

Newcastle Marathon - Sunday 22nd November

Andy Sly ran the 32nd marathon of his running career in very different surroundings to the majority of these by tackling the Newcastle marathon. This was not a typical city marathon and consisted of five laps of the city's Town Moor, involving off road sections, trail paths, with one especially arduous uphill grass section that lasted half a mile, not to mention the cow pat dodging along with the very difficult 30-40mph winds and rain.

Although there were only around 130 entrants at least 8 of these had a sub 3 hour marathon pedigree, with this in mind Andy set out to run from the front and test the opposition out, and in fact led the race from gun to tape, with only two other runners keeping pace for the first 3 miles despite Andy taking a wrong turn at the first drink station and almost surrendering his 20 yard lead. From then on the lead stretched considerably and consistently with the gap to second place almost five minutes at the finish. With the elements and course against fast times Andy was pleased to record another sub 3 hour time, although he just scraped under finishing in 2:59:59 to take the honours.