



USPE Marathon Championships 2022

Eindhoven, Netherlands

The 8th USPE European Police Championships Marathon took place in Eindhoven, the Netherlands on Sunday, the 10th of October 2022 within the framework of the 'ASML Marathon Eindhoven'. The weather gods looked favourably upon the 144 Police athletes, who took on the marathon challenge of 42.195km... or 26 miles and 385 yards... whichever way you look at it! Either way, the marathon is a massive challenge of endurance for whoever accepts it. At 10am the temperature was recorded as 10C. It was obvious that this would rise as the race unfolded; and it would become a question of how well each athlete would respond and adapt to this challenge. 102 men and 42 women from 22 countries stood at the start line close to the Police Headquarters in Eindhoven with the dream of becoming USPE Champion. Nervous tension filled the air in the final moments before the gun fired, signalling the start of this fantastic USPE event.

Taking part, along with the host country of the Netherlands, we had Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and of course the United Kingdom. There were many opinions on who the pre-race favourites were in the men and women's races... pointing to the possibility of some interesting battles out on the roads of Eindhoven. The UK had a team of 5 women and 5 men.

As the athletes passed through the first main marker at 5km, it was clear that Mario Bauernfeind from Austria was beginning to set the pace in the men's race. In the women's race, Fabienne Vonlanthen from Switzerland was the early pace-setter. The intrigue for the waiting delegates, attendants and supporters back at Police HQ was also unfolding as they watched on TV, and tried to follow their athletes on the tracking application on their mobile phone. Spectators could also see their athletes at various points in and around Eindhoven within short walking distances during the course of the race. This offered them a brief moment from time to time to shout some words of encouragement at the runners. The sight of the colourful international vests from of all USPE athletes added a special dimension to the overall mass participation marathon which had approximately 3,000 runners.

At the halfway point, the temperature had now increased to about 12C, and the two Austrian runners, Mario Bauernfeind and Markus Hartinger were battling it out, neck to neck at the top of the USPE field. In the women's race, Vonlanthen from Switzerland, had stretched her lead to almost 3 and a half minutes. Leading the UK team at this point was Jason Bennett and Kelly Morgan with other members of the team not far behind them. The men's team event, at this point was showing some strong scoring from Austria, France, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland; and from Norway, Germany, UK, Denmark and Spain in the women's race. The winning men's team would need the best cumulative time from their first four male athletes home in order to be crowned USPE Men's team champions. Scoring in the women's team competition would be comprised of the cumulative times from the 3 best female athletes.

As the second half of the marathon developed, the leading man, with 5km to go, was still Bauernfeind from Austria. He was followed by Hartinger from Austria, Bräutigam from Germany, and Carvalho from France, who was now making great progress and beginning to look like he

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might pull back some positions. In the women's race, it was obvious, unless an unforeseen problem occurred, that Vonlanthen from Switzerland would be victorious. Her lead at this point had now stretched to roughly five and a half minutes. Carina Fierek from Germany was running in a commanding second position at this point also.

In the end, the men's winner was Bauernfeind from Austria in a fantastic gun time of 2:15:34. Second place went to Carvalho from France; and the bronze went to Bräutigam from Germany. In the women's race, the honour of first place went to Vonlanthen from Switzerland. She finished in an excellent winning gun time of 2:41:36. Carina Fierek and Stephanie Breitreutz from Germany finished second and third respectively. For the UK team the tables had turned a little as Jason had been overtaken by Owen Grant who came home as the first UK team member in 2.33.37 closely followed by Rob Grantham MV45 in a PB of 2.33.44. Phil Adams also running a PB came home in 2.35 dead. Jason then rolled over the line in another PB of 2.35.51. Alex Daniels was the 5th team member who crossed the line in 2.45.36. Tara Malone V45 had overtaken Kelly and crossed the line as the first UK team member in 3.00.22. Lindsay Dixon V45 followed her in 3.03.20 with Kelly crossing in 3.04.38. Louise Blizzard V45 was next home in 3.08.25. Amy White having struggled with a stitch but didn't throw the towel in crossed the line in 3.12.59.

With the individual winners now known, attention turned to the team events and to finishing times of the remaining athletes from all the participating countries. It was now a case of calculators at the ready! In the women's team results it was Germany who were the victors, with the top 3 German women of Fierek, Breitreutz, and Maja Seidel, finishing in a cumulative finishing time of 8:43:09. Second place went to Norway [Vilde Moser, Therese Dahl Arvik, Thea Haug] with 9:07:04. Third place went to the U.K. [Tara Malone, Lindsay Dixon, Kelly Morgan] with a combined finishing time of 9:08:45. In the men's teams; France were the winners, with top 4 men of Carvalho, Eric Zimmermann, Thierry Mathissart and Adrien Szuscik finishing in a cumulative finishing time of 9:40:14. Second place went to Austria [Bauernfeind, Hartinger, Christian Nagele, Philipp Barbi] with a time of 9:40:38; and third place went to Germany [Bräutigam, Andreas Keil, Fabian Fiedler, Andreas Hecht] with a time of 9:53:14. The UK team finished a credible 6th place in a time of 10.18.30 with Switzerland and Belgium in front of them.



This was a very high standard race, with quality racing and performances throughout the field of athletes. Most importantly, it was sportsmanship and comradeship amongst all Police athletes over the marathon weekend that shone through which made it a wonderful USPE event.

Team accreditation



Opening ceremony





The Race





We've done it



Time to celebrate



Reported by: Katherine Willoughby
PSUK Athletic Section Team Manager