

**Elite Races 2012-2017**

Full race reports and digital results for all races from 1981 to 2017 are now available on the website: [www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com](http://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com).

Here we provide brief race reports of elite races from 2012 to 2017.

**22 April 2012**

**Men: Kipsang surges to debut title**

Wilson Kipsang took the men's title in the second fastest time ever on the London course, a performance that secured his place at the London 2012 Olympics.

Already the second fastest man in history, Kipsang stamped his authority on a heavily loaded field with two bold surges in the second half of the race. He broke free after 20 miles and crossed the line more than two minutes clear in 2:04:44 missing Emmanuel Mutai's course record by four seconds.

Martin Lel, the three-times champion, repeated his runner-up place from 2011. He crossed the line in 2:06:51, winning a sprint finish by a second from Ethiopia's Tsegaye Kebede. It was yet another remarkable run from the 33-year-old who had been left out of Kenya's Olympic selection shortlist after dropping out of the Dubai Marathon that January.

As for Mutai, he was seventh (now sixth) in 2:08:01, his lowest finish in five London appearances, perhaps affected by the bout of typhoid he suffered a month before the race. Abel Kirui was a place ahead of him. Second at 40km, the double world champion faded in the closing stages and crossed the line in 2:07:56.

It was a bad day for the then world record holder Patrick Makau too. He dropped out at 10 miles with a hamstring injury, scuppering his Olympic hopes.

Lee Merrien was the first Briton for the second year in a row. He ran a PB of 2:13:41 to finish 15th (now 14th) and was selected for GB's London Olympic team.

1	Wilson Kipsang	KEN	2:04:44
2	Martin Lel	KEN	2:06:51
3	Tsegaye Kebede	ETH	2:06:52
4	Jaouad Gharib	MAR	2:07:44
5	Abel Kirui	KEN	2:07:56
6	Emmanuel Mutai	KEN	2:08:01
7	Marilson dos Santos	BRA	2:08:03
8	Samuel Tsegay	ERI	2:08:06
9	Feyisa Lilesa	ETH	2:08:20
10	Bazu Worku	ETH	2:10:14

\* Adil Annani (MAR) was initially 4th in 2:07:43 but the result was later annulled when he was suspended for doping.

**Women: Keitany clocks Kenyan record**

Mary Keitany retained her title on a brilliant morning, smashing the Kenyan and African record to become the second fastest woman in history as she led a second national medal-sweep in the women's race.

Keitany kicked away from her compatriots in the last four miles to clock 2:18:37, 10 seconds quicker than Catherine Ndereba's 11-year-old mark. She was more than a minute ahead of world champion Edna Kiplagat, who broke 2:20 for the first time in second place, with world silver medallist Priscah Jeptoo third and two more Kenyans, Florence Kiplagat and Lucy Kabuu, fourth and fifth.

"I'm so delighted to win for the second time in London," said Keitany. "I knew I could run 2:18 but to break Catherine's national record is special for me."

Keitany threw down the gauntlet in the second half, running 67:44 to make this one of the quickest marathon finishes ever seen. Kiplagat challenged the champion until 23 miles and maintained her form over the closing stages to cross the line in 2:19:50, a personal best by nearly a minute. There was also a PB for Jeptoo, the world silver medallist running 2:20:14.

Only Ethiopia's Aberu Kebede could stay with the quintet of Kenyans after half way, and at the end she was the first non-Kenyan across the line in sixth place.

Germany's Irina Mikitenko was the first European in seventh while there was good news for Britain as Claire Hallissey finished 11th in a PB of 2:27:44 to win her Olympic place. Scot Freya Murray (now Ross) was just a stride or two behind, clocking 2:28:04 on her debut.

1	Mary Keitany	KEN	2:18:37
2	Edna Kiplagat	KEN	2:19:50
3	Priscah Jeptoo	KEN	2:20:14
4	Florence Kiplagat	KEN	2:20:57
5	Lucy Kabuu	KEN	2:23:12
6	Aberu Kebede	ETH	2:24:04
7	Irina Mikitenko	GER	2:24:53
8	Jessica Augusto	POR	2:24:59
9	Atsede Baysa	ETH	2:25:59
10	Jelena Prokopcuka	LAT	2:27:04

**21 April 2013**

## Men: Kebede comes from behind

Tsegaye Kebede ran a perfectly judged race to win the men's title with a thrilling finish. The Ethiopian held enough back to surge past course record holder Emmanuel Mutai in the final half-mile of the race.

Kebede came from nearly a minute behind the leaders at 35km to regain the crown he won three years before. He crossed the line in 2:06:04 with his hand on his chest in memory of the victims of the recent Boston Marathon bombings. Mutai hung on for second in 2:06:33 while Kebede's training partner Ayele Abshero was third in 2:06:57, giving Ethiopia two on the podium for the first time.

With the 'greatest field ever assembled' setting off from Blackheath, the first half of the race was dominated by talk of a world record. All the favourites were in the mix, including Kebede, Olympic champion Stephen Kiprotich, defending champion Wilson Kipsang, world record holder Patrick Makau, course record holder Mutai and London debutant Abshero.

Among them was Britain's Mo Farah, running the first half as a test for his 2014 debut. He dropped out as planned just before half way, passed in 61:34, and the lead group gradually whittled down until Mutai hit the front alone passing the Tower of London at mile 22.

The Kenyan, running his 13th marathon, seemed to have timed his effort to perfection, but Kebede, who had dropped off the leaders at half way, surged back into contention. By mile 24, he was just 28 seconds back and with a mile to go the gap was down to 12.

These two turned past Big Ben together at almost exactly midday. Mutai had nothing left as Kebede powered on and cruised into the finishing straight to claim his second London victory.

Spain's Ayad Lamdassem was the first European in ninth. Scott Overall dropped out of the race at 25km, leaving Derek Hawkins to come through as first Briton. He was 12th in 2:16:50.

1	Tsegaye Kebede	ETH	2:06:04
2	Emmanuel Mutai	KEN	2:06:33
3	Ayele Abshero	ETH	2:06:57
4	Feyisa Lilesa	ETH	2:07:46
5	Wilson Kipsang	KEN	2:07:47
6	Stephen Kiprotich	UGA	2:08:05
7	Yared Asmerom	ERI	2:08:22
8	Stanley Biwott	KEN	2:08:39
9	Ayad Lamdassem	ESP	2:09:28*
10	Patrick Makau	KEN	2:14:10

\* Hafid Chani (MAR) was initially 9th in 2:09:11 but his result was later annulled when he was suspended for a doping violation.

## Women: Jeptoo leads a Kenyan 1-2

Priscah Jeptoo led a Kenyan one-two to add the women's London Marathon crown to her world and Olympic silvers. She powered home ahead of world champion Edna Kiplagat while Yukiko Akaba came from behind to claim Japan's first London podium place in third.

But while it was another day of joy for Kenya, there was disaster for Ethiopia's Olympic champion Tiki Gelana who collided with wheelchair racer Josh Cassidy at a feeding station near the 15km mark.

Battered and bruised, Gelana kept going to finish 16th, more than 16 minutes after Jeptoo had crossed the line in 2:20:15, a second outside her personal best. "I knew this morning I was going to run well," said Jeptoo. "But there was such a good field it wasn't until around 25 miles that I felt I could win."

Gelana had fallen in the Olympic race too, but then she had picked herself up to beat Jeptoo in the pouring rain. Conditions couldn't have been more different this time as the women set off under cloudless skies in still conditions.

At first Gelana seemed to recover well, and she was one of five who went through half way in 1:11:33 only to lose touch again in the 14th mile. By 30km Jeptoo and Kiplagat were alone in front. At first Kiplagat seemed to have the initiative, but Jeptoo was determined not to play the bridesmaid's role again.

Her style is all elbows and knees compared to Kiplagat's smoother gait, yet it was she who proved the stronger as they turned west and ran towards Westminster. She opened a stride's gap, which slowly grew to two, then five, before the elastic finally snapped and Kiplagat settled for second.

Jeptoo took the tape in comfortable isolation well over a minute ahead. Akaba overtook Florence Kiplagat, Atsede Baysa and Meselech Melkamu to claim third while Gelana struggled home in 2:36:55.

It was a better day for Britain's Susan Partridge. The Scot ducked inside the World Championships qualifying time, finishing ninth in 2:30:46.

1	Priscah Jeptoo	KEN	2:20:15
2	Edna Kiplagat	KEN	2:21:32
3	Yukiko Akaba	JPN	2:24:43
4	Atsede Baysa	ETH	2:25:14
5	Meselech Melkamu	ETH	2:25:46
6	Florence Kiplagat	KEN	2:27:05
7	Mai Ito	JPN	2:28:37
8	Alevtina Biktirimova	RUS	2:30:02
9	Susan Partridge	GBR	2:30:46
10	Ivette van Zyl	RSA	2:31:26

**13 April 2014**

## Men: Kipsang claims the course record

Wilson Kipsang broke the course record to regain his London Marathon men's title on a glorious day, sprinting away from fellow Kenyan Stanley Biwott in the final mile and a half of the race.

