

## The London Business Houses Relays – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Greenwich Peninsular O2 Dome Course.

As expected numbers were down for the **London Business Houses Relays** which this year, due to Covid restrictions, were switched from the traditional “bridges course” on the Embankment to the **Greenwich Peninsular O2 Dome course**. However, despite numbers being down by 71.71% on 2019 when the relays were last held and by 60.74% on the 2016 entries when the event was last held at the Greenwich course there were still 113 men and 48 women who took part. Therefore, the event was certainly worth holding and everyone appeared to have enjoyed the race and indeed the fine weather on a wonderful late summers evening by the river.

The **London Civil Service** only had 2 teams competing this year an “Open” mixed team consisting of 4 runners **Steve Norris, Richard Hall, Natalie McClelland and John O’Shea** and a “women’s” team consisting of 3 runners **Natasha Sheel, Victoria Carter and Rose Baker**. Each runner ran 2.3 miles from the start line next to the river near the Greenwich Ecology Park along the Peninsular to the O2 Dome and back to hand over to the next runner.

The **Civil Service open mixed team** placed 21<sup>st</sup> overall out of 32 “open” teams and 10<sup>th</sup> out of 20 LBH teams, so a pretty solid effort. **Victoria Park Harriers** were the 1<sup>st</sup> open team overall and **Nationwide** were the 1<sup>st</sup> LBH open team. The **Civil Service women’s team** were also up against very good opposition placing 5<sup>th</sup> out of 11 teams overall and 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2 LBH women’s teams. **Victoria Park Harriers Women’s Team** were 1<sup>st</sup> overall.

**Natasha Sheel** ran an absolutely storming opening leg for the Civil Service Women clocking 13:04 some 47 seconds ahead of the next fastest woman and recording the fastest time by a woman on the night. It was also quicker than the fastest time set by a woman in 2016, the only other occasion the event was held at Greenwich. **Victoria Carter (14:30)** produced a strong run to keep the team in 1<sup>st</sup> place but with the team being front loaded **Rose Baker (17:07)** had it all on to try and hold on as she was hotly pursued by some fast anchor leg runners. One of them, whom some of you will remember, was former Defra/Minerva and Civil Service athlete **Rachel Lund (14:21)** who ran for Ravens and put them into 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thank you and well done to all who took part in representing the London Civil Service in supporting this event.

#### Civil Service Women’s Team

1<sup>st</sup> Leg Natasha Sheel 13:04

2<sup>nd</sup> Leg Victoria Carter 14:30

3<sup>rd</sup> Leg Rose Baker 17:07

**44:41**

#### Civil Service Open Team

1<sup>st</sup> Leg Steve Norris 13:18

2<sup>nd</sup> Leg Richard Hall 16:17

3<sup>rd</sup> Leg Natalie McClelland 18:46

4<sup>th</sup> Leg John O'Shea 15:32

**1:03:53**

The organisers are interested to hear which course runners prefer - either the traditional bridges course or the Greenwich Peninsular course. Therefore, if you have a preference let me know and I'll feed your preferences back to the organisers.

**John O'Shea**