

Valencia Half Marathon



The 'Fountains Parkrun Peeps' group decision was that Valencia would be a good place to go for our next half. The group comprises a group of us who tend to have coffee together after the Fountains Parkrun, some affiliated and some unaffiliated to running clubs, but three of whom are RRs.

And so it was. We congregated at an AirBNB the Thursday before the race and prepared for it by marching around the historic sights of Valencia and playing in the sea.

On the morning of race day, we walked the mile or so from our house to the start line. It was warm, dark and very humid – with a few spots of rain. The mile or so turned into two miles or so ... the length of the lead in was a little too long, and then we set off between 8.25 and 9.00 am.

The route was flat (one of the group saw it as 'undulating'), with few corners – and a little warm (18 – 22 Centigrade over the duration of the race). There were ample drink stations, and a live band about every km (generally drum bands). We got to see a lot of Valencia's sights although it didn't fully go through the old town, more skirted it.

There was lots of support all round the course, but particularly at the end. Having completed it, and during a 1km walk out at the end, which seemed completely unnecessary, we received a medal, a 'Super half' medallion, a bottle of water and a banana.

And of course, the things that everyone always gets at the end of a half marathon ... three persimmon fruit and some florets of broccoli.

I guess you all know that like the tomato, persimmons are not commonly considered to be berries, but morphologically the fruit is in fact a berry. The tree Diospyros Kaki is the most widely cultivated species of persimmon (Wikipedia), which I am sure is the variety we had.



And the BBC points out that they are aromatic and full of nutrients and minerals. But they don't taste very good – probably why they decided to hand out 60,000 of them to runners too tired to argue.

The broccoli was more popular.

In fact one person (an Otley Runner) missed this being handed out, and was rather disgruntled as a result. So much so, Chris Brown felt the need to hand his over to avoid an incident (he's got 40 acres of the stuff at home).

Peace in the house returned and our Otley friend fried his for breakfast the following day.

So, a really enjoyable run, with some great personal achievements in a very, very clean and safe feeling, and interesting, city.

Looks like the next group half will be Copenhagen next year (it's on Chris' birthday) ... RR results below.



VALENCIA
TRINIDAD ALFONSO
ZÜRICH





VCRUNNING

HALF MARATHON

MARATHON

 Search

 More races

 Contact

 English

Sign up >

 21K

 42K

22-OCT-2023

REGISTRATION

RUNNER'S AREA

EVENT

NEWS

CLASSIFICATION BY CLUBS

TEAM

Ripon Runners

PLACE	RACE NUMBER	PLACE CAT.	NAME	OFFICIAL TIME	REAL TIME	AVERAGE	CATEGORY
12135	15891	391	WOFFINDEN, SARAH	2:05:10	2:02:35	5,56	F-W40
13578	18491	272	ACKERLEY, RICHARD	2:11:00	2:09:18	6,13	M-M60
14843	18492	8	BROWN, CHRIS	2:17:02	2:15:20	6,30	M-M75

Runners from 1 to 3 of a total of 3

Runners from 1 to 3 of a total of 3