



## **PSUK Marathon Championship 2024**

### **Loch Ness Marathon, Inverness**

The PSUK Marathon Championships took place on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 within the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon organised by Caladonian events.

Perfect conditions led to some excellent results with a new course record being set by the overall winning man in 2hrs 17 minutes.

Athletes are transported to the start some 24 miles back along Loch Ness. At the start they are encouraged by a pipers band who set the scene of the iconic Scottish Marathon.

PSUK entered a total of 113 athletes from across the UK including participants from PSNI, Wales, England and a big contingent from the local Scots. There was a record of entries in total for this year's overall race with just over 5400 athletes running the marathon.

The course starts with a downhill section allowing participants to be drawn into a false sense of security before hitting a nice uphill at 5 and 19 miles of memorable note. The rest of the course just undulated like the outline of the Loch Ness monster.

PSUK athletes were not preterbed and enjoyed the occasion lapping up the fantastic views and atmosphere. Many have this marathon on the "to do list" and it doesn't disappoint.

Rob Grantham, Cheshire [MV50] was our first runner and gave the front of the race a surprise as he came 5<sup>th</sup> overall in a time of 2.33.52. Ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in the UK in his age group this was an excellent result. 2 minutes behind was Lachlan Ives, Metropolitan [SM] in 2.35.40 and 2 minutes behind him in 3<sup>rd</sup> was Jack Pilkington, Cheshire [SM] in a PB of 2.37.58 putting Cheshire in a strong position for the team award thus far. Police Scotland's first athlete across the line was another MV50 namely Craig Pirie in 2.49.02 in 5<sup>th</sup> place. He was followed closely by another MV50 Alex Daniels from D&C in a time of 2.51.56.

In 11<sup>th</sup> place and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Police women's race was Tara Malone, PSNI [FV45] in a time of 3.05.12. All times are given as gun times so each athlete is likely to have

recorded a faster personal time depending on where they situated themselves on the start line. Very close behind was Jacqueline Wilson from Police Scotland [FV40] in a time of 2.06.33 and 3<sup>rd</sup> podium spot and 14<sup>th</sup> in the Police race went to Cara-Leanne, South Wales [FS] in 3.13.37. Hot on her heels was 4<sup>th</sup> place and 15<sup>th</sup> Louise Blizzard from Cheshire [FV45] in 3.14.20.

Then started the stream of all the remaining runners come over the line. Some PB's and some not so happy. But the spirits remained high and the camaraderie with everyone was amazing.

The sponsors Baxters provided hot hearty soup and roll alongside the usual race finishing banana and energy bars.

The evening presentation function took place at the British Legion Club in Inverness. ACC Emma Bond from Police Scotland attended and delighted us all with a humorous opening address but after a moment to remember our fallen colleagues on National Police Memorial day. Our gratitude is given to Police Scotland and that of ACC Bond for presenting the awards.

Finally those that still had the legs danced the night away.....

Results are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Woman, Tara Malone, PSNI, 3.05.12

2<sup>nd</sup> Woman, Jacqueline Wilson, Police Scotland 3.06.33

3<sup>rd</sup> Woman, Cara-Leanne Farley, South Wales 3.13.37

1<sup>st</sup> Man, Rob Grantham, Cheshire 2.33.52

2<sup>nd</sup> Man, Lachlan Ives, Met 2.35.40

3<sup>rd</sup> Man, Jack Pilkington, Cheshire 2.37.58

Overall Team: [First 3 to count, cumulative time] 1 second separated 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Scotland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Met

Women's Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Police Scotland, 2<sup>nd</sup> North Wales, 3<sup>rd</sup> South Wales

Men's team: 1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Scotland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Met

For all results including age categories follow this link:

<https://sportmaniacs.com/en/races/loch-ness-marathon-2024/66f990c7-d224-49b2-b30e-4376ac1f1953/rankings>

If you are interested in taking part in the Police Marathon next year [Venue TBD] please contact Katherine at [kwpsukas@btinternet.com](mailto:kwpsukas@btinternet.com)

Police Scotland happy bunch



Tara Malone, PSNI 1<sup>st</sup> woman



Jacqueline Wilson, PS 2<sup>nd</sup> woman



Rob Grantham, Cheshire 1st man

Tara Malone, PSNI 1<sup>st</sup> woman





Overall team winners, Cheshire



Winners of the women's team Scotland

