

Phil & Nick Slay The Monster- Loch Ness Marathon- Sunday 3 October 2010

Our intrepid duo of Nick Chadwick and Phil Taylor took the high road to Inverness to take part in the Baxters Loch Ness marathon on Sunday 3rd October.

The day started with a one and a half hour bus ride from race HQ at Bught Park in Inverness to the start at Whitebridge, a very open and barren hillside (which is original). The weather in Inverness was overcast but as we got near to the start the rain started and so a low groan was to be heard on our bus.

Both our runners were looking for decent times as training had been a bit hit and miss for both. The race started to the tune of the Proclaimers "Walk 500 miles" very apt for the highlands and then the sound of the pipes and drums of a local band filled air and it was lashing down just to confirm if you had any doubt of your whereabouts, you were in Scotland!!

The downhill start caused the usual rush and as the road levelled out runners began to find their pace and so things settled. The course is deceptively hilly with short but steep hills all along the route which sting the legs just when you don't need it. The rain that the race had started in stopped after a couple of hours but left a mist atop the Loch to add to its already legendary mystery but just improved the fantastic vistas.

Leaving the Loch behind the last 8 miles came in land and the support began to increase just when it was needed with several long energy sapping hills leading to the finish. Into the town for the last 2 miles running a long side the river Ness, before crossing the river to the finish in Bught Park.

Nick was the first home with a PB of 3.46.05 knocking over 3 minutes of his previous best and setting his second marathon PB in an injury ravaged year (must be all in his head!!). Undoubtedly the star was Phil who powered to PB of 3.57.45 knocking over 21 minutes off his previous best. He was that delighted he actually bought a round of drinks later that evening, when the odd sherry was consumed to celebrate.