

London Marathon – Sunday 17th April 2011



The excitement and sense of anticipation was tangible. The crowds were building and I was concerned as to how we would ever find our runners in the enormous throng of people. We set up the banner right by the C/D post in the hope that we would be visible.

Dottie, our masseuse, set to work on the runners one by one and she worked tirelessly and as she does not wear a watch, she treated each of the runners until she felt that she had done what was necessary. Each one looked much relieved by and very appreciative of Dottie's care.

As each of the runners took their turn on the massage bed, we were asked numerous times by very tired looking runners if massages were available. (note for other charities to follow our lead).

It was a great fun to meet these runners, they had incredible courage and they all seemed to be in very good shape despite a gargantuan effort of running 26 miles on a rather humid and hot morning.



There were so many sights to inspire us – the blind runner, the elderly gentlemen who has run 30 marathons, the soldier running in combat kit and helmet.....everyone had a story and motivation and it was really wonderful to be part of it.

It was fun to meet the runners' families and to celebrate their success with a toast of champagne. (note: for next year – some ice for the champagne and water and some folding chairs)

We strolled back across St James's park in what was almost a carnival atmosphere. There were loud cheers and applause for the few runners pounding down Birdcage Walk. London was bathed in late afternoon sunlight and seemed prepared for the next celebration, did someone mention a wedding?

Anna Gage

