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## **Capital gains for Weston Athletic Club**

Weston Athletic Club members were rooting for 22 of their club mates who gained places for this year's London Marathon on Sunday. Always the highlight of the running calendar, this year's event did not disappoint with perfect racing conditions for the 40,000 participants.

Chris McMillan was taking part for the first time, not just in the London marathon, but in any marathon. Despite this, he could not have run a better-paced race, maintaining a consistent sub-six minute mile every step of the way. Chris was first from the club to finish, and 250th overall, in a spectacular time of 2.36.43. If he can achieve this at his debut, who knows what he's capable of? Chris's time places him third fastest Weston AC marathon runner ever, and the fastest for 20 years.

No stranger to the marathons distance, Kieron Summers was next from the club to finish in an impressive time of 2.46.34, followed by Ben Haines in 2.51.50.

Susan Duncan knocked a whole 20 minutes off her previous best marathon time to cross the line in 3.09.00. Next came Maria Davidson in 3.30.31 followed by Jo Coveney in 3.36.22.

Mention must also go to Carol O'Leary who finished 14th overall in her age category with her finish time of 3.50.35. Thanks to their performances, all seven, as well as Stephen Powell from the club, will gain good for age qualification for next year's race.

Last week also saw the penultimate race in the current Weston prom run series. With a number of the quicker runners taking it steady ahead of their marathons, the field opened-up for other members to take the honours. Will Fuller was the club's fastest runner on the night with his 27.18 finish, placing sixth overall. Callum Smith followed in 28.32 with Will's dad Alan taking third club spot in 30.08.

Despite preparations for London, Susan Duncan was still the club's fastest female with her 24.17 finish. Michelle Fryer followed soon after in 34.41 and Nia Davies in 36.10.

In the junior one mile race it was a clean sweep in the placings for North Somerset Athletic Club. Ollie Campbell finished first in 5.15, closely followed by William Maine in 5.23 and Oliver Andrews in 5.40. Poppy Burton-Dickie won the girls' race in 6.20, followed by Mary Hemmings in 6.25 and Lyla Briffitt in 6.41.

The final races in the current Weston prom run series take place on Thursday 25 April. The main five mile race at 7.30pm is preceded by the junior one mile race at 6.45pm. Runners can enter online at [www.westonac.co.uk/promrun](http://www.westonac.co.uk/promrun) or in person at the Bay Cafe at the Tropicana.

Entry is also now open for the club's next off-road race - the five mile Beacon Batch fell race which takes place on Tuesday 18 June at 7.30pm. More information at [www.westonac.co.uk/beaconbatch](http://www.westonac.co.uk/beaconbatch).

ENDS

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