

## NICSAC Belfast Marathon Team Relay Competition – 2 May 2011

This year in May the NICS Athletics Club organised a marathon relay team competition as part of the Belfast City Marathon. The event was intended to add a bit of friendly competition for all the teams of civil / public servants taking part and to help promote the club to potential members. In total 7 teams from DOJ, DARD, DCAL, PRONI and AFBI entered the competition with the AFBI team – ‘Marine Buoys’ winning the all male category with an impressive time of 2hrs 46mins and one of the DARD teams – ‘Achilles Heels’ taking the mixed category prize in an equally impressive time of 3hrs 10mins. Unfortunately there were no entries in the all female category and this prize went unclaimed. The competition will return next year so look out for entry details appearing on the NICSSA website and [www.nics-ac.com](http://www.nics-ac.com) early next year.

Arron Wright of the DARD team ‘Achilles Heels’ said; “This new competition is a welcome addition to the NICSAC calendar of events. I have no doubt that as the word spreads about this competition it will become increasingly popular. Thank goodness our team did well this year because I’m sure it’s only going to get more difficult from here on.” He went on to add; “We are delighted to have had the opportunity to take part in this new competition which I feel adds to the occasion on Marathon Monday and I’m even more delighted we won our category. Thanks to NICSAC for taking the time to organise what I hope becomes a long standing tradition within the Belfast Marathon.”



*The Achilles Heels Team from DARD. (L to R) Jim Breen, Kevin Murphy, Adrienne Da Costa, Paddy Campbell and Arron Wright. Looking on are Michael Kelly and Anne Adair from NI Civil Service Athletics Club who organised the competition.*

Steven Beggs from the AFBI 'Marine Buoys' team commented; "When we saw the details of this competition via the NICSSA electronic newsletter we immediately put forward our entry. The opportunity to take part in some friendly competition between colleagues was an added boost to the overall enjoyment of entering the Belfast Marathon. Undoubtedly the knowledge that we were competing in the NICSAC relay competition led to some extra special performances on the day. Thanks to NICSAC for organising this competition and we look forward to coming back next year to defend our title."



*The Marine Buoys team from AFBI  
L-R Peter Irvine, Steven Beggs, Gerry Kelly( NICSSA), Brian Stewart, Greg Foster,  
Michael Kelly (NICSAC). Missing from the photo is team member Neil MacGreevy*