

Record number of runners take on London Marathon

A record number of runners were cheered on by hundreds of thousands of people at this year's London Marathon.

Hundreds of police were on duty to keep around 800,000 spectators and runners safe – just over a month after crowds were targeted in the Westminster terror attack.

Olympic and Paralympic heroes – including Rio gold medallist rowers Heather Stanning and Helen Glover, cyclist Chris Newton and Paralympic rower Pamela Relph – were among those making the 26.2 mile journey from Blackheath or Greenwich to Buckingham Palace.

But Kenyan runners dominated the elite race London Marathon as Daniel Wanjiru and Mary Keitany won the men's and women's titles respectively.

Organisers said a total of 40,382 people collected their race packs on Saturday, meaning the 37th event was poised to outstrip last year's record of 39,140 competitors.

They were cheered on by a trio of royal spectators as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry lent their support.

The royals, who champi-



Marathon runners on Sunday

Picture: PA

oned the official charity of 2017's London Marathon, Heads Together, pushed the red button to start the elite men's race and mass race.

But the big story of the race happened when a runner helped an exhausted fellow athlete over the finishing line.

Matthew Rees, 29, encountered the staggering racer, believed to be called David Wyeth, as the pair rounded the final stretch of The Mall.

To raucous cheers, the Swansea-based runner draped his fatigued rival's arm around his neck and hauled him to the end of the 26.2-mile course.

The pair then separated and Mr Wyeth of the Chorlton Runners, who was said to be running in memory of his uncle, was taken away for medical treatment.

The bank worker, a member of the Swansea Harriers running club, told the Press Association: "I took the final

corner thinking, 'Right, it's nearly done, time to sprint', and I saw this guy and his legs just crumbled below him.

"I saw him try to stand up again and his legs just went down again, and I thought, 'This is more important, getting him across the line is more important than shaving a few seconds off my time'.

"I went over to try and help him and every time he tried to get up he just fell down again and again, so I just tried to cheer him on, picked him up and said, 'Come on, we can do this'.

Mr Rees, who was running his second marathon in a month, claimed lingering tiredness had slowed his initial time.

"My calf started to cramp really early on, so I just decided, 'Right I've just got to make it to the finish line', and so when I saw the guy on the floor it sort of brought the feelings I'd had the whole marathon to me," he said.

"I wanted just to get to finishing line and that's all he wanted - so we could just do it together.

"We've got the exact same emotions but in different ways, he can't walk and I



Runner Matthew Rees

Picture: Jack Hardy/PA Wire

have just had an awful race, I just want to get to the finish line and so does he.

"This is what the marathon is about - it's about people - it's for everyone. Moments like this make it worth it. I'm just glad he's okay."

Also among the runners was 47-year-old Gary McKee, who was finishing his 100th marathon distance in 100 days.

A host of famous faces undertook the gruelling endeavour for good causes, including pop band Scouting for Girls, running for the Alzheimer's Society, and radio host Chris Evans, running for the third year in a row for Children in Need.

Kenneth Jones, the oldest runner at 83, has competed in every London Marathon since the first in 1981.

He is part of a band of Ever Presents who have done all of the London races, with 11 others on the starting line on Sunday.

Ask the questions

A QUESTION Time-style hustings, sponsored by Richmond and Twickenham Times, will put our general election candidates to the test before the nation goes to the polls.

Richmond Chamber of Commerce has announced the event at Richmond Adult Community College, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm on June 1.

So far, the candidates from all three major parties in both Richmond and Twickenham have the date in their diaries, including Tania Mathias (Conservative), Sir Vince Cable and Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat).

The chamber is already busy collating questions for the high profile event.

Chief executive Anne Newton said: "We cannot predict the outcome of this election in these two constituencies and businesses we find are open minded and wish to hear what the candidates propose to offer their constituents.

"We very much look forward to a lively debate."

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Sir Elton John

Ian West/PA Wire/PA Images

Sir Elton's big return

SIR Elton John will make his comeback from a rare and 'potentially deadly' illness in south west London.

The singer, 70, has been forced to cancel a series of shows in the US after suffering from a bacterial infection that forced him to spend two nights in intensive care.

