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GORDON PERRY TO START TCS LONDON MARATHON WHEELCHAIR RACES 40 YEARS AFTER WINNING FIRST EDITION

- **Gordon Perry won the first London Marathon wheelchair race in 1983**
- **The 2023 TCS London Marathon will be the richest in the sport's history, with an overall prize pot of \$253,500**

Gordon Perry, the London Marathon's first ever wheelchair race champion, will be the Official Starter of the wheelchair races at this year's TCS London Marathon, to mark the 40th anniversary of his historic win.

The first London Marathon wheelchair races were held in 1983 with Perry, then 28, becoming the first in a long and storied list of wheelchair racers to have won the world's most popular marathon, paving the way for legends of the sport such as Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and David Weir.

The wheelchair events have come a long way since Perry's win four decades ago, with the 2023 TCS London Marathon races being the richest in the sport's history with the winners each receiving \$45,000 dollars as part of an overall prize pot of \$253,500.

Perry said: "It is an honour to be starting the 2023 TCS London Marathon wheelchair races. 1983 was such a long time ago but the memories of my win remain fresh and it's going to be a privilege to return to this great event as the Official Starter."

The first ever women's wheelchair race winner Denise Smith MBE sadly died in 2020.

The 2023 elite wheelchair men's race will be headed by defending champion and course record holder Marcel Hug (SUI) while Weir, who has won the event a record eight times, will be racing in his 24th consecutive London Marathon.

The elite women's race features defending champion Catherine Debrunner (SUI) plus a string of former champions including three-time London Marathon champion Manuela Schar (SUI) and Paralympic marathon champion Madison De Rozario (AUS).

For more information on the 2023 TCS London Marathon elite wheelchair fields, see [our media resources section](#).

The elite women's race at the 2023 TCS London Marathon will be started by former London Marathon champions Ingrid Kristiansen and Catherina McKiernan while the Official Starter of the elite men's and mass event will be revealed in the coming days.

Notes to Editors

About the London Marathon

- The 2023 TCS London Marathon will take place on Sunday 23 April.
- The London Marathon was first held on 29 March 1981 and the millionth finisher in the history of the event crossed the line in 2016.
- Since the first London Marathon in 1981, the event has raised more than £1 billion for charity.
- The 2023 TCS London Marathon Official Charity of the Year is Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Foundation (formerly the London Marathon Charitable Trust).
- Since 1981, [The London Marathon Foundation](#) has awarded grants totalling in excess of £100 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.
- For more information, visit tcslondonmarathon.com

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