

The **Manchester Marathon 2024** was a spectacular event that drew thousands of runners and spectators to one of Northern England's premier road races. With a challenging yet fast course, well-organised race-day logistics, and fierce competition, this year's marathon did not disappoint. In this comprehensive review, we cover the winners, race details including route and elevation, entry process realities, the role of charity places, and some useful tools for future participants.

Manchester Marathon 2024 Key Details

Detail Information **Race Date** Sunday, 21 April 2024 **Scale** Over 12,000 finishers **Time Limit** 6 hours (26.2 miles)
Course Certification IAAF & UK Athletics certified – eligible for personal bests and qualification times

The Manchester Marathon is one of the largest city marathons in the UK, offering a fast and mostly flat course making it a favourite for runners chasing personal bests or qualifying times for events like Boston. Despite the 'fast' tag, weather conditions and crowd congestion can impact finishing times.

Manchester Marathon 2024 Winners and Times

This year's race saw some tremendous performances, with both the men's and women's fields presenting strong competition. The official winners were:

Category Winner Finish Time Men's Elite Adam Clarke 2:16:29 Women's Elite Charlie Arnell 2:37:14

Adam Clarke's impressive 2:16:29 was a display of strong pacing and endurance on Manchester's flat roads, while **Charlie Arnell's** 2:37:14 secured her a clear victory in the women's field, showcasing her strategic consistency through the middle and latter stages of the course.

Entry Process and the Reality of a Sell-Out

Entry to the Manchester Marathon [manchester marathon entry](#) is highly sought-after, and 2024 was no different. The official public entry opened in mid-November 2023, with a **£40 registration fee**. Unsurprisingly, the race entries filled within hours, underscoring its popularity within the UK running calendar.

Charity Places and Their Real Costs

Many runners secure entry through charity places rather than the ballot. While charity fundraising spots offer guaranteed entry, they come with substantial financial commitments. A prominent example is the *MS Trust* charity place package:



- **£40 registration fee** (the same as a regular entry)
- **£500 minimum sponsorship fundraising target**

Runners considering charity entries need to realistically assess their fundraising capacity alongside training commitments. These entries not only support excellent causes but also come with perks like guaranteed race spots and sometimes early packet collection.



The Manchester Marathon Course Route & Elevation

The 2024 course remained unchanged from recent years, a carefully measured and UK Athletics-certified route that highlights Manchester's urban charm while challenging athletes with subtle undulations.

Course Features:

- Start near Manchester's city centre (close to Manchester Central Convention Complex)
- Loops through Salford Quays, passing The Lowry and MediaCityUK
- Flat, fast sections ideal for pacing, but with a gradual incline between miles 10-14
- Return through the city centre with final kilometres featuring strong spectator support

- Finish outside Old Trafford—iconic and atmospheric

Elevation Profile

The course gains approximately 80 metres of elevation overall, mostly gradual rises rather than sharp hills, meaning it remains one of the flattest UK marathons. This particular feature has contributed to the event's reputation as a PB-friendly course.

Certification and Accuracy

The route is IAAF certified and UK Athletics measured, ensuring all results are valid for qualifying standards. However, many runners like to view and navigate the course digitally ahead of race day.

Utilising Technology: Planning Manchester Marathon 2026 and Beyond

For runners planning in advance or looking for logistical familiarity, third-party tools are invaluable. One such resource is goandrace.com, which offers downloadable GPX files for upcoming race routes, including the Manchester Marathon 2026 course.

Though these GPX files are not "official" in the strictest sense, they serve as an excellent guide for training and route navigation once loaded onto GPS devices such as Garmin watches. The **Garmin range** supports straightforward GPX loading, allowing runners to preview elevation and turns directly on their wrist during training runs.

Before relying fully on third-party GPX, always double-check with official race communications for route changes or updates, especially in a post-pandemic running scene that sometimes sees last-minute modifications.

Logistics & Final Tips for Race Day

Manchester Marathon's organisation is robust, but runners should arrive early to allow time for bag drop and warm-up. A recommended arrival of at least 90 minutes before your wave start ensures smooth access and avoids bottlenecks.

Best Public Transport to Save Maximum Walking

- **Train:** Manchester Piccadilly Station – less than 10 minutes' walk to the start zone
- **Metrolink Tram:** St Peter's Square stop – 5 minutes' walk to race village

Saving walking distance is crucial on race day to conserve energy, especially given the brisk April weather conditions. Packing your tiny race-week kit list, including essentials such as race number belt, waterproof layers, GPS watch, and nutrition, is recommended.

Conclusion

The **Manchester Marathon 2024** brought together elite performances, mass participation, charity fundraising, and a course designed for fast times. Winners Adam Clarke (2:16:29) and Charlie Arnell (2:37:14) exemplified the high calibre of competition.

For those aiming for future editions, understanding entry complexities, charity place commitments, and leveraging digital tools for route familiarity can make a difference in having a positive race experience.

Whether you plan to run, support or simply follow, Manchester Marathon remains a pivotal fixture on the UK marathon calendar, blending city culture with competitive athletics.

Happy running, and see you next April!