The two had pulled clear of a large pack around Canary Wharf, and Kipsang shrugged off his compatriot as they approached Westminster Bridge to win by 26 seconds in 2:04:29, beating Emmanuel Mutai's three-year-old London best.

It was an impressive effort from the 32-year-old who added a second London title to his world record victory at the Berlin Marathon the previous September. It was his seventh win in 10 career marathons and the 10th at a London Marathon by a Kenyan man.

In 2012 Kipsang crossed the line more than two minutes clear of the field, but in 2014 he bided his time, kicking away from a pack of eight with a burst that only Biwott could match. The two ran shoulder-to-shoulder for 10km before Kipsang made his move with just over 2km left. From then on he was never in trouble and made up for a poorly-paced first half by sprinting down The Mall.

Never among the pre-race favourites, Biwott was a surprise in second, clocking 2:04:55 to ensure 2014 will be remembered as the first time in 34 London Marathons that two men have broken 2:05.

There was some consolation for Kenya's great east African rivals Ethiopia as they filled the next three places. Defending champion Tsegaye Kebede, prominent for much of the race, had to be satisfied with third, his fifth podium finish in six London Marathons. Kebede outsprinted Ayele Abshero to cross the line a second ahead in 2:06:30, while the 18-year-old Dubai champion, Tsegaye Mekonnen, was fifth in 2:08:06.

As for Britain's Mo Farah, his much-anticipated debut ended in disappointment as the double world and Olympic track champion failed to break the long-standing British record, finishing eighth in 2:08:21, more than a minute outside his target. He did break the English record, and he beat Uganda's world and Olympic champion Stephen Kiprotich, who finished 12th in 2:11:37, one place behind Chris Thompson (2:11:19).

1	Wilson Kipsang	KEN	2:04:29
2	Stanley Biwott	KEN	2:04:55
3	Tsegaye Kebede	ETH	2:06:30
4	Ayele Abshero	ETH	2:06:31
5	Tsegaye Mekonnen	ETH	2:08:06
6	Geoffrey Mutai	KEN	2:08:18
7	Emmanuel Mutai	KEN	2:08:19
8	Mo Farah	GBR	2:08:21
9	Feyisa Lilesa	ETH	2:08:26
10	Ryan Vail	USA	2:10:57

## Women: Third time lucky for Kiplagat

Edna Kiplagat ran a perfectly judged race to finally win the London Marathon after finishing runner-up in the previous three years. She ran the last seven miles a step behind her fellow Kenyan and namesake, Florence Kiplagat, before sprinting ahead on The Mall to cross the finish line three seconds clear in 2:20:21.

"I'm very happy to win today because I haven't managed to the last three times," said the champion.

Three Ethiopians followed the Kiplagats home, led by Tirunesh Dibaba in 2:20:35, a fine debut for the track star who lost touch with the two Kenyans when she dropped her drinks bottle around the 30km mark. Feyse Tadese finished strongly to come fourth in 2:21:42, with Aberu Kebede fifth in 2:23:21.

Reigning champion Priscah Jeptoo ran alongside the two Kiplagats early on while Olympic champion Tiki Gelana was present next to Dibaba, Tadese and Kebede. After her collision in 2013, Gelana was hoping for better fortune this time, but she again provided the early drama when she began to struggle after 10km.

Jeptoo stayed at the front, looking imperious as the pacemakers took them through half way bang on schedule at 69:15. But the champion stopped suddenly 17 miles into the race and stepped off the course, leaving the two Kiplagats puzzled to find themselves alone with Dibaba approaching 30km.

Then Dibaba showed her marathon inexperience by dropping her drinks bottle. Sensibly, she stopped to pick it up but the Kenyan pair grabbed their opportunity. Exchanging a glance, they swiftly picked up the pace, putting in a 5:16 mile to open a gap which they maintained to the end. With the finish in sight, Florence made a bid for glory, but Edna found another gear as the road opened up, sprinting away to break the tape.

Gelana finished a disappointing ninth (now eighth), while Amy Whitehead was the first Briton to cross the line in 2:34:19, just inside the 2:35 qualifying time for the Commonwealth Games. Emma Stepto, the 44-year-old who only took up running in her 30s, was close behind in an impressive 2:36:03.

1	Edna Kiplagat	KEN	2:20:21
2	Florence Kiplagat	KEN	2:20:24
3	Tirunesh Dibaba	ETH	2:20:35
4	Feyse Tadese	ETH	2:21:42
5	Aberu Kebede	ETH	2:23:21
6	Jessica Augusto	POR	2:24:25
7	Ana Dulce Félix	POR	2:26:46*
8	Tiki Gelana	ETH	2:26:58
9	Yuko Shimizu	JPN	2:32:00**
10	Diane Nukuru-Johnson	BDI	2:33:01

\* Tetyana Gamera (UKR) was initially 7th in 2:25:30 but her result was annulled when she was suspended for a doping violation.

\*\* Lyudmila Kovalenko (UKR) was initially 9th in 2:31:31 but her result was annulled when she was suspended for a doping violation.

26 April 2015

## Men: King Kipchoge outkicks Kipsang

Eliud Kipchoge snatched the title from his countryman Wilson Kipsang with a thrilling sprint finish over the final mile. The former 5000m world champion and London debutant surged ahead of the reigning champion to win in 2:04:42, just 13 seconds outside the course record set by Kipsang in 2014.

Kipsang finished just metres behind in 2:04:47, while world record holder Dennis Kimetto completed a Kenyan sweep of the podium and 2014 runner-up Stanley Biwott made it four in four for the east African nation.

Billed as the 'Clash of the Champions', the 35th edition of the London Marathon featured the greatest men's field ever assembled, with five of the world's all-time top 10 and eight men who had run sub-2:05.

With such class in the field, the world's fastest men began at a quick pace. It proved too much for 2011 New York champion Geoffrey Mutai who dropped out just after half way.

Kipchoge and Kimetto moved to the front after 25km and a six-man group strode beneath Canary Wharf's skyscrapers to reach 30km in 1:28:56. The half dozen matched each other stride for stride until they hit 35km in 1:44:02, the course record now out of sight.

Kipchoge put in a testing surge along The Highway, which reduced the group to four, before he and Kipsang made the decisive move as they dipped out of sight beneath Blackfriars underpass. The pair emerged with a 20-metre lead over Biwott and Kimetto that gradually grew along the Embankment.

Both looked supremely confident as a 2:48 kilometre took them to 40km in 1:58:29. Kipchoge briefly opened a stride's advantage but Kipsang was back alongside him as the duo passed Big Ben. Kipchoge had finished runner-up to Kipsang at the 2013 Berlin Marathon, but he was not prepared to let history repeat itself.

With 650m to go he kicked again, putting in a surge that finally killed off the champion and left him alone to race past Buckingham Palace and on to The Mall.

Scott Overall was the first Briton home, the Blackheath & Bromley runner finishing 13th in 2:13:13.

1	Eliud Kipchoge	KEN	2:04:42
2	Wilson Kipsang	KEN	2:04:47
3	Dennis Kimetto	KEN	2:05:50
4	Stanley Biwott	KEN	2:06:41
5	Tilahun Regassa	ETH	2:07:16
6	Sammy Kitwara	KEN	2:07:43
7	Javier Guerra	ESP	2:09:33
8	Ghebre Kibrom	ERI	2:09:36
9	Aleksey Reunkov	RUS	2:10:10
10	Serhiy Lebida	UKR	2:10:21

## Women: Tufa breaks Kenya's grip

Tigist Tufa tore up the prediction book to hand Ethiopia its first women's winner since Derartu Tulu in 2001. It was billed as a battle between Kenya's 'fantastic four', but Tufa delivered a shock to the favourites when she grabbed a topsy-turvy race by the scruff of its neck with a devastating burst between 35 and 40km that ripped apart a nine-strong group containing two-times London winner Mary Keitany and world half marathon record holder Florence Kiplagat.

Tufa threw in a 24th mile of 5:05 to pull clear of the pack and strode home in 2:23:22. Keitany won the runner-up battle with a sprint finish over Tirfi Tsegaye, the New York champion crossing the line one second ahead in 2:23:40. Aselefech Mergia capped a great day for Ethiopia by finishing fourth ahead of Kiplagat who couldn't match her second place from 2014. As for her namesake, Edna, the defending and two-times world champion was 11th (now 10th) in 2:27:16.

Tufa's tenacious finish broke a Kenyan stranglehold stretching back five years. The Kenyans had dominated pre-race publicity and Kiplagat even suggested Paula Radcliffe's women-only world record could come under threat on the day of the Briton's last ever performance.

