



The Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon is a series of races for girls and boys aged between 11 and 17, divided into three age categories.

It is run over the last three miles of the marathon course, starting at Old Billingsgate and finishing under the finish gantry in The Mall. The runners race along Victoria Embankment, through Parliament Square, down Birdcage Walk, and past Buckingham Palace.

The race started in 1986 involving children from all 33 London boroughs. In 2001, selected teams from English counties were invited, based on their performances at the English Schools Cross Country Championships. From 2005, teams representing Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland were added.

In 2009, a new format was introduced. The English county teams were replaced by regions, while the top finishers from the London boroughs scored points for a 'united London team' in the regional competition. In 2011, the races were adopted as the official British Athletics Road Running Championships for young athletes. More than 2,000 boys and girls take part in three age groups – under 13, under 15 and under 17.

The following London boroughs compete in the London competition:

Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, City of London, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, City of Westminster.

The following regional teams compete in the UK Road Running Championships: East England, East Midlands, London, North East, North West, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside; Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales.

Mini London Wheelchair Marathon

There are also four wheelchair races along the same course, open to youngsters aged under 14 and under 17 from all parts of the UK. They race as individuals rather than members of a team. A new event for ambulant para athletes was added in 2017.

Future stars

Over the years the Mini Marathon has unearthed a number of future stars of British athletics. A quick glance through the list of medallists reveals some young racers who have gone on to gain major international honours:

Mo Farah, the Olympic, world and European 5000m and 10,000m champion, was a Mini Marathon winner for Hounslow three years in a row between 1998 and 2000. He went on to win gold medals in 5000m and 10,000m at the 2010 and 2014 European Championships, the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games and the 2013, 2015 and 2017 World Championships, among others. He broke the English record on his London Marathon debut in 2014 and races again this year.

Scott Overall, who was third in the Mini Marathon in 2000, ran the marathon for Britain at the 2012 London Olympics.

Freya Ross was fifth in the Mini Marathon in 2001 (as Freya Murray). She went on to represent Britain at London 2012 where she was 44th in the marathon.

David Weir won the Mini Wheelchair Marathon seven times in his youth, and has since won the senior London Wheelchair Marathon six times and claimed six gold medals at Paralympic Games.

Shelly Woods won the mini event twice before rising to become senior champion in 2007 and 2012. She won a marathon silver medal at the London 2012 Paralympics.

Hannah Cockroft also won the event twice, in 2009 and 2010, before going on to break world and Paralympic records on the track for T34 100m and 200m, and to win gold medals at the London 2012 and 2016 Paralympics, and at the London 2017 World Para Athletics World Championships.

The Mini London Marathon has also been a seedbed for talented athletes who have gone on to succeed in other sports, such as **Alistair Brownlee**, the double Olympic triathlon champion, who ran the Mini Marathon in 2002 and 2005, his brother **Jonathan Brownlee**, the Olympic triathlon bronze and silver medallist, and **Non Stanford**, four times a Mini Marathon winner between 2001 and 2005, who won the 2013 world triathlon title in London's Hyde Park.

What Happened in 2017

Josh Dickinson set one of three course records in the 2017 Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon. In an event that has seen the likes of Mo Farah, David Weir and Non Stanford win in the past, it was Dickinson of Yorkshire & Humberside who caught the eye, breaking the under 15 boys' record set by Josh Cowperthwaite in 2016 by one second with a time of 14:47.

He finished ahead of Charlie Brisley and Abdi Hasan. "It's a privilege to represent the region," Dickinson said. "I started running properly when I was 10 and two years ago I came third in this race."

Charlotte Alexander ran a course record in the under 15 girls' race as she beat Lily-Jane Evans-Haggerty and Olivia Mason in 16:23. The South East athlete running her first Mini Marathon took five seconds off the previous best jointly held by Katy-Ann McDonald and Annabel Mason.

The swimmer-turned-runner said: "It was an incredible atmosphere. I didn't notice the hurt because of the crowd. I'll definitely do it again."

"I forgot about everyone else and kept my stride going. I'm new to running so I'm working on my arm technique and focusing on sprinting."

Naomi Toft of Kensington and Chelsea was the top-ranked runner in her age group and she duly won the under 13 girls' race for London and set a course record and personal best of 17:01.

Eva Holland, also of London, and Lizzy Edge of the East Midlands finished second and third respectively.

"I was at the back of the pack at the start," said Toft. "Just before Westminster I moved up and then moved out at the front. I just kept overtaking everyone else."

London also claimed victory in the under 13 boys' race, as Jaden Kennedy crossed the Finish Line in 15:57.

In the wheelchair races, it was a case of 'as you were' as all four 2016 winners retained their titles. Jack Agnew and Kare Adenegan won the under 17 race while Andrew Greer and Shauna Bocquet were again the under 14 winners.

