

# THE FINISH LINE



Bourton Roadrunners

## 700 and 1!



Steve Edwards (left) running his 700th marathon at Bournemouth with club mate, Tim Heming. Meanwhile, Gary Holton (right) collects his number for the Cologne marathon - his first successful attempt over 26.2 miles. Club trip report pages 2-3

**E**vents on Sunday 4th October 2015 demonstrated Bourton Roadrunners' diversity, inclusiveness and just what a great club it is to be a part of.

On the same day that Club chairman Steve Edwards ran his way into the marathon history books, club mate Gary Holton completed 26.2 miles for the first time.

Steve ran marathon number 700 at Bournemouth in 3:14:59. His overall average finish time for 700 marathons is 3:17:55 – a **new world record**. He has since gone on to record 2 more; York on 11<sup>th</sup> October in 3:13:51 and Abingdon on 18<sup>th</sup> October in 3.19.

Writing about his achievement at Bournemouth, Steve said: "I just can't believe this has been possible, it still

hasn't sunk in. I have so many people to thank for their support, everyone I know on the circuit including many members of the 100 marathon club, my Bourton Roadrunners club mates especially Tim Heming and Mike Hobbs for keeping me company during the early miles today... My biggest thank you however goes to my lovely wife Teresa, the better half of Team Edwards who's supported me throughout. I couldn't have done this without that support."

Meanwhile Gary, who has had a faultless summer training programme including a 5-minute 10k PB, finally achieved his ambition on the club trip to Cologne. You can read Mike Smith's report on pages 2 and 3.

[Also, read about Chris Krzywiec's first 10k win on page 4.](#)

# Carry on Cologne!

*It was 3.30am on a Friday morning and 17 runners and supporters from Bourton Roadrunners were waiting for the coach for the annual club trip. Eight were running including 3 who had a date with destiny with the marathon, half-marathon or possibly something greater? Who were these 3 mysterious heroes? Would they all succeed? Would one fail or would all of them fail? Read Mike Smith and Richard Buftons' report to find out.*

**W**e got to St Pancras station to catch the Eurostar train where we were met by Mike and Teresa Burton, and Mick Hunt. We checked in, got on the train and found our seats. All was going fine. I managed to relax; calm on the outside but, like a swan that's serene above water, my legs were going like the clappers.

We managed to change trains at Brussels. It was a close thing but, with military precision and our watches synchronised, we got to our seats as the train pulled away. I could relax again - or so I thought. On this connection, the information I had said that you could get in any standard carriage and have any seat as long as it wasn't reserved. None of us realised that the seats we were in were **ALL** reserved (it wasn't very clear). So we had to give up our seats to their rightful occupants and stand. This hardly seemed fair as they were all young while we resembled a group of deranged people from a retirement home.

Anyway we got our seats back soon as most people got off at Dusseldorf. We finally got to our destination at 12.15pm, which was the lovely and friendly Cathedral city of Cologne, Germany. We were greeted by warm weather and sunshine and, after a short, while were heading for the hotel despite using 21st century technology (the GPS on Mick's phone was taking us back to the UK). I just asked a friendly looking German (one that couldn't remember the war) and we got to the hotel eventually. At last I could relax. Everyone got here in one piece and diplomatic relations were intact. Now I could have a well-deserved beer.

It was the 19th year of the race which saw 5,901 runners in the marathon and 13,953 in the half. Adding to that the marathon relay and the schools relay meant there were in 24,000 participants in total.

The organisation was with typical German efficiency. The City was closed down for the races with large crowds enjoying the lovely autumn weather while cheering on the runners. The 14 Bourton supporters outnumbered the runners but their fanatical support throughout the course was very welcomed especially towards the end of the race. With the half starting at 8.30am and the marathon at 10am, those running in the half could go on and support the marathoners.

The first of these to finish the half was Steph Holton in a respectable time of 1.41.58. This was 146th in the women's race and 12th in her age group. Steph managed to talk to everyone on her way round as she speaks fluent gibberish and that can be understood in most languages. She also had to cope with the stress of "will Gary finish the marathon or not" to cope with, so well done Steph.

Graham Lane, on his first club trip, was next in. He was originally planning to attempt his first marathon but switched to the half after his training hadn't gone to plan (2 weeks in Malta with his feet up). This turned out to be a wise decision as he recorded a time of 1.47.05 and was 22nd V60 overall. He would have broken his PB if it wasn't for the runners in front of him slowing him down at the start.