In the event, the gusty weather put paid to that ambition and it soon became clear the contenders were going to race not chase times as a pattern of fluctuating speed took them to half way in 71:42, two and a half minutes outside schedule. The uneven pace meant the group soon swelled and suddenly it was Ana Dulce Felix at the front, the Portuguese athlete finding herself in an unexpected position as they strode by 30km in 1:42:36 and 35km in 1:59:58.

Tsegaye finally broke the deadlock, taking Tufa clear of Mergia, Keitany, Florence Kiplagat and Jeptoo. The pair opened a 50-metre gap with a 23rd mile of 5:19, but it was Tufa who had the edge. She gestured for her compatriot to keep up, but Tsegaye was finished. Tufa had blown a big lead in the closing stages of the Dubai Marathon three months earlier, but in London she timed it to perfection and crossed the line with arms aloft in celebration of the biggest win of her life.

Sonia Samuels was first Briton in 16th, clocking 2:31:46, while Radcliffe rolled home with the leading club runners in 2:36:55, 10 years and nine days since setting that spectacular course record.

1	Tigist Tufa	ETH	2:23:22
2	Mary Keitany	KEN	2:23:40
3	Tirfi Tsegaye	ETH	2:23:41
4	Aselefech Mergia	ETH	2:23:53
5	Florence Kiplagat	KEN	2:24:15
6	Jemima Sumgong	KEN	2:24:23
7	Priscah Jeptoo	KEN	2:25:01
8	Ana Dulce Félix	POR	2:25:15
9	Volha Mazuronak	BLR	2:25:36
10	Edna Kiplagat	KEN	2:27:16*

\* Rkia El Moukim (MAR) was initially 10th in 2:26:33 but her result was annulled when she was suspended for doping.

24 April 2016

## Men: Classy Kipchoge smashes record

Eliud Kipchoge retained his crown with a majestic performance that took him to second on the all-time list and smashed London's two-year-old course record. The 31-year-old Kenyan finished in 2:03:05, just eight seconds outside the world record and more than a minute inside Wilson Kipsang's London best of 2:04:29.

The classy Kipchoge was in control throughout, leading from start to finish as he produced a masterclass in efficient running and perfect pacing to out-kick one of the best men's fields ever seen.

*En route*, he and countryman Stanley Biwott swept through 30km in a world record time of 1:27:13 shortly after shrugging off the attentions of Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele. Kipchoge made his move going into Blackfriars underpass, leaving Biwott to settle for second in a big personal best of 2:03:51. Bekele was third in 2:06:36 – an impressive achievement given that he claimed to be just 90 per cent fit.

Kipchoge's performance was even more notable given the blustery, cool conditions. After going through half way in 61:24, the fastest ever first half in London, a group of eight strung out to grab their drinks on The Highway. Kipsang took a tumble as he reached for his bottle and eventually dropped off the pace at 25km.

Bekele dropped off too, then dragged himself back to join Kipchoge and Biwott before the Kenyan pair finally broke him at 18 miles (1:24:12). The two leaders went through 30km seven seconds inside the world record and ran side by side at world record pace along The Highway, passing 35km in 1:42:07.

Kipchoge removed his arm warmers as the two men passed The Monument, flinging them aside as he powered on under Blackfriars underpass, emerging to kick away from the New York champion. He strode on to pass 40km in 1:56:49, saying afterwards: "I realised at 40km that I was 20 seconds off the world record so I tried to squeeze but it wasn't possible today."

With his sixth win from seven marathons, this masterful performer cemented his place among the greats. Biwott also joined the select club who have run sub-2:04.

Behind them, Callum Hawkins won a thrilling race among the Britons chasing Olympic selection. The Scot placed eighth overall in 2:10:52 to book his Rio place. Marathon debutant Tsegai Tewelde was next home, finishing 12th in 2:12:23, while Callum's older brother, Derek, was third Briton, 14th in 2:12:57.

1	Eliud Kipchoge	KEN	2:03:05
2	Stanley Biwott	KEN	2:03:51
3	Kenenisa Bekele	ETH	2:06:36
4	Ghirmay Ghebreslassie	ERI	2:07:46
5	Wilson Kipsang	KEN	2:07:52
6	Tilahun Regassa	ETH	2:09:47
7	Sisay Lemma	ETH	2:10:45
8	Callum Hawkins	GBR	2:10:52
9	Dennis Kimetto	KEN	2:11:44
10	Ghebre Kibrom	ERI	2:11:56

## Women: Sumgong seals dramatic win

Jemima Sumgong bounced back from a bang on the head to win the women's crown when she recovered from a dramatic fall to clinch victory by just five seconds from defending champion Tigist Tufa.

In 2015 it was Tufa who tore up the prediction book. This time it was the 31-year-old from Kenya's Nandi Hills who defied the predictions to win in 2:22:58. Unheralded before the race, Sumgong was the insider's tip for victory and she rewarded their faith when she shrugged off the tumble at 22 miles and held off Tufa over the final stretch to hand Kenya its eighth win.

The pair pulled clear of world champion Mare Dibaba with two miles to go before Sumgong triumphed in a ding-dong battle. After placing sixth 12 months earlier and fourth at the World Championships in Beijing, this was by far the biggest victory of her career so far.

Florence Kiplagat passed the fading Dibaba for third while Volha Mazuronak of Belarus broke her personal best to finish fourth (now third) in 2:23:54. Two-time champion Mary Keitany was ninth, a victim of the Sumgong fall.

With the Rio Games on many runners' minds, it was fitting that Olympian Sylvia Disley got the race underway following a 30-second tribute to her late husband, John, who had devised the London Marathon route 36 years earlier. Keitany was a marginal favourite, but she had been suffering with a cold and the New York champion was one of many sporting hats, gloves and long sleeves to ward off the chilly northern winds.

The leaders passed half way in 70:44, some 90 seconds outside schedule, before skipping through 30km in 1:41:39 where 2010 champion Aselefech Mergia inadvertently caught Sumgong's heels, sending the Kenyan into the back of Keitany. All three hit the Tarmac and Keitany rapidly lost 50 metres.

Mergia also struggled to regain ground, but Sumgong was swiftly up with the pack, rubbing the back of her skull as she moved into the lead. Only Tufa and Dibaba could stay with her as they reached the Embankment where Dibaba soon lost touch. Tufa and Sumgong ran shoulder to shoulder through 40km before Sumgong opened a small gap that wouldn't be closed.

Alyson Dixon and Sonia Samuels booked their tickets to Rio as the first two Britons, placing 13th and 14th in 2:31:52 and 2:32:00 respectively.

1	Jemima Sumgong	KEN	2:22:58
2	Tigist Tufa	ETH	2:23:03
3	Florence Kiplagat	KEN	2:23:39
4	Volha Mazuronak	BLR	2:23:54
5	Aselefech Mergia	ETH	2:23:57
6	Mare Dibaba	ETH	2:24:09
7	Feyse Tadesse	ETH	2:25:03
8	Priscah Jeptoo	KEN	2:27:27
9	Mary Keitany	KEN	2:28:30
10	Jessica Augusto	POR	2:28:53

23 April 2017

**Men: Wanjiru completes Kenyan sweep**



Daniel Wanjiru held off the Ethiopian track legend Kenenisa Bekele in a thrilling finish to win his first London Marathon in 2:05:48. The 24-year-old Kenyan made a break just before the 21-mile mark and battled hard over the final five miles to beat the fast-finishing favourite who had fallen behind after suffering with blisters caused by ill-fitting shoes.

Bekele had run the world's second fastest time in Berlin the previous September, and was just six seconds behind Wanjiru with one mile to go, but he couldn't quite close the gap and had to settle for the runner-up spot. Nearly two minutes later Bedan Karoki took third on his marathon debut ahead of Abel Kirui to put three Kenyan men in the top four.

The men's field set off on a perfect morning for marathon running after Prince Harry and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge had started the race. Bekele immediately went to the front of a 10-strong group of east Africans, tucked in behind the pacers. He was joined by four countrymen, Feyisa Lilesa, Asefa Mengstu, Tsefay Abera and Tilahun Regassa, along with the trio of Kenyans, a pair of Eritreans, world champion Ghirmay Ghebreslassie and Amanuel Mesel, and the Tanzanian, Alphonse Simbu.

They went through 10km on world record pace at 28:51 before settling down to pass half way in 61:40 – perfect tempo to break Dennis Kimetto's world record of 2:02:57. Lilesa, the Rio Olympic silver medallist, took his turn at the front as Bekele, surprisingly, began to struggle, explaining later that he had blisters "because my foot wasn't in a good position in my shoe". "I changed my running style and that affected my pace and balance," he said, "which made my right hamstring sore and slowed me down."

Bekele dropped out of the top 10, still in touch but looking uncomfortable as the remaining eight strode through the twists and turns of the Isle of Dogs, now bathed in spring sunshine. Eight became five as Wanjiru and Kirui ran shoulder to shoulder at the front, clicking

through 30km in 1:28:21. Lilesa cracked as they turned west along Poplar High Street, leaving four to battle it out for the three podium places. At least that's how it looked.

