

## Jack Clark



This day turned out to be one I shall never forget.

As a first- time runner I had many logistical nerves prior and I really needn't have as the organisation was second to none. Once I got started, I could not have composed a better day in my mind if I had wanted to. As you can see I even managed a selfie as I ran over Tower Bridge!

I have also actually framed my mementos of the day! I've never experienced such unrelenting crowd support and remember being a little teary upon seeing my family midway through mile 17! Crossing the line alongside a friend I mad- mid race was such a nice touch too. Exchanged details after and have been to the pub since!

I must again thank the Pattenmakers for the opportunity.

## Alison Rostron

My day began early at the Green Start wishing Paul (pictured together here) good luck with his World Record attempt. We had hoped to run together as our finish times looked close, and I wanted to be on hand for any possible foot first aid! Sadly, however, I had to go to my allocated Red start an hour later, determined to enjoy the Marathon this year having run with a painful hip injury in 2019. Despite the odd niggles that come with age, (71) I can happily report that this year the experience thoroughly lived up to my expectations.

I waved at every camera, acknowledged the supportive spectators' shouts of encouragement, rocked to the bands and marvelled at the camaraderie amongst my fellow runners. I witnessed numerous acts of kindness towards those who were struggling - particularly over the last few miles, when the support was awesome, carrying me ever onwards. I saw my husband Peter waving to me at mile 25 and as I ran to him for a hug, my emotions overwhelmed me: for months he had supported me in training with great patience, and seeing the relief on his face that I was almost safely home I held back the tears.

The cheers from the crowd intensified as I neared the end, almost as if they sensed the fatigue affecting all of us. Runners were helping each other selflessly towards the line as the support from spectators willed us onwards. Then, in the grandstand, I spotted Oscar, my eldest grandson waving and shouting to me, and I waved back at all the family.

One last push and I was there, tired but elated!



Running the London Marathon 2021 has shown me, in these difficult times, the very best of humanity and has been a truly life affirming experience. I am so proud of Paul's magnificent effort in achieving his world record and quite pleased that my own running time was only eleven seconds more than his!!).

## David Reeve



I would like to thank the Pattenmakers for giving me the opportunity to run my first ever Marathon. It was a wonderful experience.

Having played sport almost all my life I had always thought the marathon was something that was relatively easy to achieve. Having now experienced it myself I now have the utmost admiration for anyone who has managed to complete on! Quite possibly the hardest thing I have ever done. I had rather optimistically aimed for a time of 4 hours. That soon became unrealistic with constant calf injuries during training. In the end I managed a time of 4.51. A time I have no intention of trying to better!

## David Sharp

This was my third Virgin London Marathon on behalf the Pattenmakers, and by some way the hardest as well as my slowest. A raft of commitments saw my training schedule cut to the bare minimum, a painful way to prove the old adage that if you want pain, don't train!

It's only the second time I've ever properly hit 'the wall' in a marathon, with the miles from 16 through to 19 proving particularly difficult. The atmosphere at the start was very emotional, as we'd all been waiting the best part of two years for this event to take place, and many of the runners had been fundraising for all of this time. There was a strong sense of camaraderie as we all set off.

The organisers had asked spectators not to come *en masse*, though while numbers may have been slightly smaller, it's the most supportive crowd I've ever experienced at a marathon. I was very proud to wear my Pattenmakers vest emblazoned with my nickname, and it was shouts of "Sharpie" and encouragement from the crowd that pulled me to the finish where my wife was waiting



in the grandstand on the Mall. Thank-you to the Pattenmakers for the huge privilege of allowing me to compete again.

Along with Paul Bennett, who featured in a previous issue and broke the Guinness World Record for running in ski boots, the five-strong Pattenmakers running team did the Company proud, and I'm pleased to say – with additional fundraising support from Lesley Exley – raised a lot of money again this year in the process.