



93rd

Košice Peace Marathon



Košice • Slovakia • October 2, 2016
Europe's Oldest • Since 1924

MARATHON VIEWS 2016



THREE GOLDS IN KOŠICE

Matej Tóth and **Bára Špotáková** symbolically brought their three Olympic gold medals to Košice and enjoyed the heartfelt enthusiasm that prevailed upon their arrival. It was heard several times that they are not here for the last time.

Matej Tóth certainly wants to try out the entire marathon course: *"Maybe I'll make the Košice Marathon the cherry on top of the cake in the final year of my career"*, he said, and Bára Špotáková added: *"The atmosphere in Košice was friendly, lovely and amiable. Next year I want to come back and run the family fun run with my son Janečko."*



THE MARATHON PLAYS FAIR PLAY

When fencing legend **Katarína Ráčzová-Lokšová** accepted in March the award **Sport Personality of Košice**, no one then knew what other pleasant event would bring her back to her hometown. As a long-time activist for the fair play movement she delivered on Saturday 10 September, together with Mr. **Christian Hinterberger**, president of the **European Fair Play Movement**, the **European Fair Play Award for 2016** to the Košice Peace Marathon. Thus, on this day of opening of the European week of sport the message of Košice marathon resonated in many forms.

TWO TRIMUPHS OF FAVOURITES

It doesn't happen often in Košice that the favourites on paper are the first to break the tape at the finish line. **Abebe Bikila** and **John Farrington** managed to do it, but not Ron Hill, Derek Clayton and many others.

Now, however, it's happened two times in a row. First, last year **Sammy Kosgei** with his fine finish didn't give his opponents any chance, and this year **David Kiyeng** did the same. His personal best of 2:06:26 aroused respect as well as question marks. In the tactical battle over the lead, however, it was his substantial experience that helped him. With their marathon performance in 2016 he and his competitors again moved among the best runners on the old continent.



TAKESHI WON, TAKAHASHI CAME

Memories of the victory from 1976 in the project **In the tracks of marathon legends** were both enjoyable and nostalgic.

The archives were opened and photographs and newspaper clippings were gathered. **Takeshi So** could not travel to Košice, so Shin Takahashi became his ambassador. He brought lots of greetings and took even more of them home to his friend in the land of the rising sun. These included those from the young people running in the relay with the name of the champion on their chests. Through the start they kept pace with the rolling avalanche of African favourites. They only endured there for a kilometre or two, but they certainly did not get lost.

WE HANDED OUT MORE DIAMONDS

Alongside the glory that went to **Peter Polák** for his fortieth and **Eva Kissová** for her thirtieth Košice Peace Marathon, we were also able to deliver at the finish a symbolic diamond to other brilliant runners who conquered the course in Košice for the 25th time and thus expanded the membership of this prestigious club. As of 2 October **Pavel Hýrošš** from Sučany and **Július Smolár** from Spišská Nová Ves also belong in its halls.



THEY CAN HANDLE ALMOST ANYTHING; THEY ALSO HANDLED FIRST MARATHON

Two unmissable KPM programs managed to get very spontaneously and emotionally connected. The **Women Friendly Marathon** and **My First Marathon** are activities that motivate and give self-confidence to many of those around us. Aside from the fact that the number of women registered spiked up to a record **4 203**, several of them had also resolved for the first time to subject themselves to royal marathon distance. A great many stories were retold at the finish line. Many were interested in that of **Danka Hricová**, mother of four, who managed her first marathon in a time of 4:43:41.

WHO WAS AT THE START

Looking to the registration database gives many responses to the question of who was at the start. People from a total of **58 countries** from around the world filled out the items on their registration form long before 2 October:

WOMEN VS. MEN



AVERAGE AGE

MARATHON



HALF-MARATHON



RELAY



INLINE



HANDBIKE



MINIMARATHON



HOW THEY MAKE A LIVING

In the most recent database up to **72 professions were represented**. Administrative workers, analysts, bankers, economists, engineers, consultants, doctors, managers, mechanics, commercial representatives, policemen, lawyers, programmers, builders, state employees, teachers, accountants and medical workers all numbered in the hundreds. More than **1 500** of our runners are still wondering about their profession and still take their seats on school benches.



WHO WAS BY THE TV SCREEN

With a glance at the full Košice streets and the Indian summer weather over all of Slovakia, the question occurred to use whether anyone remained by their television screens.

The peplemetre ratings system says that people did remain, and that **330,000 viewers watched the live broadcast** on RTVS Channel 1. In addition to home territory, where the marathon has its paramount position, this sporting holiday attracted the most viewers in the **Prešov, Žilina** and **Bratislava** regions.



THOUSANDS OF SHOTS – WHICH OF THEM IS THE BEST?

Thanks to the space created by social networks, the emotional moments of the Košice marathon experience were transported over borders and flashed over the entire world. No one ever thought about how many great common shots could occur on 2 October 2016. **And those who each year respond to three words – Shoot the Marathon – also took part in collecting them with great ambition.** This is a competition which like the marathon itself has no losers. Indeed, even though they are without prizes, photos so close to the heart will never be deleted. And so to the best of them, according to the verdict of the professional jury and the votes of people, we can wish the joy of victory and inspiration for further creation.



THEY RAN WITH THEIR HEARTS

They wore a small heart on their race numbers. They symbolized the good wishes and empathy of their bearers. The project **Run with Your Heart** brought several thousands of euro to three charitable organizations from runners and organizers for support of their noble work. The amount of the sum is not the most important thing. It will certainly continue to grow. More important is to know that helping others is not foreign to many of us. **Peter Gombita** even convinced those who may hesitate. He interrupted his run to the Vatican and returned to the marathon in Košice before completing his run to the eternal city in the faith that poverty can be defeated on Thursday, 10 November 2016.

BETRAYED BY A KNEE

A man walks in front of an ambulance. The finish line is within sight. Perhaps 300 metres remain but the time to the final 6 hours is inexorably nearing. **Marián Horvát** from Zlaté Moravce knows the course in Košice very well. In the past he has conquered it a respectable **22 times**, and he is doing it again now. He is the last to finish, but does so with the same pride as all before him. He was betrayed by his knee. But he simply doesn't know defeat. And if he doesn't quit in the near future, he will soon become, at the age of 64 years old, another **MMM diamond runner**.



TODAY THEY ARE GROWN-UPS

It can hardly be believed, but exactly **20 years** have passed since the first year of the popular **Minimarathon**, today bearing the name **U. S. Steel Family Run**.

Its first child participants, runners, or more carried in the hands of their parents, are now often parents of offspring themselves. Adults and others have remained faithful to the marathon still today. It is certain that this very amiable format of the MMM has given more than **40 thousand** young runners the chance to breathe in the great marathon atmosphere over the years.





GENERAL PARTNER



MAIN PARTNERS



MARATHON VIEWS 2016

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