He is now back at home but has been forced to cancel the April and May dates of his Las Vegas residency.

The star will be returning to his schedule of live performances at The Twickenham Stoop on June 3.

The show is part of Harlequins rugby club's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Regular tickets, which were on sale for between £44.50 and £89.25, have sold out on Ticketmaster, but have been advertised online for up to £750 each.



The Poppy factory

Picture: Arnheil de Serr

Poppy help wins praise

BUSINESS leaders say they were impressed by the work of a charity that helps to provide jobs for injured service personnel.

Richmond Chamber of Commerce visited the Poppy Factory in Petersham Road, Richmond.

The charity is the country's leading employment charity for veterans and produces poppies and wreaths for the Royal Family and the annual Poppy Appeal.

Richmond Chamber of Commerce chief executive Anne Newton said: "We continue to be impressed by the Poppy Factory's dedication to their vision."

"We applaud their work and will continue to open doors for their charity wherever we can."

Family fighting council to keep their café open



The Fallow Deer café's owner Al Camilleri-Lloyd has set up a petition to get the council to allow its licence to be extended

By Calum Rutter

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A family-run café is fighting to stay open, in a licensing battle with Richmond Council.

The Fallow Deer, in High Street, Teddington, opened in spring 2014 with a two-year licence that allowed the property to temporarily change use from a retail unit to a restaurant.

The council refused to extend the licence, citing a policy meant to maintain variety among businesses in town centres to preserve their 'vibrancy and vitality', but have made it clear to the owners that they are welcome to submit a new planning applica-

tion, as they did in the first instance.

Café owner Al Camilleri-Lloyd set up a petition, which has gathered over 7,700 signatures, aiming to put pressure on the council to reverse the decision, and to allow the current licence to be extended.

She said: "The Fallow Deer has become my life. I put literally everything into this, financially and emotionally." Their campaign drew the attention of Twickenham MP Dr Tania Mathias, who went to the café to show her support earlier this month.

Ms Camilleri-Lloyd said: "Tania has been fantastic and helped us any way she can. She's been a great support."

Henry Camilleri, Al's father, said: "We have the public's support. They all love us. People want to chain themselves to the door! So what is the problem? The locals want us to stay there. They are adamant."

A Richmond Council Spokesperson said: "In April 2014, the Fallow Deer Café



MP Dr Tania Mathias visited the café to show her support

and Bar in Teddington was issued a notice to confirm that a temporary change of use for 2 years, from a retail unit (A1) to a restaurant (A3), would be lawful. It was made clear by the Planning officers at the time, and in the published report that "at the end of the period, the site must revert to its previous lawful A1 use."

"At the end of the two years, the applicant requested to continue the restaurant use and therefore applied for planning permission."

"As per earlier planning application and appeal decisions, this was refused due to planning policies that aim to protect high streets from over-concentration of restaurants in this part of the High Street."

"Following the rejection of the application by the Council the applicant appealed to The Planning Inspectorate. This is the Government agency which handles planning appeals. Following a review, the Government Inspector dismissed the Fallow Deer Café appeal, agreeing with the reasons given by the Council for initial refusal."

"The proprietors of Fallow Deer are aware that they need to submit a Planning Application, which would be determined at a full Planning Committee. This could consider a further two year temporary consent for the current premises. As yet, this application has not been received by the Council."

A piece of floating history on sale

GETTING your foot on the property ladder can seem virtually impossible, especially in a borough like Richmond, so this unique one bedroom 'flat' should really float your boat.

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Trelawney is a houseboat converted from an old D-Day landing vessel. The 36ft boat is moored at Swan Island, a community of houseboats, yachts and floating homes.

It was converted by the current owner, and comprises a reception room, kitchen, bathroom and a bedroom with a raised sleeping area.

D-Day was the start of the Allies' invasion of occupied Europe, which helped end World War Two.

Nearly 7,000 vessels took part, including escorts and assault craft that landed over 132,000 troops on beaches.

It is currently being auctioned by Pattinson Auction, with the listing ending at 3pm today, Friday, April 28. The starting price is £80,000.



Trelawney was converted from a D-Day landing vessel

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