

STORIES OF NINE DECADES WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN KOŠICE 50 YEARS AGO



*Farrington confirmed the position of favorite in Košice.
/ Photo: © 1972 Košice Marathon Club – archive.*

Farrington's returns.

*The beginning of the 1970s was a bit Australian. The favored Derek Clayton was unable to win in Košice in 1970, but his compatriot **John Farrington**, who at that time occupied the leading ranks of the world rankings, did not let the victory be taken from him two years later. **As one of the few official favorites in Košice Marathon history, he was able to fulfill the pre-start forecasts fully.***

*A total of 18 countries were represented at the start in 1972. The reason for this relatively low number from today's point of view was the still valid strict qualification criteria, which at that time did not allow just anyone to start in Košice. This is also evidenced by the fact that the last competitor reached the finish line in Košice in 1972 in just over 3 hours. And you would also find it difficult to find runners over 40 years old at the start, although there was one exception. It is connected with the name of the then 56-year-old Jaroslav Štrupp. Even at this age, he managed to run marathon in 2 hours and 53 minutes. However, there is nothing to be surprised about. Jaroslav was the winner of Košice Marathon in 1951, who, in addition to his running qualities, also convinced the people of Košice of his loyalty. His string of 24 successful starts, recorded in the results of this marathon between 1945 and 1974, speaks of this. And a certain form of loyalty was also demonstrated by the victorious John Farrington. Although the Australian failed to defend his title a year later, he returned to Košice one more time. In 2012, he came as the protagonist of the project *In the Footsteps of Marathon Legends* to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his triumph and to experience the much-mentioned unique atmosphere, which, according to his own words, became so close to his heart.*

RESULTS

**Košice Peace Marathon,
October 1, 1972**

Men

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | John Farrington | AUS | 2:17:34 |
| 2. | Eric Austin | GER | 2:17:54 |
| 3. | Kalle Hakkarainen | FIN | 2:18:59 |