Lynn Hudson was down for the half but couldn't run due to a recent foot operation. She had a bunion removed which she named Pete Scarrott. Pete "the bunion" ran with her number but without her chip timer as this would have had an effect on the official results for the FV55 category. Lynn had brought a tutu for Pete to wear as a disguise and a burka was also suggested. In this end, he just doctored his number slightly and, despite being held up at the start, he managed a time of 1.47.45 and 1st MB (male bunion). All and done in his usual smiling and cheerful manner.

Next in was Linda (ooh matron!) Edwards – another club trip virgin (not many of those left from Newcastle) who ran a fantastic time of 2.03.06; a PB by 4 and-a-half minutes. I think she was happy with her time but I understand more German than I do Geordie.

In the marathon it was me (Mike Smith) who was the first to finish and, despite injury and very little training, I managed 2.57.08 finishing 68th and 5th V45. I don't know what all the fuss is about sub-3!

Next in was our very own Ewen "I will do it one day" Smith. Despite a brave effort, he failed again to get under 3 hours – the holy grail for male marathoners. His time was 3.01.44 gave him 124th overall and 15th V45. I did catch him at 18 miles and ran with him for 4 miles but was unable to inspire him to keep going. I think Steve Edwards had better watch his marathon record as Ewen is catching him up with his sub 3 hour



Club-trippers celebrate their Cologne achievements (from left to right): Graham Lane, Gary Holton, Steph Holton, Mike Smith, Susan Hunt, Ewen Smith and Linda Edward

marathon attempts! Ewen was the first of our 3 heroes to fail in his date with destiny. Later on in the trip while playing hop scotch (slightly inebriated), Ewen slipped, fell backwards and split his head open. Thankfully this wasn't serious as it was his head.

The next runner in was Susan Hunt whose aim was to get under 4 hours again. The local hospital was alerted and paramedics were on standby with an ambulance/hearse waiting at the finish. Happily, they were not required this time as Susan made it look easy finishing in a comfortable 3.52.22; 177nd place and 14th V50.

The last person to finish was Gary Holton in his attempt to complete a marathon and get under 5 hours. Gary's ambition goes nearly as far back as Ewen's!

Catherine Wheeler and Mike Pratley were unable to come out on the Friday but were desperate to watch Gary finish his first marathon. They got into Cologne airport just as the marathon was starting and got a taxi to the course just to surprise and support Gary who didn't know anything about it.

Gary didn't disappoint us finishing in 4.49.08. He had more support and cheers from the BRR than the other 5,901 in the marathon put together. Our 2nd hero fulfilled his date with destiny.

Gary's run was unanimously voted as the performance of the trip at the evening meal and he received the

Dennis Abbotts memorial trophy. Another trophy was presented to Mike Burton. For those that don't know, Mike used to run for the club but now lives in Grantham Lincolnshire. He has been on all 20 club trips, nowadays coming along to support. This landmark could not be passed without recognition.

Richard Bufton and I would like to thank everyone that came on the trip. The runners for running and the supporters for supporting. There are a lot more tales to tell but you had to be there to really appreciate what a great time we have on club trips. I laugh more in the 5 days of a club trip than I do the rest of the year. Thanks everyone for some great memories.

