

It's Marsden's moment: Hugh is first winner of the Stanley Marathon



IN COOL and, thankfully, only mildly breezy conditions, Hugh Marsden set the standard for the future of the world's southern-most marathon.

The 45-year-old runner from Exmouth, who previously lived in the Falklands for a number of years, won Stanley's first marathon by more than four minutes, with a time of three hours, seven minutes and thirty seconds. This victory followed his win in the Cape Pembroke Half-Marathon in February.

The marathon, sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, took place in and around Stanley on Sunday.

Hugh was chased to the finish line by military runner William Bundy who came in four minutes and sixteen seconds later. Third was Resham Shrees, also from Mount Pleasant, who finished in three hours, nineteen minutes and fifty-three seconds.

The women's event was not such a close affair. Three military women took the top placings; winner was Kelly Angus - who also won the women's event in the February Half-Marathon - with a time of three hours, thirty-four minutes and forty-nine seconds.

Second was Sarah Dance with four hours, twenty-one minutes and ten seconds and Trudy Little came in third, thirty-two minutes and fifteen seconds later.

The first relay team across the finish line actually secured the fastest marathon time overall, completing the race in just over three hours. The Falkland Islands Football Club team, Michael Moyce, Doug Clark, Claudio Ross and Luke Clarke will donate their prize money to the football team's Island Games fund.

The second relay team to finish - Steve Robinson, Michael Billings, Chris Brett and Liam Shaw - came from Logistic Support from Mount Pleasant while the Roulement Infantry Company's team, the Lancashire Lads - Lee Hudson, Phillip Evans, Johnny Mayhurst and Alan Randall - came in third.

Prize money in the individual marathon categories was £1,000 for

first man and woman, £500 for second and £250 for third. In the team event, first prize was £800, second was £400 and third was £200.

Overall, the marathon attracted 92 entrants; thirty-one men and nine women ran the whole 26 miles and 385 yards while thirteen teams entered the relay event, with each runner completing six or eight mile legs.

Funds raised through entry fees, sponsorship and other donations will benefit Seeing is Believing, Standard Chartered Bank's programme which aims to restore the sight of one million people.

In partnership with Sight Savers International and VISION 2020 - the international body for the elimination of avoidable blindness - the bank has identified twelve flagship projects in Asia and Africa. Funds collected will go towards cataract operations, training of eye care doctors, building of training facilities and vision centres.

Some runners entered the event in support of local charities, including Stanley Kid Zone, the proposed new nursery facility; Andrew Newman completed the whole marathon and Alison Inglis, Ros Cheek, Corina Goss and Shona Strange ran the relay event in aid of the nursery.

Standard Chartered Bank Manager, Mr Nick Hutton, said he was delighted with the way the marathon had gone, adding, "...in terms of numbers, there were more than I had expected."

"To have ninety-two people participate was excellent and a real foundation on which hopefully we can build next year and in subsequent years."

Mr Hutton paid tribute to the six overseas runners - "which I hope next year will be increased to one hundred and six" - who flew to the Islands to take part in the event, including Stuart Horsewood, manager of Standard Chartered Bank in Iraq, for whom this was the sixth marathon in as many months.

To date, Mr Horsewood has raised around US\$65,000 for charity. He plans to run one more marathon in his fundraising quest.



1. An enthusiastic start to the marathon; 2. Walkers Tara Heathman and Jane Clement head along the By-Pass; 3. Andrew Newman runs on behalf of Kid Zone Nursery; 4. Elfo Lazo from Fitzroy gives a strong performance; 5. 'Team 1' cross the finish line; 6. Stuart Wallace from the 'Stalwarts' begins his leg of the relay; 7. Stuart Horsewood of Standard Chartered Bank in Iraq looks strong, half way through the course; 8. Andy Brownlee and Derek Clarke of the FIDF's team '69ers' change over at the first checkpoint; 9. Alex Whitworth; Andy Birtle, Antony Farthing and Mike Atkins completed the entire 42.195 kilometres; 10. The football team's Claudio Ross runs alongside William Bundy; 11. Fastest Falklands-born runner, Tom Blake, grabs a drink on the run; 12. The fastest women, Kelly Angus is flanked by Trudy Little (left) and Sarah Dance; 13. Fastest runner in the marathon, Hugh Marsden; 14. Second man, William Bundy; 15. Third man Resham Shrees.