

A Marathon effort

The London Marathon became the world's largest in 1989 when 22,664 runners crossed the finishing line beating New York's 1988 figure of 22,405. The logistics of organising the marathon are daunting

40,000 foil blankets for finishers
40,000 kit bags for runners' clothes
40,000 T-shirts for runners who complete

27,000 cups of tea and coffee consumed at start
30,000 sandwiches (supplied by British Rail)
600,000 bottles of mineral water
25,000+ chocolate bars
30,000 apples

1,000,000 spectators expected along the course
1,000 helpers along the route
400 marshals direct runners and record finishing times
35 lorries used to transport runners' personal belongings from start to finish
38 computers used to compile results

St John's Ambulance team:

15 doctors, 50 nurses, 750 qualified first aiders
7 teams with defibrillators, 160 cadets

Medical directors team:

100 strong including sports doctors, physiotherapists, podiatrists and chiropodists
45 ambulances, 8 support vehicles

32 mobile units
35 first aid stations
800 woollen blankets
5000 foil blankets
400 stretchers
15lbs of vaseline to prevent rubbing