Wanjiru put in a burst at 21 miles, pulling away from Kirui who was 10 metres ahead of Lilesa as they turned onto The Highway heading west. The Kenyan gained 20 metres and seemed to be clear, but Bekele wasn't done. The world record holder for 5000m and 10,000m hauled himself back into contention, moving to third then passing Kirui into second.

It seemed only a matter of time before the revived Ethiopian would reel in the inexperienced Wanjiru, who couldn't resist a glance behind to assess the threat.

"I knew someone was coming, so that gave me renewed purpose," said Wanjiru. "I wasn't scared when I saw Bekele; if someone's coming from behind you have to push on to win the race."

And push on he did, keeping the gap to 10 seconds as the pair battled it out, thrilling the crowds lining the Embankment and crammed into the roads around Parliament Square. Bekele responded to Wanjiru's surge, closing the gap to six seconds as they struggled up Birdcage Walk towards the Palace. It wasn't enough and the Ethiopian started to rock and roll as he realised the London title was slipping from his grasp.

Increasing his lead, Wanjiru turned onto The Mall knowing victory was his. He crossed the Finish Line, arms aloft, delighted to have held off a man renowned for his devastating sprint finish.

"I am the happiest man in the world," he said. "The fast pace at the start helped me enormously, and the rest of the race was just as good for me. Everything went well, it was perfect."

Bekele was second in 2:05:57, one place better than the year before, while Karoki completed a great marathon debut in 2:07:41.

In the race for British World Championship selection, Josh Griffiths of Swansea Harriers delivered the shock of the day by finishing first Briton in 2:14:49 on his marathon debut.

The 23-year-old wasn't even in the elite field but his performance earned him a place on the British team for the London 2017 World Championships in August.

1	Daniel Wanjiru	KEN	2:05:48
2	Kenenisa Bekele	ETH	2:05:57
3	Bedan Karoki	KEN	2:07:41
4	Abel Kirui	KEN	2:07:45
5	Alphonse Simbu	TAN	2:09:10
6	Ghirmay Ghebreslassie	ERI	2:09:57
7	Asefa Mengstu	ETH	2:10:04
8	Amanuel Mesel	ERI	2:10:44
9	Javier Guerra	ESP	2:10:55
10	Michael Shelley	AUS	2:11:38

**Women: Incredible Keitany cracks Radcliffe's record**

Mary Keitany produced one of the greatest women's marathon performances in history to break the women-only world record and become the second quickest marathon runner of all time. The 35-year-old ran alone for all-but two of the 26.2 miles, leaving the greatest field ever assembled in her wake and smashing the 30km world record *en route* to a dominant victory in 2:17:01.

Only Paula Radcliffe has ever run quicker, when she set the mixed-race world record in 2003, but the Briton was forced to watch from the commentary box as her women-only mark of 2:17:42 was erased from the record books by the brave Kenyan who claimed a third London title to go with her three New York crowns.

Keitany swept through half way with her pacemaker in 66:54 and passed 30km in 1:36:05, before holding head and body together in the final miles as Ethiopia's Tirunesh Dibaba chased her down. "I thought I would run 2:17:59 or something, so to run 2:17:01 is amazing," she said. "I'm very happy with the finish time." No doubt, for her record-breaking win was worth a cool quarter of a million dollars in prize money to the 35-year-old mother of two.

Behind her, Dibaba clocked 2:17:56 to become the third quickest woman in history and claim the Ethiopian record, while her compatriot Aselefech Mergia was third in 2:23:08. "I never expected Mary to sprint away so fast at the beginning and maintain it," said Dibaba. "I followed at my own pace and am happy to have a personal best, but I would have preferred to come first."

Keitany had predicted that fine weather would put Radcliffe's 12-year-old figures under pressure and she couldn't have asked for better conditions as the runners set off on a cool spring morning behind pacemaker Caroline Kipkirui. An eight-strong elite group stretched out behind Keitany, including three other Kenyans – Chicago champion Florence Kiplagat, world silver medallist Helah Kiprop and debutante Vivian Cheruiyot – plus five Ethiopians, 2015 champion Tigist Tufa, Dibaba, Mergia, triple Berlin Marathon champion Aberu Kebede, and Tirunesh's namesake, Mare, the world champion and Olympic bronze medallist.

With such a collection of talent, a classic race was almost inevitable but few expected it to be such a one-woman show. Back in 2005, Radcliffe was already alone by the time she clicked off the first 5km in 15:47, and it was a similar story for Keitany, who passed the two-mile marker just behind the pacer in 10:14, already up on the Briton's pace. By the time she reached 5km in 15:31 the rest were 50 metres adrift – not surprising as she was on for a 2:11 finish!

Keitany has a history of going off too fast and paying for it later, but this time there was no holding back. She reached 10km just before the Cutty Sark in 31:17 before Kipkirui took her through Deptford and Rotherhithe, past 15km in 47:15 and 10 miles in 50:45, having run three sub-five-minute miles in the first four.

With sunshine now breaking through, Keitany tore off her long black arm warmers. No wonder, for she was cracking through south east London at the hottest pace in history, more than a minute inside Radcliffe's mixed-race record of 2:15:25. They reached 20km on Tower Bridge in 63:26 and half way in a "crazy" 66:54, the chasers now nearly a minute behind.

Kipkirui called it a day soon after, but Keitany ploughed on around the Isle of Dogs, reaching 25km in 1:19:43 and 30km with a 1:18 lead on Dibaba who was now alone in second. Having shrugged off Kiprop, the Ethiopian was on course for a huge personal best but still 70 seconds adrift.

Keitany reached 35km on The Highway in 1:52:39 as the pain finally began to show, her arms working hard to maintain her low swift stride as she passed the Tower and swept down towards the Embankment. All that was against her now was the clock and her aching legs. Her 23rd mile was the slowest so far at 5:29. In 2005, Radcliffe got quicker towards the end, but Keitany was hanging on.

Not as much as Dibaba, however, for the Ethiopian slowed to relieve stomach cramps as she emerged from Blackfriars underpass. Ahead of her Keitany passed 40km in 2:09:38 with the Thames shining to her left. Suddenly the bounce was back in her step and she strode up Birdcage Walk and onto The Mall to become only the second woman in history to break 2:18.

At the end of one of the greatest runs in history, the dominant Kenyan dragged out one last effort as she sprinted under the gantry with her arms wide and her grin even wider. After being left out of her nation's Rio Olympic team, won by the now-suspended Jemima Sumgong, Keitany had surely made her point. "We ran a crazy pace at the beginning and when I saw it was 66 minutes at half way I thought it was too fast," she said. "In the end I was really happy to finish as the winner."

Dibaba rallied too and finished just 55 seconds later, the first time two women have broken 2:18 in the same race.

Behind the flying medallists, a pair of Britons were also running faster than ever before. Alyson Dixon clocked 2:29:06 to place 14th and clinch a spot on the World Championship team, while Charlotte Purdue was second Briton home in 2:29:23, the 25-year-old's first ever sub-2:30 marathon. As for Jo Pavey, the 43-year-old dropped out at 16 miles with illness, only the second time in more than 25 years of international racing that she had failed to finish a race.

1	Mary Keitany	KEN	2:17:01
2	Tirunesh Dibaba	ETH	2:17:56
3	Aselefech Mergia	ETH	2:23:08
4	Vivian Cheruiyot	KEN	2:23:50
5	Lisa Weightman	AUS	2:25:15
6	Laura Thweatt	USA	2:25:38
7	Helah Kiprop	KEN	2:25:39
8	Tigist Tufa	ETH	2:25:52
9	Florence Kiplagat	KEN	2:26:25
10	Jessica Trengove	AUS	2:27:01

## Wheelchair Races 2012-2017

Full race reports and digital results for all wheelchair races from 1983 to 2017 are now available on the website: [www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com](http://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com).

Here we provide brief reports of recent wheelchair races from 2012 to 2017.

### 22 April 2012



#### Men: Weir equals Tanni's record

An emotional David Weir won one of the finest wheelchair marathons yet seen on the course to take his sixth title and match the London record of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson. The Surrey man edged out Switzerland's Marcel Hug after a sprint finish involving seven men separated on the line by just seven seconds.

He broke the tape in 1:32:26. "This is really special, even better than the first one," said Weir. "Tanni inspired me in this sport. I saw her compete in Sydney as a youngster and it is a privilege to be up there with her now."

Most of the best racers in the world were present on the Start Line, and a pack of 11 formed early on. It was soon reduced to eight, including former winner Josh Cassidy of Canada, veteran Swiss Heinz Frei, and Hug, the 2011 Berlin champion.

There were seven left as they turned off Birdcage Walk into The Mall with Japan's Masazumi Soejima and USA's Krige Schabort shaping up for a fast final 150 metres. But Weir would not be beaten and he rode the home crowd support to victory, punching the air as he crossed the line.

