



# The fast and friendly marathon

Dick Beardsley (USA) and Inge Simonsen (Norway) link hands and dead-heat in a touching symbol of what Marathon Sunday was all about. But it was fast as well as friendly: 2:11:48 was a personal best for both men and the second fastest winning time for a British marathon, inferior only to the 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games race.

This was Beardsley's third marathon of 1981 (in January he ran third to the Soh twins in Beppu, Japan, and second to Bill Rodgers in Houston, Texas). The 24-year-old American was ninth in New York, to Simonsen's sixth. The younger Simonsen — he's 21 — was given the official verdict in this, the third marathon of his career



THE

# GILLETTE LONDON MARATHON

29th MARCH 1981

## OFFICIAL RESULTS

**H**ere, exclusive to **Running Magazine**, are the official results of the 1981 Gillette London Marathon, as approved by Race Director Chris Brasher.

At Greenwich 7055 runners started, and 6418 crossed the finishing line (6255 with computer times and 163 who were manually checked in after the finish area had begun to be dismantled). This means that 91% of those who started completed the course — a remarkable figure and a great tribute to both the runners themselves and the spectators who lined the course and gave so much encouragement.

The results took a few days longer to compile and approve than had been expected and, in order to bring the full results to all participants as quickly as possible, **Running Magazine** agreed to alter its publication date by one week in this exceptional circumstance. We apologise to our readers and agents in the distribution trade for this delay.

Chris Brasher makes the following comments about the results:

"I requested that publication be delayed so that we could carry out a series of spot checks. These have revealed a remarkable degree of accuracy — a great tribute to Olivetti's staff and computer. There are a few minor inaccuracies due entirely to human intervention. For instance, the finish controller, Paul Kanssen, reports that when the leading women were finishing, his officials could not hold the press photographers and radio reporters at bay. They were infiltrating into the finishing funnels and interfering with the finishing order. So the second fastest woman, Gillian Drake, is given a computer time of 2:38:57, 16 seconds slower than Ian Wilson, of Blackheath Harriers, whereas Ian reports that Gillian was in front of him. A check with our manual back-up system shows that Gillian's exact time was 2:37:12 and this figure should be used when compiling ranking lists. At this stage I cannot alter the official result without doing a complete re-run on the computer entailing a further delay in publication.

"There were three other problems:

"1. A few competitors failed to pass through the bar code check at the start and so technically they never started. However, in keeping with the spirit of the event, we have done our utmost to verify their time. A case in point is Michael Woods of Aldershot who forgot to check in at the start but who did complete the course in 2:20:30 to come 21st.

"2. At certain times, a queue of finishers built up *in front* of the finishing line. I was one of those affected so that my time of 2:56:20 becomes 2:56:56 because of the queue. I am not complaining and I hope nobody else will!

"3. At certain times of maximum congestion (156 runners crossed the line in the two minutes before midday) the finish officials were nearly overwhelmed and some bar codes were given to Olivetti in the wrong sequence. The maximum error I can find is 2mins 11secs at around the 3:50 mark. However, the finish officials soon caught up and at the 4:30 mark I can find no discrepancy at all.

"I am happy that our results in our first year are at least as accurate as those of other major marathons with five or six years experience behind them — a fact confirmed by Fred Lebow, Director of the New York City Marathon, who says that he is importing some of our systems into the 1981 New York Marathon.

"We have already held some post-mortems and the officials who did such a grand job tell me that they know where they went wrong so that next year they can improve the human input to match the professionalism and perfection of the Olivetti staff and computer."

Please note that **Running Magazine** is not responsible for errors or omissions and we cannot enter into correspondence or handle telephone queries about the results. If you have a problem which is not covered in the points made above by the Race Director, please state this *briefly in writing* and post to Chris Brasher, Race Director, London Marathon, c/o GLC Recreation Department, County Hall, London SE1 7PB.

### THE LONDON MARATHON 1982

The GLC and the Board of Governors have asked us to point out that they are unable to deal with queries at the present time about next year's event (scheduled date Sunday April 4). Full details will be made available in **Running Magazine** and elsewhere later in the year. Intending runners will gain no priority by writing now.

### THE TOP TEN MEN

1	Inge SIMONSEN	2:11:48
	Dick BEARDSLEY	2:11:48
3	Trevor WRIGHT	2:12:53
4	Mike KEARNS	2:13:37
5	Graham LAING	2:13:59
6	Brian COLE	2:14:01
7	Jim DINGWALL	2:14:54
8	Keith PENNY	2:15:31
9	Paul EALES	2:15:55
10	Don FAIRCLOTH	2:16:36

### THE TOP TEN WOMEN

			Race position
1	Joyce SMITH	2:29:57	140
2	Gillian DRAKE	2:28:57	370
3	Gillian ADAMS	2:40:44	428
4	Kathleen MOLITOR	2:42:26	477
5	Sally STRAUSS	2:42:42	482
6	Karen GOLDHAWK	2:43:28	505
7	Suzan HASSAN	2:43:28	511
8	Julie BARLEYCORN	2:45:33	577
9	Marie MAROT	2:46:51	628
10	Margaret LOCKLEY	2:47:29	657



# This show will run and run

At last we're on the marathon map! The first Gillette London Marathon will prove to be a watershed in the history of athletics in this country. Overleaf, Editor Andy Etchells reports on this unique occasion. On page 32 Geoffrey Cannon recounts his personal experiences of the route and the atmosphere and on page 38 Red Daniells interviews some of the natives whose lives were so rudely interrupted on Marathon Sunday

**RIGHT:**

"Who would have believed it in London?" was a typical comment at 9am on a grey, rainy Sunday. This is what rather less than half the near-7,000 field looked like, minutes after the gun

**FACING PAGE:**

This is the start...and this is the finish. Course Director John Disley indicates the meridian line to the front grid men (top) including Dick Beardsley (33), Brian Cole (206 - 6th) and Paul Eales (346 - 9th) with Inge Simonsen on the left hand side of the second rank. At left, he ushers Joyce Smith into the ladies' funnel for her new British and Commonwealth best of 2:29:56

Laurence Lustig

