3hrs 6m02s in the O/45 category.

Finlay Smith has been training over the course and clocked 3hrs 20.44s was followed home by Supervet Sandy Wallace in 3hr 24m03s for 9th place in the O/55 class.

Julie Oswald was absolutely delighted with her run of 3hrs 30m08s and was followed by Frank McPartland 3hrs 34m42s and Iron man George Armstrong now 68years clocking 3hrs39m49s for what must be nearly his 150th marathon. Ruth Watson showed that whatever husband Bill can do she can match clocked 4hrs 02m15s just 30secs ahead of club mate John Hughes. Claire Simpson followed her great run two weeks ago over 22 miles clocked 4hrs 5m15s.

Others taking part included Malcolm Quinn, David Loughton and Foppy Jellema but no details are available at time of writing.

On Saturday HELP turn their attentions to shorter events when they stage their annual Festival Races starting from Neilson Park Paddington. At 2pm there will be the Junior Fun Runs of 1k for under 11's and 1 mile for under 15's Then at 3pm there is the Festival 5 mile race.

Pacemaker.

### **TRACK & FIELD**

Young Athletes from East Lothian were competing in various locations both north and south of the English Border last week-end. In the Central and South of Scotland Division 2 match at East Kilbride Dunbar Running Club took top honours winning the match with 446 points from Cambuslang and Stewarton. Individual details were not available at time of writing. At the Meadowbank Stadium the 2nd HASL League match between the four Lothian & Borders Regions took place. Team East Lothian consist of young athletes living in East Lothian but who compete for various clubs. Most notable performances were wins for Louise Dickson (EAC) in the SW 200 in 25.64s.

Jake Johnstone & Hamish Law (DRC) in the U/11 and U/13 boys 200mt in 33.32s and 31.45s respectively. Kristy Purves (MADAC) piped her namesake in the U/13G 200mts in an excellent time of 29.59s and Mhairi Howard (MADAC) won the B race in 32.2s.

In the 800 mt races there were superb performances from both Bethan McGregor (HELP) comfortably winning the U/11g race in 3m.9.25s and Callum Baptie(HELP) giving his new spikes an outing and showing a clean pair of heels to the rest winning the U/13b race in 2m44.76s.

However the surprise upset of the meeting came in the U/17 men's 800 mts event when Dunbar RC's newcomer who had already taken 2nd place in the 200mts 24.87 beating MADAC's Iain Sinclair 26.03s and Callum Burgess 27.01s, went on to out sprint the more experienced pair of Ross Matheson (LAC) and Lindsay Gordon.

The strong head wind thwarted his chances of a sub 2minute time clocking 2m04.62s to Matheson's 2m06.44s and Gordon's 2m08.53s.

Other good point scorers for Team East Lothian included Jake Johnstone's win in the U/11 Shot with 4.99m and Iain Sinclairs 2nd spot in the Triple Jump with 10m81.

Jack Thomson (HELP) had a PB long jump with 4m28 for 2nd place in the U/15 class although he is still under 13.

Peter Loudon was drafted in at the last minute to compete for Team Edinburgh at the National Junior Athletes League at Gateshead and not only set three PB's in the afternoon with 2m06.5s for the 800mts; 5.34mts for the Long Jump and 11.31mts for the Triple Jump. which meant his father Jim who offers his children the incentive of £10 per Personal Best performance so Peter earned a cool £30 for his afternoon's work, but won each of his U/17 category events. Team Edinburgh were helped to victory by Anna Seago and Sarah Warnock who both earned valuable points in the Long and Triple Jump events with Sarah getting 5.53mts and 10.83mts respectively and Anna clearing 5.25mts in the Long Jump and throwing 8.9mts in the Shot put. The next Junior UK event will be staged at Meadowbank on June 29th.

Pacemaker

Henry Muchamore