

Brass Monkey Half Marathon - 24th January 2010

Lesley Richardson and I were not feeling too enthusiastic at 7.00am on Sunday as we set off for York, in the dark, cold drizzle! After a 2 hour drive, the start was easy to find, not too far off the A1 at York Race course.

The organisation was really excellent; the timing chip collection at the start was easy, car parking was close to the start and there were plenty of loos and refreshments. The race got underway on time with around 1500 runners, so the field spread out quickly and there was not any of the pushing and shoving and falling over other people's feet you get used to at the Great North Run.

The course was very flat. I found it slightly disorientating as having done this race about 15 years ago when it had gone into York city centre, I kept expecting to see York Minster etc. However, times obviously move on and the route has been changed onto minor country roads with nothing in the city centre. The marshalls were very encouraging and there were 3 water stops with plenty of water available.

Lesley and I ran together for 8 miles at spot on 9 minute mile pace, then I went ahead over the last 5 miles. We were both really happy with our times, having not been as fully prepared as we would have wished; I finished in 1.53.54 and Lesley in 1.58.16 (a PB for Lesley and first time under the 2 hours!)

Overall, this was a really well organised race; well worth the effort of the drive to York, although we did spend about half an hour on a mystery tour around Tadcaster on the way back! (Not sure whether that was my driving or Lesley's map reading). There is a lot of potential for PBs as the course is flat and it is a good time of year for a half marathon for those planning marathons in the Spring.

Claire Collinson