



## GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ and FLORA LONDON MARATHON 2009

### Blistering Times Achieved at the Hottest London Marathon in Years

**London- April 27<sup>th</sup> 2009** – Sun, sweat, tears, and new world records – this year's Flora London Marathon had it all. On a day of stifling heat there were more Guinness World Records attempts than ever in the marathon's history; over 60 runners took part in 29 official record attempts, and 10 new Guinness World Records were achieved.

Paul Simons (Manchester, UK) set the pace with a time of 2:55:50 breaking the record for **the fastest marathon dressed as Santa Claus**. The 45 year postman was ecstatic to break the record and also raise money for the Bliss, a charity dear to his heart after his own child, Alfie, was born 5 weeks early.

Ian Benskin (Loughborough, UK) was the next record-breaking runner. His time of 3:11:50 saw a new record for the **fastest marathon in a film character costume** (male). Ian's effort was to raise publicity and money for Scope.

Bringing a smile to every spectator - and runner - he passed, was Robert Prothero (Staines, UK). In full carrot costume, he ran the **fastest marathon dressed as a vegetable** in a time of 3:34:55. Robert has raised over £2,000 for his chosen charity, Water Aid.

22 year old Darren Stone (Taunton, UK), or Banana Man as he was on the day, set a new world record for the **fastest marathon dressed as a cartoon character** (3:36:07). Alistair Martin, a 41 year old technical teacher from the Scottish Borders dressed up as an ostrich and proceeded to run the **fastest marathon in an animal costume** (male) in a time of 3:42:27.

Irishman Jack Lyons demonstrated the marathon's sense of humour as well as spirit by running the **fastest marathon dressed as a leprechaun** in a time 4:22:08. In a somewhat topical choice of dress, Thomas Day ran **the fastest marathon dressed in full suit**, complete with bowler hat! The 32-year-old is raising money for Leukemia Research.

One off the most well-received runners this year was Sally Orange (UK). Dressed appropriately as an orange, Sally had the crowd in laughter as she sprinted through the finish line in a time of 4:32:28 breaking the record for the **fastest marathon dressed as a fruit**.

In one of the most gruelling acts of the day Gordan Chaplin, currently serving for the Royal Engineers, completed the marathon with a 40lb back pack on. Running for 'Help for Heroes' Gordon achieved this in an incredible time of 5:35:19 setting a new Guinness World Record for the **fastest marathon carrying a 40 lb pack**.

The final Guinness World Records record of the day was a truly special one. Neal Gardner and his 29 friends from Wales 'became one' as they linked themselves together to set the record for the **most runners linked** (6:18:41)

The extraordinary events of Sunday marked this year's Flora London Marathon as not only one of the hottest in its history, but also one of its most special.

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**About Guinness World Records**

Guinness World Records is the universally recognized authority on record-breaking achievement. First published in 1955, the annual Guinness World Records book is published in more than 100 countries and 25 languages and is one of the highest-selling books under copyright of all time with more than 3 million copies sold annually across the globe. Guinness World Records celebrated its 50th anniversary edition in 2004, a year after the sale of its 100 millionth copy. Guinness World Records also annually publishes the *Gamer's Edition*; a records book devoted solely to the world of computer gaming and high score record achievements. The Guinness World Records website ([www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)) receives more than 11 million visitors a year. Guinness World Records is part of the Jim Pattison Group, one of Canada's largest privately owned companies which is a conglomerate of interests, including advertising, broadcasting, grocery stores and automotive retailing.