

**THE Bungay Black Dog Marathon, in doubt at one stage because of the foot-and-mouth crisis, went ahead on Sunday with its biggest field for eight years.**

Over 500 runners lined up at the start, 150 of them for the full marathon, in near-perfect running conditions. Disinfectant mats and other precautions were in place along the 13.1-mile Waveney Valley route. And it was 27-year-old Russell Maddams of Harlow Running Club who took the full marathon title.

He was always a comfortable distance ahead of closest challenger Simon Lund of Woodstock Harriers, and maintained it over the closing stages to win by two minutes in two hours, 39 minutes 34 seconds — 10 minutes outside the 16-year-old course record.

For Maddams, from the Lake District, it was his first marathon. He said: "I went through the half-way mark at 1-17 and was all right up to 20 miles, but I was very tired over the final six. But it was a well-organised event and I really enjoyed it. I'll be back."

Lund, who put everything into his challenge, collapsed at the line and received prolonged attention from a doctor and St John Ambulance personnel before he finally recovered from his exertions.

Third was Stephen Boynton, running for the British Library, in 2-48:22.

Teighbridge Trotters teammates Stephanie Ross, 40, and Kathy Donovan took first and second places in the women's marathon, Ross



**THEY'RE OFF:** The start of the Bungay Marathon.

Pictures: NICK BUTCHER

finishing a comfortable nine minutes ahead of her colleague in 3-18:09. Donovan clocked 3-27:27.

Third was Diss Athletic Club's veteran Veronica Manley, four times winner of the event (including last year) and the current record holder. Now 52, it was her 50th marathon and she came in five minutes behind Donovan in 2-32:27.

"It doesn't get any easier but they are just as enjoyable," she said. "Every one is different and they are so unpredictable."

In the half-marathon Geoffrey Day of Great Bentley Running Club emerged from the large field of over 360 runners to win in 1-10:20, the fourth fastest time in the 19 times the race has been run.

After establishing his lead he gradually stretched it out to finish four

minutes, 21 seconds ahead of runner-up Jerry Greeves of St Edmunds Pacers, whose team-mate David Reed was third in 1-15:53. Lowestoft Road Runners' Carl Prewer was fourth in 1-16:11.

City of Norwich Athletics Club's runner Karen Carver strode home in the women's half-marathon, winning by nearly five minutes in a time of 1-29:53.

Runner-up Julia Middleton of St Edmunds Pacers clocked 1-34:26, with Charlotte Baldrey of Woodbridge Shufflers third in 1-34:37.

Race committee chairman Jim Jervis was pleased with how the event went in all the circumstances.

"We had a few hiccups but we are very pleased overall," he said. "It has been up to the normal standards."

"Entries were slow coming in when the race was in doubt but in the end we had 100 more than last year in the half-marathon and 30 more in the full marathon.

"We went ahead with advice from the AAA and MAFF, and the support of local farmers."

Race director Nick Norman and his team were out at 5.45am on Sunday putting out signs and placing disinfectant mats at two key points on the course — at the start in St John's Road and at the car park entrances.



**THIRSTY:** A runner breaks stride for a drink at the 10-mile point.



**PAIN BARRIER:** Bungay Marathon men dig deep.

## Good times in fun run

AROUND 275 people of all ages took part in the two-mile family fun run organised as part of the Bungay Marathon on Sunday, and some impressive times were achieved.

Norwich and Peterborough Building Society mascot Splat the Cat started the runners off, and all finishers received a tracksuit badge.

Overall winner was Lee Farthing of Woodbridge in a time of nine minutes 57 seconds, just 11 seconds ahead of Matt Sadler of Hobart High School Loddon. Ross Peggs was third a further eight seconds behind.

Other results — first man: Ross Peggs; first lady: Hilary Battye; first high school boy: Matt Sadler; first high school girl: Kelly Harper (Bungay HS) 10-38; first middle school boy: Lee Farthing; first middle school girl: Emma White (Bungay Middle); first first school boy: Matthew Linger (Bungay); first first school girl: Sam Pownall (Great Yarmouth); first Black Dog Running Club boy: Alex Smith; first Black Dog Running Club girl: Tracey Harvey; dog and handler: Robin Godsmark and Henry.