"I wanted the course record (12:39, held by Jade Jones) but I think I've just missed it," said Adenegan, who holds the under 14 girls' wheelchair record. "I'm hoping for better luck next year. The conditions were good today."

Elsewhere, there was another victory for Yorkshire & Humberside as Toby Osman won the under 17 boys' race ahead of Thomas Keen and Jeremy Demsey from the East region, while Scotland's Erin Wallace was victorious in the under 17 girls' category over Julia Paternain and Grace Brock.

A new event for young ambulant para athletes was added in 2017 and Toby Markham triumphed in the under 17 boys' category, completing the course in 20:06. Malik Berbiche was the quickest of the under 14 boys in 30:27 – both course records.

2017 Medallists

Boys	1st	2nd	3rd	
U17	Toby Osman (Yorks & Humberside)	14:25 Thomas Keen (East)	14:25	Jeremy Demsey (East) 14:26
U15	Joshua Dickinson (Yorks & Humb)	14:47 Charlie Brisley (South East)	15:03	Abdifatah Hasan (South West) 15:03
U13	Jaden Kennedy (London)	15:57 Felix Vaughan (South East)	16:05	Alexander Thompson (Yorks & Humb) 16:09

Girls				
U17	Erin Wallace (Scotland)	16:09	Julia Paternain (East)	16:12 Grace Brock (South West) 16:25
U15	Charlotte Alexander (South East)	16:23	Lily-Jane Evans-Haggerty (Scotland)	16:41 Olivia Mason (North West) 16:45
U13	Naomi Toft (London)	17:01	Eva Holland (London)	17:19 Lizzy Edge (East Midlands) 17:20

Wheelchair Boys				
U17	Jack Agnew	11:39	Craig Boardman	12:21 Graham Spencer 12:39
U14	Andrew Greer	15:39	Thomas Miller	19:25 Nathan Freeman 20:23

Wheelchair Girls				
U17	Kare Adenegan	12:51	Catherine Stott	19:11 Lottie Wilcocks 20:34
U14	Shauna Bocquet	15:56	Courtney-Lea Daly	19:57 Neve Allen 21:09

Ambulant Boys				
U17	Toby Markham	20:06	Sufyan Mahmood	26:12 Henry Wellfair 35:12
U14	Malik Berbiche	30:27		

The 2018 Races

The 2018 Mini London Marathon participants will be the first to cross the line on the morning of Sunday 22 April giving early spectators something to shout about as they wait for further action later in the day.

Trials have been held over the winter months in 33 London boroughs and nine regions in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to determine age-group teams to represent each area over the three-mile races in three age categories – under 13, under 15 and under 17. Each London borough, region and home nation team enters 36 runners, six for each of the race categories.

There are also races for young para athletes. Both wheelchair and ambulant para athletes compete in under 14 and under 17 age groups. Athletes in these races compete as individuals. The wheelchair race will have an international flavour for the first time this year with two young athletes from Germany and two from Switzerland among the entries.

The start times and T-shirt colours this year are:



**WHEELCHAIR GIRLS
UNDER 17**
Start time: 08:42
Solar Pink



**WHEELCHAIR BOYS
UNDER 17**
Start time: 08:40
Flame



**WHEELCHAIR GIRLS
UNDER 14**
Start time: 08:42
Azalea



**WHEELCHAIR BOYS
UNDER 14**
Start time: 08:40
Toxic



**BOYS
UNDER 17**
Start time: 08:55
Black



**BOYS
UNDER 15**
Start time: 09:02
Pacific



**BOYS
UNDER 13**
Start time: 09:09
Team Red



**GIRLS
UNDER 17**
Start time: 09:16
White



**GIRLS
UNDER 15**
Start time: 09:23
Atomic Yellow



**GIRLS
UNDER 13**
Start time: 09:30
Clear Sky

Current Course Records

Boys

U17	14:00	Ben Dijkstra	East Midlands	2015
U15	14:47	Joshua Dickinson	Yorkshire & Humberside	2017
U13	15:42	Tommy Dawson	Yorkshire & Humberside	2015

Girls

U17	15:38	Jessica Judd	East	2011
U15	16:23	Charlotte Alexander	South East	2017
U13	17:01	Naomi Toft	London	2017

Wheelchair Boys

U17	11:35	Nathan Maguire	Kingston & Poly Harriers	2015
U14	13:22	Isaac Towers	Aks Lytham	2013

Wheelchair Girls

U17	12:39	Jade Jones	New Marske Harriers	2013
U14	12:41	Kare Adenegan	Coventry	2015

Ambulant Boys

U17	20:06	Toby Markham		2017
U14	30:27	Malik Berbiche		2017

More information and full results, including team results, from past races can be found at: www.minimarathon.co.uk