

Mr Bright's successful 2021 Virtual London Marathon attempt! (Sunday October 3rd)



Well, after all the training it was a relief to get to race day on Sunday and even wake up to clear skies! The 26.2 mile route I had planned took me from Horsforth to Skipton following the route of the Leeds/Liverpool canal towpath. I chose it partly for safety reasons but also because I have always loved the sense of peace you get when you are next to water. I began my race early as I knew from my training sessions the canal towpath gets surprisingly busy after 9 a.m (with rowers especially) so I set off at about 7 a.m. I was surprised how many other people were following the towpath as well as myself. Some had chosen to walk, others to run. However, we were moving, there was a great comradery between all the participants as we passed each other wearing our Virgin Money bib numbers! Many words of encouragement were shared as we took on this great challenge – I even passed Leeds Rhinos great Jamie Jones-Buchanan who motivated me with the words “Keep going!”



As you can imagine there were some magical moments during the four hours or so as I headed to Skipton. Highlights included seeing a heron, a glorious rainbow above Skipton as the end of my race neared, unexpectedly bumping into two people I used to work with in a former job who were going the other way, the glorious Yorkshire landscape (including a brown cow that was so deep in the canal it was virtually swimming!) and passing Bingley Five Rise Locks (see photos). It was great to get to Skipton just before 11.20 and have my son Josh join me for the last 2 miles which was wonderful. Seeing my wife Catherine and daughter Isabelle hold the finishing banner and running through it in a time of 4 hrs 16 mins was a super moment! We all celebrated together with a lovely lunch at the Woolly Inn pub in Skipton which was a great reward for running the 26.2 miles! I was definitely ready for some super pub food!



I was running for a Christian charity called Open Doors and am delighted to have so far raised £1500 (not including Gift Aid). If you want to find out more about why I took on this challenge and the fantastic work Open Doors do you can visit www.virginmoneygiving.com and search ‘Dan Bright’ where you will come to my page.

