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## Born to run

Josh Derraji loves to run. And as a member of Barnet and District Athletics Club Josh, a Year 6 pupil at Martin Junior School, was selected during trials in February as one of ten boys in his age group (11-12 years) to represent Barnet in the London Mini Marathon held on Sunday 18 April.

Running a race of 2.65 miles, from Southwark Bridge to The Mall, Josh put in an incredible performance, finishing in 17 minutes and 50 seconds, a personal best. He also raised £150 in sponsorship for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

### Tired but happy

Josh takes up the story. "It was wet and cold on the morning. I was really nervous and didn't think I would finish the run. But once we were at the starting point I felt better."

"The race went quickly and it was great to see my mum, nana, brothers Max and Noah and sister, Salma, shouting for me at the finish line. I came 60<sup>th</sup> out of 226. I think I did okay but hope to do better next year. Barnet did really well as

they came third overall. I was pleased to finish but felt very tired later on."

"My mum and I chose Great Ormond Street Hospital to receive my sponsorship money because my brother Max had an operation there when he was a baby. One of the best bits of the day was shaking hands with rugby star Martin Johnson. He fired the starting pistol at the beginning of my race."

### Well done, Barnet's boys

Jim Neville, the youth coach for Barnet and District Athletics Club, is full of praise for Josh. "His friendly attitude has endeared him to many of the other young athletes in the club and I was pleased when he ran so well to get into the team for the Mini Marathon. With him was another of Barnet's boys, Niall Flem-



A relaxed Josh after running the Mini Marathon. Photo by Haron Derraji

ing, who was third overall in the race and I know he is an inspiration to Josh." Looking ahead, Jim is confident that Josh has "a big future in

sport".

Anyone interested in running can contact Jim Neville on 0208 449 6487 or [james@neville6883.freemove.co.uk](mailto:james@neville6883.freemove.co.uk).

## Interested in reporting?

**THE ARCHER is looking for people to report on all manner of activities involving East Finchley and its residents.**

We would welcome reports and pictures about all kinds of subjects such as sports, arts or current affairs. Writers could be participants, organisers, or even casual spectators.

Aspiring young journalists could cut their teeth on gathering reports, visiting venues and even taking photographs.

If you have any particular interest, or would like to report on activities in your area, do please get in touch. Training can be given.

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