Hug was one second in front of Schabort, the 28-year-old Swiss matching his best London place. Schabort was a surprise in third, showing that even at 49 he can be a threat. His last appearance in London had been in 2008 when he was fourth.

1	David Weir	GBR	1:32:26
2	Marcel Hug	SUI	1:32:27
3	Krige Schabort	USA	1:32:28
4	Masazumi Soejima	JPN	1:32:29
5	Heinz Frei	SUI	1:32:30
6	Tomasz Hamerlak	POL	1:32:31
7	Masayuki Higuchi	JPN	1:32:33
8	Hiroyuki Yamamoto	JPN	1:33:00
9	Josh Cassidy	CAN	1:33:54
10	Kota Hokinoue	JPN	1:36:00

#### Women: Woods regains her crown

Shelly Woods dominated the women's race to win her second women's wheelchair title and complete a memorable British double. In contrast to Weir's sprint victory, Woods raced ahead of her high-class rivals to regain the crown she last won in 2007. She crossed the line in 1:49:10, almost four minutes ahead of Japan's Wakako Tsuchida.

The 25-year-old had been second to Amanda McGrory in 2011, and again in New York the previous November, but by half way in 2012 even Baroness Grey-Thompson was full of praise. "This is the best race Shelly has ever done," she said in her BBC commentary. "It was so well executed. She's in the best condition of her life."

Woods' victory was even sweeter given the daylight she opened on a world-class field. Tsuchida clocked 1:53:04 in second with Canadian Diane Roy third. "I tried not to look back, stayed strong and kept a good rhythm," said Woods. "I didn't know until 25 miles how far ahead I was."

Tsuchida paid tribute to the British winner. "It was a tough race," she said. "After Boston I was feeling very confident, but Shelly was just too strong for me."

The three top US athletes – McGrory, Tatyana McFadden and Shirley Reilly – were never in contention. McFadden dropped back early on to finish eighth, while Boston winner and London debutante Reilly was fourth and McGrory sixth.

1	Shelly Woods	GBR	1:49:10
2	Wakako Tsuchida	JPN	1:53:04
3	Diane Roy	CAN	1:53:05
4	Shirley Reilly	USA	1:54:39
5	Christina Schwab-Ripp	USA	1:54:41
6	Amanda McGrory	USA	1:54:41
7	Sandra Graf	SUI	1:54:43
8	Tatyana McFadden	USA	2:05:38
9	Meggan Dawson Farrell	GBR	2:22:55
10	Sarah Piercy	GBR	2:24:36

21 April 2013



## Men: Fearnley steals the show

Australian Kurt Fearnley fought off tough competition to win the men's wheelchair title in 1:31:29 after an eight-man sprint down The Mall. The London 2012 Paralympic bronze medallist escaped from the leading pack to take the line just ahead of Swiss racer Marcel Hug and South African Ernst van Dyk, leaving Britain's six-time champion David Weir back in fifth place.

"Anyone could have won it today," said Fearnley who broke the course record when he won in 2009. "I'm just grateful it was me."

Conditions were perfect for the top class field containing Paralympic medallists, past winners and numerous worldwide marathon champions. Eight stayed together from half way, including Fearnley, Paralympic silver medallist Hug, nine-times Boston winner van Dyk, and three-times London winner Heinz Frei.

Most eyes were on Weir, however, the Briton wearing the 'Weirwolf' helmet presented to him by the London Marathon that January. He seemed poised to take his seventh London victory and become the most successful London Marathon wheelchair athlete ever.

All eight turned into The Mall together and Weir began to unleash his sprint only to find the turbo chargers misfiring for once. As he slipped back, Fearnley and Hug pulled away. The Australian broke the tape but Hug was given the same time, finishing second for the second year in a row.

Van Dyk clocked 1:31:30 for third, making the London podium for only the second time in eight appearances. Poland's Tomasz Hamerlak was fourth, while Weir accepted defeat with honour. "I can't win all the time and I'll bounce back," he said.

1	Kurt Fearnley	AUS	1:31:29
2	Marcel Hug	SUI	1:31:29
3	Ernst van Dyk	RSA	1:31:30
4	Tomasz Hamerlak	POL	1:31:30
5	David Weir	GBR	1:31:31
6	Kota Hokinoue	JPN	1:31:31
7	Heinz Frei	SUI	1:31:32
8	Hiroyuki Yamamoto	JPN	1:31:33
9	Richard Colman	AUS	1:35:44
10	Denis Lemeunier	FRA	1:36:34

## Women: McFadden's birthday win

An elated Tatyana McFadden celebrated her 24th birthday with her first London win, beating her teammate and training partner Amanda McGrory, who lost her course record in the process. Swiss athlete Sandra Graf was third.

It was the University of Illinois student's second marathon victory in six days after she'd won the Boston Marathon the previous Monday. "It was really tough today so I knew it would come down to a sprint finish," she said. "But this was all for Boston. The thought of doing it for everyone who was involved [in the bombings] on Monday carried all of us through the race."

It was third time lucky for McFadden after she was fourth in 2011 and eighth in 2012, although she had won four gold medals on the track at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. "Coming back to London was that little bit more special after the Paralympics," she said.

McFadden was challenged the whole way by McGrory, the 2009 and 2011 champion, who also dipped inside her old record of 1:46:31, clocking 1:46:04.

Britain's defending champion and Paralympic silver medallist Shelly Woods was dropped by the leading pack before The Mall and came home fifth in 1:50:44.

1	Tatyana McFadden	USA	1:46:02
2	Amanda McGrory	USA	1:46:04
3	Sandra Graf	SUI	1:48:01
4	Christie Dawes	AUS	1:50:43
5	Shelly Woods	GBR	1:50:44
6	Shirley Reilly	USA	1:50:46
7	Susannah Scaroni	USA	1:50:47
8	Madison de Rozario	AUS	1:53:44
9	Diane Roy	CAN	2:03:59
10	Meggan Dawson Farrell	GBR	2:18:23

These races were also the T53/54 events in the IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup.

## 13 April 2014

### Men: Hug denies Weir to clinch first win

After three runner-up spots, Swiss world champion Marcel Hug finally claimed the London Marathon men's wheelchair crown when he beat Britain's Paralympic champion David Weir by a second in 1:32:41.

The race worked out perfectly for the 28-year-old, who had triumphed at the Paris Marathon a week before and won five IPC world titles the previous summer, but was only fourth fastest on paper. He denied Weir a record seventh London title with one of the finest sprint finishes yet seen by the London crowds. South Africa's Ernst van Dyk was a fraction back in third, just ahead of Japan's Kota Hokinoue.

These four had broken away from the rest of the field by half way and turned into The Mall together, Hug's silver bullet-shaped helmet reflecting the glorious London sunshine. It was no surprise that Hug and Weir led them out, and for a moment it looked like Weir might fulfil his quest for a magnificent seventh.

But Hug had been in unbeatable form over the last year and was just too strong. "Conditions were perfect for racing," said the Swiss. "I wanted to play an active part in the race, stay with the leaders and attack as many times as I could. I could see the others were on the limit, so it meant I was doing well. I'm very pleased to win and beat David. I love to compete against him – he makes it a challenge."

By contrast, Weir had limited his competitive appearances over the previous year and came to the race with a chest infection which caused him to withdraw from the Boston Marathon a week later.

"I've had a little virus last week, but nothing major," he explained. "Marcel tried to test me a couple of times, but I knew with the four of us in the pack, it was going to be between me and him. On another day it might have been me, but he just got me this time."

At 41, van Dyk made the podium again after finishing third in 2013. Hokinoue finished more than two minutes ahead of Frenchman Pierre Fairbank who led a second pack of six across the line in 1:35:05.

1	Marcel Hug	SUI	1:32:41
2	David Weir	GBR	1:32:42
3	Ernst van Dyk	RSA	1:32:42
4	Kota Hokinoue	JPN	1:32:43
5	Pierre Fairbank	FRA	1:35:05
6	Jordi Jimenez	ESP	1:35:05
7	Heinz Frei	SUI	1:35:05
8	Richard Colman	AUS	1:35:05
9	Roger Puigbo Verdager	ESP	1:35:05
10	Joshua George	USA	1:35:08

### Women: Record falls to magic McFadden

Tatyana McFadden retained her women's wheelchair title in style, breaking her own one-year-old course record as she crossed the line in 1:45:12 to win by more than a minute and a half from world champion Manuela Schär.

After a phenomenal 2013, in which the 24-year-old won four major marathons in a row, and six gold medals at the IPC World Championships in Lyon, McFadden returned to the British capital as one of the greatest athletes of our time.

She did not disappoint, for the American, who won a Winter Paralympic silver at sit-skiing the previous month, looked in the shape of her life as she cruised away from the field. Leading the pack from half way, she fought off Schär and Japan's Wakako Tsuchida to reach The Mall alone.

"I did a lot of work in the team today," said McFadden. "It was a tough race, but I stayed calm and relaxed and I tried to use the downhill as much as I could."

