

# Endurance prevails

Antarctica Marathon. 2 March 2003



## By Patrice Malloy

In 1914 the great British explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, christened his ship, "Endurance". The word has become synonymous with all things Antarctic.

Each of the six Antarctica Marathons and Half-Marathons staged so far have been faced with unique challenges presented by the coldest, windiest, iciest and most remote continent on earth.

The 2003 edition will be remembered for a summer blizzard. King George Island was blanketed with snow, drifting up to six feet high. Gales left other parts of the course barren, with exposed ice and rock. Unfazed by the elements, the race operations crew donned survival suits.

They armed themselves with snow shovels and mounted all-terrain vehicles to forge passageways through the snow for the lead ATV vehicle and following pack of runners. "Ice and snow on the course were not new obstacles to us," remarked Thom Gilligan, race organizer and expedition leader.

Distinctive pink flags and ribbons were planted in the drifts and ice to guide 90 runners from 13 different countries over the one-of-a-kind course. In addition to gnarly hills, glacial streams and a half-mile ascent of Collins Glacier, the double-loop course also featured a tour through Russian, Chilean, Uruguayan and Chinese scientific research bases.

The races have become a highlight on the researchers' summer calendar as the staff line

the course to provide water and vocal support. Two runners each from the Chilean and Chinese bases participated in the half-marathon.

Once the course was deemed safe, race participants were shuttled to shore by zodiac from race headquarters on the converted Russian research vessel, the Akademik Ioffe.

In a running event where shorts and bare legs are as rare a sighting as a Yeti, most runners lined up at the start in multiple layers of warm clothing. "It's certainly a cold environment - but many runners actually overdress," explained Gilligan.

Following the 10.00 race start, Kevin Allen, a 28-year-old Briton, showed youthful exuberance in taking the pace out hard for the





first 9 miles. A more experienced Pole, Bogdan Barewski, (48) kept him within sight while saving his strength for the second climb on the glacier.

An aggressive lone fur seal, meandering on the course, forced Allen to steer clear and cost him precious time and energy. Barewski maintained his stride to pass the surprised and faltering Brit at the 10-mile mark. Thoroughly warmed up, Barewski picked up the pace for an emphatic win.

The defending female champion, Jane Baldwin, positioned herself among the top ten men. The 41-year old used her Antarctic experience to overtake many of the men over the last few miles. A self-described "Antarctica fanatic," Baldwin never wavered

and finished first woman and fifth overall in 4:11:10. Carolyn Shull, 29, a navy pilot stationed in Puerto Rico came in second to finish her debut marathon in 4:33:29.

Jorge Beltrami, a staff member of the Chilean research base, converted local knowledge into a half marathon victory. The women's race was won by Julia Ryan, who finished third overall.

Jane Baldwin and third place finisher Tom Ball did not let cold feet get in the way of their wedding plans aboard the ship later on race day. The Phoenix couple, who met at the race in 2002, were married by the ship's captain.

For race participants, getting to the race was half the fun and

almost as challenging. On average, runners traveled 7,000 miles each to get to the start line. The expedition group met in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 22 February, then flew to the town of Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, the world's southernmost city. After a mid-day shopping and sightseeing workout in Ushuaia, runners boarded the Akademik Ioffe for a two-day journey through the Beagle Channel across the Drake Passage, and then finally into Antarctic waters.

After weaving through icebergs and the bays of the South Shetland Islands and Antarctica Peninsula, runners were treated to hiking, kayaking and overnight camping in addition to the marathon and half marathon

competitions. Forty men and women also competed in the first annual Antarctic Kayaking Championships which was held on 4 March 2003. The adventurous tour ended on 8 March.

The next Antarctica Marathon is on 2 March 2005.

For more information contact  
Marathon Tours and Travel  
Tel: +1 617 242 7845  
Inet: [www.marathontours.com](http://www.marathontours.com)

## Result

### MEN

1	Bogdan BAREWSKI	POL	3:33:20
2	Kevin ALLEN	GBR	3:56:56
3	Tom BALL	USA	3:59:07
4	Miguel CASELLES	ESP	4:22:49
5	Carl STURCKE	USA	4:35:13
6	Mark DEMPSEY	CAN	4:35:47

### WOMEN:

1	Jane BALDWIN	USA	4:11:10
2	Carolyn SHULL	USA	4:33:29
3	Beth FRIEDMAN	USA	4:44:25
4	Janet STAATS	USA	4:53:19
5	Colleen GILBERT	USA	4:57:34
6	Moya BROWN	CAN	4:58:00

### Half Marathon

#### MEN:

1	Jorge BELTRAMI	CHI	1:56:30
2	Ned ROWAN	USA	2:00:49
3	Dan PRIOR	USA	2:30:34

#### WOMEN

1	Julia RYAN	USA	2:19:11
2	Bozena MIASOJEDOW	POL	2:32:58
3	Dianne BROWN	CAN	3:12:42