

## 26/27 April 2025 Run Balmoral/TCS London Marathon/Adidas Manchester Marathon

What a weekend it's been — quite literally a running tour of the length and breadth of Great Britain!

It's hard to know where to begin after such a monumental weekend of running events across the whole of the UK! From the rugged trails of Balmoral to the buzzing streets of London and Manchester, our club members have truly covered the country — and done us proud.



In the heart of Aberdeenshire, at the stunning Balmoral Estate, we were represented across several events at the 2 day Run Balmoral. Morag Thompson 2:20:04 and Graeme Clark 2:50:19 tackled the challenging Bristows 15 mile trail race, battling tough climbs, technical descents, and breathtaking scenery, this course isn't for the faint hearted, its as beautiful as it is brutal. The heat added an extra test this year, with higher than usual temperatures making the climbs feel even steeper, but Morag and Graeme rose to the challenge.

In the shorter events, Laura Clark 30:15 took part in the Harbour Energy 5K, putting in a fantastic performance on a fast but undulating course. Meanwhile, Jessica Thomson 47:50 lined up for the Stena Drilling 10K, facing a strong field, hot conditions and let's not forget "the hill" but running brilliantly to represent herself and the club in style. The heat certainly tested all the Balmoral runners, but the atmosphere and stunning surroundings made it an unforgettable experience.



Meanwhile, further south, all eyes were on two of the biggest road marathons of the year: the TCS London Marathon and the Adidas Manchester Marathon. Alison West 4:18:55 and Jennifer Dunbar 5:03:46 took on the world famous TCS London Marathon, one of the six World Marathon Majors. Racing down the iconic Mall to the roar of the capital's crowds, they experienced the electric atmosphere that only London can offer. Once again, the hot conditions played a major part, with hydration and pacing proving crucial for success, but both Alison and Jennifer rose to the occasion with gutsy, determined performances.



Meanwhile, over in Manchester, at the Adidas Manchester Marathon, another of the UK's largest and fastest-growing races, known for its fast and friendly route, Carol Massie made an inspiring comeback just two weeks after having to withdraw from the Moray Marathon with injury. A real "Massie team effort" saw Carol and Rachel round the course together, finishing in a proud 5:23:18. Their teamwork and perseverance were a shining example of the spirit that defines our club — and runners everywhere. Across the country, the media coverage captured the scale and excitement of the weekend, showcasing runners of all ages and abilities.

From the royal grounds of Balmoral, to the bustling streets of London, Great Britain was well and truly united in the celebration of running — and maybe just a little sunburn too!

A huge well done to all our runners — your hard work, spirit and determination made it a weekend to remember!