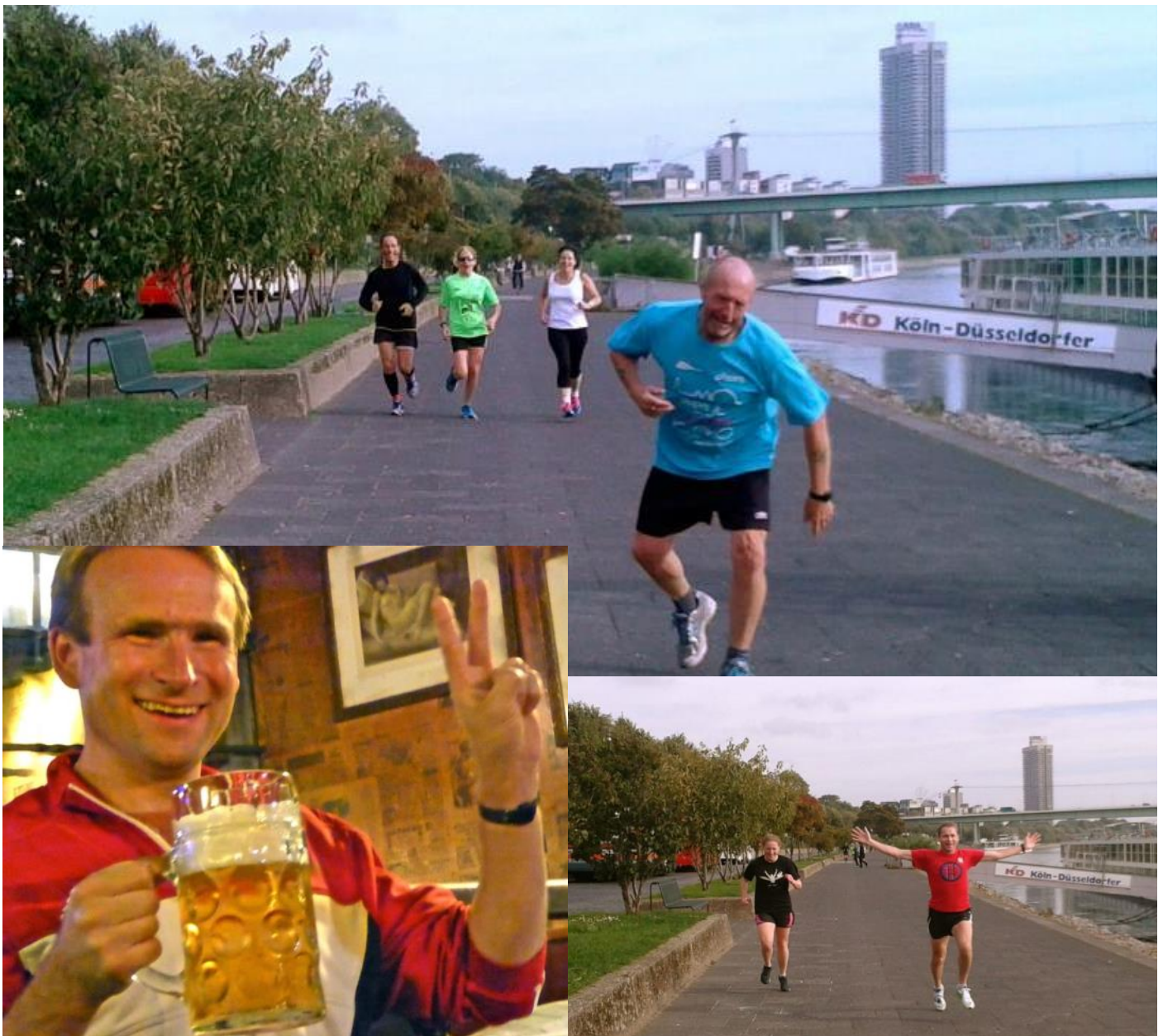
Gary, Steph, Susan, Pete, Linda and Graham are now members of a new club. They are now known as the Cathedral club (for runners over 50 with a combined age older than Cologne Cathedral built in 1248). Ewen has gone into rehab for failed sub-3 hour marathon runners and thinks he's a horse.

And me? Oh yes. I was the 3<sup>rd</sup> person on a date with destiny. Mine was to find a bar that served a 1-litre beer in a Stein. It was the toughest of the 3 challenges but I'm glad to say on the last night in Cologne this was achieved several times.

Until next year!

*Mike* and *Richard*, club trip coordinators

# Cologne in pictures



Club trip capers (clockwise from main pic): Pete Scarrott puts on his best Albert Steptoe pose chased by Graham, Steph and Linda; Ewen dreams of glory running with Catherine and Mike Smith enjoys a beer

## Race reports

11 October 2015

A week after the club trip, Steph Holton and Catherine Wheeler, stayed a little closer to home to compete in the **Vitality Oxford Half-Marathon**.

Both ran well with Steph coming home 24 seconds quicker than Cologne in 1:41:34 and Catherine pushing on to record an excellent PB of 1:39:39.

18 October 2015

Bourton Roadrunners had an excellent day at the **Rotary Blenheim 10k** with Chris Krzywiec recording his first race victory. Chris' time of 35:29 was a full minute ahead of the 2nd place M16-49.

Shona was delighted with a course PB of 37.25, 6th place overall and 2nd F16-49.

Kate Krzywiec also had a great run coming home in 42:42 as did Kerry Taylor in 50:36.