"The transition was hard from skiing to road racing, but conditions were great today. The weather was gorgeous and I loved it. I love London and I'll be back because I just love the support we get!"

London debutante Schär took second in 1:46:44, one second ahead of 2010 champion Tsuchida. "It was a hard race and an amazing crowd," said the Swiss star. "I just wanted to stay with the leaders and it worked out well."

Britain's Shelly Woods was sixth behind American Susannah Scaroni and Canadian Christie Dawes. The Paralympic silver medallist clocked 1:54:52 while fellow Briton Jade Jones enjoyed her first London Marathon as a senior, recording a respectful 1:59:59 in ninth just 12 months after breaking the course record in the Mini London Marathon.

1	Tatyana McFadden	USA	1:45:12
2	Manuela Schär	SUI	1:46:44
3	Wakako Tsuchida	JPN	1:46:45
4	Susannah Scaroni	USA	1:51:01
5	Christie Dawes	AUS	1:51:01
6	Shelly Woods	GBR	1:54:52
7	Diane Roy	CAN	1:54:54
8	Shirley Reilly	USA	1:59:57
9	Jade Jones	GBR	1:59:59
10	Sarah Piercy	GBR	2:27:08

These wheelchair races were also the T53/54 events in the IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup.

## 26 April 2015

### Men: George takes first as Weir slips

Joshua George beat David Weir for the first time to deny Britain's six-times Paralympic champion a seventh London Marathon title. George took his first by a second in 1:31:31 before joking that he was now "the most hated man in London".

"Dave is a great guy and I've been racing him my entire career," said George, who was 10th in 2014. "But I'm allowed to get one every now and again."

Bronze and third place went to Japan's Masazumi Soejima. At 45, the veteran racer clocked 1:31:33 to edge out Frenchman Pierre Fairbank and finish five seconds ahead of South African Ernst van Dyk.

The wet conditions made pushing tricky and Weir was hampered by a slipping left glove, meaning he had to rely on his right arm to do most of the work. "I was just hoping in the sprint I could manage it without the contact on the left side," he said. "To win a race like that you've got to have both arms working well."

Weir wasn't the only one to suffer as reigning champion Marcel Hug dropped out at Tower Bridge with a puncture leaving seven men in the hunt: George, Weir, Fairbank, Van Dyk and Soejima, plus Soejima's Japanese teammate Kota Hokinoue and Poland's Tomasz Hamerlak.

The sprint for home started as they passed Buckingham Palace and entered The Mall. Weir moved to the side and made a bid for victory but George matched his speed and pulled ahead to take World Championship gold.

"I think it's my sixth World Championship medal," said George. "To add to that collection feels great, but to win in London is just amazing."

"It will come," said Weir "I don't know how many more years I can keep doing it, but it will come."

1	Joshua George	USA	1:31:31
2	David Weir	GBR	1:31:32
3	Masazumi Soejima	JPN	1:31:33
4	Pierre Fairbank	FRA	1:31:33
5	Ernst van Dyk	RSA	1:31:38
6	Tomasz Hamerlak	POL	1:31:56
7	Kota Hokinoue	JPN	1:32:22
8	Jordi Jimenez	ESP	1:33:22
9	Heinz Frei	SUI	1:33:23
10	Simon Lawson	GBR	1:34:21

### Women: Three from three for flawless McFadden

Tatyana McFadden claimed her third victory in a row, taking gold in the Marathon World Championships and clocking her third course record in three years.

The American swept home in 1:41:14, knocking more than four minutes off her own mark, to complete a sparkling US wheelchair double.

"It's a wonderful victory and a great day for Team USA," McFadden beamed after the race. "We had a hard time in London 2012 so it's great to finally bring home some medals.

"It was really tough," she added. "We didn't know if it would rain all day or just in the morning. I was just scared about getting punctures all the way round."

In truth, it didn't look tough for McFadden who was utterly dominant, beating silver medallist Manuela Schär by more than two and a half minutes. The Swiss racer crossed the line in 1:43:56 followed by McFadden's teammate Amanda McGrory in 1:46:25.

Schär was content to play second fiddle yet again on a difficult day.

"I struggled in the first half; it cost me too much energy," she said. "I really wanted to keep up with Tatyana. I was actually able to keep up with her on the hills, but after the hills she attacked again and that was just too much."

Schär was far from the only one to struggle in the conditions. British hope Shelly Woods caught a puncture and dropped out when she lost contact. Jade Jones also failed to make it home, but two Britons did sneak into the top 10 – Sarah Piercy in ninth and Martyna Snopek a place behind.

1	Tatyana McFadden	USA	1:41:14
2	Manuela Schär	SUI	1:43:56
3	Amanda McGrory	USA	1:46:25
4	Sandra Graf	SUI	1:46:27
5	Susannah Scaroni	USA	1:47:06
6	Christie Dawes	AUS	1:56:20
7	Wakako Tsuchida	JPN	1:56:48
8	Chelsea McClammer	USA	2:02:31
9	Sarah Piercy	GBR	2:20:45
10	Martyna Snopek	GBR	2:26:40

These wheelchair races were also the T53/54 events in the IPC Athletics Marathon World Championships.

24 April 2016



**Men: Hug regains his crown**

Marcel Hug regained the men’s wheelchair title to make it two victories in six days for the Swiss ‘Silver Bullet’.

After winning the Boston Marathon six days before, Hug produced a superb sprint finish to hold off Australian Kurt Fearnley and Britain’s David Weir for his second London crown in 1:35:24.

“It’s crazy so soon after Boston, but it feels great,” said the 30-year-old. “It wasn’t an easy victory and there was a tough sprint.”

Hug had to contend with a competitive field containing six-time winner Weir, course record holder Fearnley, who won in 2009 and 2013, and New York champion Ernst van Dyk of South Africa. They were all in the leading pack alongside Japanese racer, Hiroki Nishida, and two Americans, Aaron Pike and James Senbeta.

Time and again Hug attempted to break from the rest, but Weir and Fearnley did not stray from his side. In the last mile, Senbeta burst from the back of the pack but it was not enough.

After dropping out at half way with a puncture in 2015, this time Hug was ready and he unleashed his victorious sprint, crossing the line a second ahead of Fearnley, with Weir third in 1:35:26.

“I thought I was in a good position today,” said Weir, still striving for a record seventh title. “I just didn’t have anything left. Some of the speeds Marcel was pushing were unbelievable, another level. He’s an amazing athlete.”

After winning in Boston, Hug doubled his points tally in the new Abbott World Marathon Majors wheelchair series and already looked well-placed for the US\$50,000 prize.

1	Marcel Hug	SUI	1:35:24
2	Kurt Fearnley	AUS	1:35:25
3	David Weir	GBR	1:35:26
4	Ernst van Dyk	RSA	1:35:28
5	James Senbeta	USA	1:35:29
6	Hiroki Nishida	JPN	1:35:32
7	Aaron Pike	USA	1:35:33
8	Kota Hokinoue	JPN	1:35:37
9	Pierre Fairbank	FRA	1:35:57
10	Simon Lawson	GBR	1:37:02

**Women: McFadden makes it four in a row**

Tatyana McFadden secured her fourth London Marathon victory in a row with a one-second win over her Swiss rival Manuela Schär. The American track and road star, who had won in Boston earlier in the week, finished in 1:44:14, exactly three minutes outside her one-year-old course record.

“It’s a little birthday present to myself and it is wonderful to win again,” the American said just three days after celebrating her 27th birthday.

“It’s really different to Boston, polar opposites,” added McFadden after the race. “In Boston, there are lots of climbs but here it’s relatively flat – so you just have to be smart.”

McFadden had broken the course record in all three of her previous London victories, but had lost for the first time in three years at the Tokyo Marathon in February when Japanese racer Wakako Tsuchida took victory.

Tsuchida finished third in London, as she had in Boston, more than a minute behind the leading two as the cool, blustery weather meant big gaps opened in the field of 15.

After negotiating the damp conditions in the early stages, McFadden and Schär eventually broke clear at half way with a group of five. McFadden’s US teammate, Amanda McGrory, the 2009 and 2011 London Marathon winner, and China’s Zou Lihong were alongside the eventual medallists.

At 18 miles, McFadden, Schär and Tsuchida pulled clear and from then on it was a tactical affair.

“It was like a yo-yo effect today,” said McFadden. “We had a big group at the start, then we’d break away, then we’d get back together. I got nervous towards the end, as I wasn’t smart enough, but it’s all about mental focus.”

Britain’s duo of Shelly Woods and Jade Jones were forced to pull out during the race, leaving Nikki Emerson to be first Briton home in 11th.

1	Tatyana McFadden	USA	1:44:14
2	Manuela Schär	SUI	1:44:15
3	Wakako Tsuchida	JPN	1:45:28
4	Amanda McGrory	USA	1:47:41
5	Zou Lihong	CHN	1:52:42
6	Sandra Graf	SUI	1:52:49
7	Susannah Scaroni	USA	1:52:50
8	Chelsea McClammer	USA	1:55:58
9	Christie Dawes	AUS	1:56:46
10	Nataliya Kocherova	RUS	1:58:43

These wheelchair races were also the T53/54 events in the World Para Athletics Marathon World Cup.

