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## **MORE THAN 40,000 PEOPLE RUN TOGETHER TO COMPLETE HISTORIC TCS LONDON MARATHON WEEKEND**

- More than 40,000 people take part in 2022 edition of iconic event on the streets of the capital
- Stunning debuts from elite winners, with new course records in both wheelchair races
- Event Director Hugh Brasher hails most inclusive London Marathon ever
- It completes historic weekend that saw first-ever TCS Mini London Marathon held 24 hours earlier
- Ballot for the 2023 event on Sunday 23 April open now

More than 40,000 people ran together through the streets of the capital today, enjoying perfect conditions for their 26.2-mile journey to the Finish Line of the 2022 TCS London Marathon.

Celebrating the 42nd edition's theme of #WeRunTogether, some 38,156 people had passed beneath the new digital finish gantry on The Mall by 17:00 today after 40,927 started the event this morning.

Thousands more joined the head-bobbing party by completing their marathon challenge virtually over a 24-hour window, confirming the event's status as the most popular marathon on the planet.

"What an amazing day it's been," said Event Director Hugh Brasher. "A year

ago only about 90 countries could travel to the UK and now 200 can, so it really does feel like the event is back.

“The sun shone, and the amazing positivity that London is renowned for shone brightly too.

“Back in 1981, at the first London Marathon, around 95 per cent of runners were men in small shorts. But it’s a sea of humanity here today and we hope our new initiatives ensure the event is even more diverse in years to come.”

One of those initiatives was Rainbow Row, which encouraged the LGBTQIA+ community “to bring colour to the event”, as Brasher put it, while assisted wheelchair entrants were on the course for the first time, and the marathon championed its new non-binary entry policy.

It was Brasher himself who predicted a Marathon Weekend to remember and it proved so, as the elite races delivered stunning performances from two of the sport’s up-and-coming stars, and the world’s best wheelchair racers produced a pair of course records fit for the occasion.

Ethiopian sensation Yalemzerf Yehualaw stormed to victory in the women’s race, fulfilling a childhood dream as she became the youngest-ever women’s winner with a commanding performance that broke a six-year Kenyan stranglehold on the title.

The 23-year-old was racing the full distance for only the second time in her career. Yet she shrugged off a bruising mid-race fall to leave defending champion Joyciline Jepkosgei trailing in her wake before striding to victory in 2:17:26, the third-quickest time ever on the London course and only 25 seconds outside the women’s only world record.

In the men’s race, London debutant Amos Kipruto finally took his first Abbott World Marathon Majors victory after 13 races and a handful of recent near misses in Tokyo and Berlin. The 30-year-old produced a stunning finish to win in 2:04:39 ahead of Ethiopia’s Leul Gebresilase, securing Kenya’s 15th London Marathon men’s crown.

Meanwhile, there was a record-breaking Swiss double in the wheelchair races for the second year in a row, as Marcel Hug and Catherine Debrunner both set course records.

Hug retained his title from 2021 after a head-to-head tussle with the USA’s Daniel Romanchuk, while Debrunner confirmed her sudden emergence on the marathon scene with her second Majors victory in a week.

Weynay Ghebresilasie was the first British man across the line in ninth, just ahead of last year’s domestic champion Philip Sesemann, while Rose Harvey was the quickest British woman, finishing 10th overall after pre-race favourite Charlotte Purdue withdrew overnight with illness.

After the elites, came the masses, including Joan Benoit Samuelson, USA’s 1984 Olympic champion who was the quickest celebrity of the day, running 3:20:20 with a replacement knee at the age of 65.

“It was an accomplishment just to finish today,” said the first-ever women’s Olympic marathon champion who was running alongside her daughter. “I’m

a grandmother now and everybody said I wouldn't do it, but I would never say never. I did it on a wing and a prayer.

"I'm blessed to have longevity in this sport. It doesn't owe me anything but I feel I owe my sport. For me now it's about storytelling."

There were thousands of other heartwarming stories among the day's finishers, not least that of Anoosheh Ashoori, who finished his gruelling journey in less than five-and-a-half hours, just six months after being released from prison in Iran, where he shared a cell with cockroaches and rats.

Emmy award-winning actor Cynthia Erivo struggled to hold back the tears after taking more than 20 minutes off her personal best. The London-born Hollywood star completed an emotional 'homecoming' run in 3:35:36 after just eight weeks' training.

"I can't tell you how happy I am with my time," said the double Academy Award nominee. "I feel so incredibly emotional and am trying hard not to cry."

Ever Present Chris Finill knows the London Marathon as well as anyone, and the 63-year-old completed his 42nd consecutive marathon in 3:01:18 before summing up the feeling of many: "This year feels like a genuine return to normality," he said. "I have done 37 sub-three hour marathons and I will certainly be back next year."

Before today's elites, came the stars of the future, as thousands of young athletes from across the country battled for honours in the TCS Mini London Marathon yesterday. The event saw children and young people complete either one mile or 2.6K, finishing on The Mall under the world-famous gantry.

The first lucky winners of the championship part of the mini event were greeted by Kenya's marathon legend and world record holder Eliud Kipchoge, who was inspired to say: "The future of marathon running is great."

After today, it certainly looks that way.

The London Marathon will return to its traditional spring slot next year. [The ballot for the 2023 event is open now](#) and closes at 21:00 on Friday 7 October.

"It's like the National Lottery," said Brasher. "Unless you enter it, you can't be in it.

"So if you feel inspired by everything you've seen today, by the amazing spirit of positivity and togetherness, make sure you enter the ballot. Next year you could be part of this brilliant day."

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For more on the 2022 TCS London Marathon, visit our [media resources](#).

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## About the London Marathon

- The 2022 TCS London Marathon takes place today, Sunday 2 October.
- 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.
- British Heart Foundation is the Charity of the Year of the 2022 TCS London Marathon.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £97 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.
- For more information, visit [tcslondonmarathon.com](https://tcslondonmarathon.com)

## About TCS

Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organisation that has been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses in their transformation journeys for over 50 years. TCS is one of the biggest software and services companies in the UK, and is at the heart of technological innovation within some of the UK's best-known brands. TCS has operated in the UK for more than 45 years and has over 200 customers in the UK today. TCS currently employs over 20,000 in the UK and Ireland.

TCS engages in a number of sports sponsorships in the UK, including being title partner of the TCS London Marathon and the official technology partner of the Jaguar TCS Formula E Racing Team. TCS is also the official title partner of distance running events including the TCS New York City Marathon, the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon, the TCS Amsterdam Marathon and the TCS Lidingöloppet.

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