

Berkhamsted Half-Marathon, Sunday 7 March

124	Nick Bingham (2 nd M60)	1:34:03
242	Russell Devitt (3 rd M60)	1:39:13
641	John Murphy	1:52:32
1,151 finished		

This was my 18th Berky Half, and the first one in which I had more mathematical friends than clubmates. Julian Merschen (LSE postgrad, 28) was 39th in 1:26:24. It was his first half-marathon, so I took him round the course two weeks before the race as a training run (vile conditions – it was lovely on race day). So he knew the hills, and could pace himself round this very hilly but beautifully scenic course. Alex Milne (Imperial College First Team and Enfield & Haringey AC, 19) was 2nd in 1:14:28 – a good time on the flat, and a great time here. He then jogged back to the dog-leg by the castle, and cheered on his Complex Analysis lecturer as I finished. Nice to see John back in action after his operation last year. The late, great Laurie Foster used to say that this isn't as tough a course as Watford. I disagreed, but was slightly faster here than at Watford. I'd be interested in how other people find their times over the two compare.

Nick Bingham