23 April 2017

## Men: Magnificent seven for record-breaking Weir

David Weir became the most successful athlete in the London Marathon's 37-year history when he won his seventh wheelchair title to finally move ahead of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson at the top of the all-time winners' board.

The Briton, who won his first title in 2002 and his sixth in 2012, sped clear of defending champion Marcel Hug at the head of a huge pack to cross the Finish Line in 1:31:06, finally ending a five-year drought.

After finishing second, second and third over the last three years Weir was an emotional winner afterwards, saying: "It hasn't really sunk in yet. It's the first time I've felt comfortable for years to be honest."

The win put an end to a turbulent few months for the 37-year-old, who announced his retirement from track athletics in January and admitted he'd been battling with mental health issues in recent times.

"It's been a tough four months personally," Weir said. "I've kept it quiet that I've been suffering from depression. This has allowed me to channel my anger. It's been nice to get out in the park and kill that negative pain."

The conditions were perfect for wheelchair racing and with so many top athletes on the Start Line the leading pack was the biggest it had been for years. Some 16 chairs turned into The Mall together to fight for the top prize.

Weir moved out of the bunch and with Hug on his tail, pushed hard for the record-breaking win. Hug was chasing his third London win but had to settle for second, just one second behind the Briton. Kurt Fearnley was third in the same time as 16 men finished within six seconds.

"I've had a couple of tussles with Weir over the years," Hug said. "But he was just too strong for me today."

Fearnley agreed. "That was a really handy result," said the course record holder. "I wasn't sure what to expect and it was a brilliant finish from Dave."

1	David Weir	GBR	1:31:06
2	Marcel Hug	SUI	1:31:07
3	Kurt Fearnley	AUS	1:31:07
4	Ernst van Dyk	RSA	1:31:08
5	Rafael Botello Jimenez	ESP	1:31:09
6	Kota Hokinoue	JPN	1:31:09
7	Aaron Pike	USA	1:31:10
8	Joshua George	USA	1:31:10
9	Hiroiyuki Yamamoto	JPN	1:31:10
10	Krige Schabort	USA	1:31:11



## Women: Super Schär smashes course record

Swiss star Manuela Schär produced her second devastating display of wheelchair racing in six days to win her first London Marathon title in a course record.

The 32-year-old won the Boston Marathon in the fastest wheelchair time in history just six days earlier, and in London clocked 1:39:57 to knock almost two minutes off Tatyana McFadden's best-ever London time.

Schär began the race as favourite after four-time winner McFadden withdrew through illness. After placing runner-up to the American for the last three years, Schär broke finally free from the field in the second half of the race and went on to win by nearly five minutes.

"It's incredible," said an ecstatic Schär afterwards. "It's been such a great week with Boston and London. I have no words. I never expected a course record, so that's great. I just attacked at the hills and I was able to break away."

Tokyo champion Amanda McGrory was isolated in second in 1:44:34 while her fellow American and University of Illinois teammate, Susannah Scaroni, was third in 1:47:37.

"I am really happy with my time and I think it's extremely close to a PB," said McGrory, who won the London crown in 2009 and 2011. "I'm a little bit disappointed not to hang on to Manuela, but my biggest aim this year was to crack the podium and I've done that now."

Britain's Jade Jones was pleased to improve on her recent London Marathon performances, finishing fifth in 1:51:46, while Mel Nicholls was eighth in 1:59:07 as Britain managed to get three in the top 10.

1	Manuela Schär	SUI	1:39:57
2	Amanda McGrory	USA	1:44:34
3	Susannah Scaroni	USA	1:47:37
4	Margriet van den Broek	NED	1:49:50
5	Jade Jones	GBR	1:51:46
6	Katrina Gerhard	USA	1:54:34
7	Shirley Reilly	USA	1:54:34
8	Mel Nicholls	GBR	1:59:07
9	Diane Roy	CAN	2:00:05
10	Martyna Snopek	GBR	2:35:40

These wheelchair races were also the T53/54 events in the World Para Athletics Marathon World Cup.

## World Para Athletics Marathon World Cup Races 2013-2017

### 21 April 2013

#### Chentouf shines as records tumble

Marathon debutant El Amin Chentouf emerged as the star of the inaugural IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup. The Moroccan not only beat the London 2012 Paralympic silver and bronze medallists to win the race for visually impaired athletes but broke the world record for his T12 class in the process.

The man from Rabat crossed the line in 2:24:00, taking 50 seconds from the record set by Spaniard Alberto Suarez Laso at the London Paralympics just eight months earlier. The Paralympic 5000m champion won by more than four minutes from Abderrahim Zhiou of Tunisia, the London 2012 marathon bronze medallist, with Gabriel Macchi of Portugal third.

Spain's Maria Paredes Rodriguez (a T12 athlete) won the women's race for visually impaired runners in 3:17:10 with USA's three-times Boston winner Ivonne Mosquera-Schmidt (T11) second in 3:38:16 – official world records for both, although well short of the personal bests they have run on non-licensed courses.

Britain's Richard Whitehead was the solo winner of the T42/43 race for athletes with limb impairments in 3:15:53 (also an official world record for T42) while Alessandro di Lello of Italy beat Spain's Jose Antonio Castilla to win the T44-46 race. Ozivam Bonfim was third ahead of his Brazilian teammate and Paralympic champion Tito Sena.

#### T11-13 Men

1.	El Amin Chentouf	MAR	2:24:00
2.	Abderrahim Zhiou	TUN	2:28:12
3.	Gabriel Macchi	POR	2:37:23
4.	Manuel Garnica	ESP	2:39:55
5.	Elkin Alonso Serna Moreno	COL	2:41:34

#### T11-13 Women

1.	Maria Paredes Rodriguez	ESP	3:17:10
2.	Ivonne Mosquera-Schmidt	USA	3:38:16

#### T42/43 Men

1.	Richard Whitehead	GBR	3:15:53
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#### T44-46 Men

1.	Alessandro di Lello	ITA	2:32:06
2.	Jose Antonio Castilla	ESP	2:38:06
3.	Ozivam Bonfim	BRA	2:39:23
4.	Tito Sena	BRA	2:42:56
5.	Johann Lendner	GER	2:44:27

The T53/54 Wheelchair results are on page 149.

### 13 April 2014

#### Chentouf wins again as Rodriguez breaks record

El Amin Chentouf retained his title in the T11-13 race, storming home in 2:25:07, just one minute and seven seconds outside the world record he set in 2013. The Moroccan was again well ahead of Tunisian Abderrahim Zhiou with Portugal's Gabriel Macchi third for the second year in a row.

Maria Paredes Rodriguez went one better, smashing the world record she set a year before to keep the women's title. The Spaniard crossed the line in 2:59:22, 10 minutes ahead of world number one T12 runner Misato Michishita. Michishita's Japanese teammate Mihoko Nishijimi was third.

Britain's Richard Whitehead took the T42/43 title for the second time, though considerably slower than in 2013.

Brazil's T46 2012 Paralympic champion, Tito Sena, once again enjoyed success on the streets of London as he won the T44-46 men's race in 2:35:45. Sena improved from fourth in 2013 to beat the inaugural champion, Alessandro di Lello of Italy, with compatriot Ezequiel da Costa third.

Santiago Sanz came out on top in the first ever T51/52 wheelchair event, the Spaniard edging out American Ray Martin and Britain's Rob Smith.

#### T11-13 Men

1.	El Amin Chentouf	MAR	2:25:07
2.	Abderrahim Zhiou	TUN	2:27:44
3.	Gabriel Macchi	POR	2:40:24
4.	Igor Khavlin	RUS	2:40:57
5.	Joaquim Machado	POR	2:41:53

#### T11-13 Women

1.	Maria Paredes Rodriguez	ESP	2:59:22
2.	Misato Michishita	JPN	3:09:40
3.	Mihoko Nishijimi	JPN	3:20:18
4.	Yumiko Fujii	JPN	3:26:10
5.	Yumiko Konno	JPN	3:36:04

#### T42/43 Men

1.	Richard Whitehead	GBR	3:42:04
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#### T44-46 Men

1.	Tito Sena	BRA	2:35:45
2.	Alessandro di Lello	ITA	2:41:05
3.	Ezequiel Marcelo da Costa	BRA	2:47:17
4.	Pedro Meza	MEX	2:49:16

#### T51/52 Men

1.	Santiago Sanz	ESP	1:58:16
2.	Raymond Martin	USA	2:00:35
3.	Rob Smith	GBR	2:09:33

The T53/54 Wheelchair results are on page 150.

24 April 2016

**Record-breaking Zheng wins for China**

China's Zheng Jin made a big impression on her London Marathon debut as she smashed the women's T11 world record to take the T11/12 World Cup title.

The 24-year-old, a 1500m world champion, knocked a remarkable 13 minutes off the mark set by Germany's Regina Vollbrecht in London 12 months earlier as she crossed the line in 3:13:15. Japan's Mihoko Nishijimi (3:23:47) was second with her compatriot Yumiko Fujii (3:44:27) third.

Brazil's reigning world champion Aniceto dos Santos took nearly three minutes off his personal best to win the men's T13 class. The 40-year-old clocked 2:32:52 as he took victory for the second consecutive year. New Zealand's former Paralympic 800m champion Tim Prendergast was second in 2:46:56.

Japan's Yutaka Kumagai (2:33:24) won the men's T11/12 class with second going to Russia's Oleg Antipin (2:36:53). Portugal's Jorge Pina (2:42:19) completed the podium.

China's Li Chaoyan topped the podium in the men's T45/46 event as he stopped the clock at 2:27:07, just 13 seconds shy of the world record set by Spain's Abderrahman Ait Khamouch in 2015. He was more than four minutes ahead of Morocco's Abdelhadi El Harti, while Italy's former world champion Alessandro di Lello (2:32:44) had to settle for third.

Ray Martin had the edge on Santiago Sanz for the second year in a row in the T51/52 wheelchair race. He won by half a minute in 1:59:53.

**T11/12 Men**

1	Yutaka Kumagai	JPN	2:33:24
2	Oleg Antipin	RUS	2:36:53
3	Jorge Pina	POR	2:42:19
4	Joaquim Machado	POR	2:44:26
5	Igor Khavlin	RUS	2:47:47

**T11/12 Women**

1	Zheng Jin	CHN	3:13:15
2	Mihoko Nishijimi	JPN	3:23:47
3	Yumiko Fujii	JPN	3:44:27

**T13 Men**

1	Aniceto Antonio dos Santos	BRA	2:32:52
2	Tim Prendergast	NZL	2:46:56

**T45/46 Men**

1	Li Chaoyan	CHN	2:27:07
2	Abdelhadi El Harti	MAR	2:31:20
3	Alessandro di Lello	ITA	2:32:44
4	Manuel Mendes	POR	2:37:22
5	Derek Rae	GBR	2:37:28

**T51/52 Men**

1	Raymond Martin	USA	1:59:53
2	Santiago Sanz	ESP	2:00:25
3	Cristian Torres	COL	2:02:35
4	Rob Smith	GBR	2:12:16
5	Stefan Strobel	GER	3:11:57

The T53/54 Wheelchair results are on page 152.



Japan's Yutaka Kumagai winning the T11/12 men's race in 2016

23 April 2017



USA's Ray Martin

**Martin makes it three in a row**

US Para athlete Ray Martin notched up his third consecutive London Marathon victory in the World Para Athletics Marathon World Cup. The 23-year-old clocked 1:57:15 to win the men's T51/52 event as he saw off Colombia's world bronze medallist Cristian Torres (1:59:10) and Spain's former marathon world champion Santiago Sanz (1:59:42).

"I really love this marathon the most, it definitely plays to my strengths with all the flats," said Martin, who won 400m and 1500m T52 gold at the Rio Paralympics seven months earlier. "I've only been training five times a week in my race chair so I was a little nervous, and I knew Santi is always a good racer so I was really glad I was able to hold on."

Brazil's world silver medallist Alex Pires da Silva was the fastest on paper in the men's T45/46 class, and he lived up to expectations as he took the tape in 2:28:20.

Morocco's Abdelhadi El Harti (2:29:38) finished second with Britain's Derek Rae (2:33:24) third.

Japan's Shinya Wada (2:34:59) finished 2016 as world ranked number one after running a personal best in Fukuoka in December, and the 39-year-old continued that impressive form in London, winning the T11/12 class.

Portugal's Gabriel Macchi (2:39:38) was second while Japan's world bronze medallist Tadashi Hirokoshi (2:39:57) had to settle for third once again.

There was another win for Japan in the women's T11/12 race as Paralympic marathon T12 silver medallist Misato Michishita finished well clear of her rivals in 3:00:50.

Spain's Maria Paredes Rodriguez (3:09:41), a World Cup winner in 2013 and 2014, was second with Japan's Mihoko Nishijima (3:19:31) third.

Poland's Patryk Lukaszewski (2:32:20) was first over the line in the T13 class, with New Zealander Tim Prendergast (2:41:38) nearly ten minutes behind.

**T11/12 Men**

1	Shinya Wada	JPN	2:34:59
2	Gabriel Macchi	POR	2:39:38
3	Tadashi Hirokoshi	JPN	2:39:57
4	Jorge Pina	POR	2:43:11
5	Masato Hatate	JPN	2:52:12

**T11/12 Women**

1	Misato Michishita	JPN	3:00:50
2	Maria Paredes Rodriguez	ESP	3:09:41
3	Mihoko Nishijima	JPN	3:19:31
4	Yumiko Fujii	JPN	3:24:39
5	Hiroko Kondo	JPN	3:26:15

**T13 Men**

1	Patryk Lekaszewski	POL	2:32:20
2	Tim Prendergast	NZL	2:41:38

**T45/46 Men**

1	Alex Pires da Silva	BRA	2:28:20
2	Abdelhadi El Harti	MAR	2:29:38
3	Derek Rae	GBR	2:33:24
4	Manuel Mendes	POR	2:38:56
5	Efrain Sotacuro	PER	2:38:56

**T51/52 Men**

1	Raymond Martin	USA	1:57:15
2	Cristian Torres	COL	1:59:11
3	Santiago Sanz	ESP	1:59:42
4	Rob Smith	GBR	2:02:44
5	Garrett Culliton	IRL	2:29:14

The T53/54 Wheelchair results are on page 153.

## IPC Athletics Marathon World Championships 2015



26 April 2015

### Four records fall at London Worlds

Four world records were broken at the IPC Athletics Marathon World Championships as Morocco's El Amin Chentouf (T12), Spain's Abderrahman Ait Khamouch (T46) and Russia's Yelena Paulova (T12) clinched gold with best-ever times for their categories, and Regina Vollbrecht of Germany clocked an official record for T11 women.

Reigning world champion Chentouf, 33, secured his third consecutive London Marathon victory in style, knocking nearly two and a half minutes off the previous world mark set two years previously when he won the inaugural IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup.

"I'm so happy today to win the London Marathon and set a new world record," said the 33-year-old. "The world record and the world title was my objective."

Ait Khamouch secured his world record in the men's T45/46 event, improving on the seven-year-old mark set by Mexico's Mario Santillan Hernandez at the Beijing Paralympic Games with 2:26:54.

Pautova smashed the T12 world record as she clocked 2:58:23 to top the podium in the women's T11/12 event. The 29-year-old, who holds Paralympic, world and European titles in the T12 1500m, finished more than four minutes ahead of the field.

Vollbrecht finished seventh in the race, but her time of 3:26:18 was an official IPC Athletics world record for T11s.

Brazil's Aniceto Antonio Dos Santos took gold in the men's T13, Israel's Eitan Hermon secured his first world gold with victory in the men's T42/43/44 event and quadruple Paralympic champion Ray Martin turned the tables on world number one Santiago Sanz to win the T51/52 wheelchair race after finishing behind the Spaniard in 2014.

### T11/12 Men

1.	El Amin Chentouf	MAR	2:21:33
2.	Alberto Suarez Laso	ESP	2:21:47
3.	Tadashi Horikoshi	JPN	2:27:42
4.	Masahiro Okamura	JPN	2:31:40
5.	Yutaka Kumagai	JPN	2:37:48

### T11/12 Women

1.	Elena Pautova	RUS	2:58:23
2.	Elena Congost	ESP	3:02:50
3.	Misato Michishita	JPN	3:03:16
4.	Maria Paredes Rodriguez	ESP	3:07:35
5.	Mihoko Nishijima	JPN	3:21:02

### T13 Men

1.	Aniceto Dos Santos	BRA	2:35:42
2.	Youssef Benibrahim	MAR	2:36:07
3.	Tim Prendergast	NZL	2:47:23
4.	Jason Romero	USA	2:51:53
5.	Stephen Marklew	GBR	3:01:03

### T42/43/44 Men

1.	Eitan Hermon	ISR	3:07:10
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### T45/46 Men

1.	Abderrahman Ait Khamouch	ESP	2:26:54
2.	Alex Pires da Silva	BRA	2:27:36
3.	Alessandro di Lello	ITA	2:31:25
4.	Ahmed Farhat	MAR	2:40:21
5.	Derek Rae	GBR	2:40:40

### T51/52 Men

1.	Raymond Martin	USA	1:52:27
2.	Santiago Sanz	ESP	1:53:33
3.	Cristian Torres	COL	2:08:52
4.	Rob Smith	GBR	2:12:43
5.	Hirikazu Ueyonabaru	JPN	2:40:08

The T53/54 Wheelchair results are on page 151.