

Marathon hypocrisy

by Charles Armstrong

The treatment of disabled spectators at the London Marathon was hypocritical at best, and in violation of equal access laws at worst.

The attitude of the organisers to spectators in wheelchairs can be seen from the first page of the spectators' guide: "If you find yourself at one of the busier areas it can be frustrating ... especially if you have to deal with pushchairs or wheelchairs."

Disabled spectators were kept away from the busier areas, which also happened to be the places where, like everyone else, they would most like to be, for example near the finish. The disabled spectators' guide suggested a spot between Miles 21 and 22. How would non-handicapped people feel if they were recommended to watch four miles from the finish?

At all the busy spots (including within miles of the finish) the coverage of the railings with advertisement banners was continuous. People in wheelchairs could not see through these banners. I watched in horror near the finish where security refused to move just one of these thousands of banners for 10 minutes so a little boy in a wheelchair could see his friends go by in the mini marathon, an hour before the main race. Equal access rights imply the right to a decent view in a decent spot, just like everyone else. Surely one railing in every 20 in busy areas could be left banner-free with a disabled priority sticker!

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Tekst 2 Marathon hypocrisy

- 2p 3 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze voor Charles Armstrong een reden was om deze tekst te schrijven.
- People in wheelchairs were
- 1 actively discouraged by the organisers from being present at the race.
 - 2 advised to stay away from the most interesting places along the course.
 - 3 not able to watch the runners near the end of the marathon track.
 - 4 sent away from the circuit by officials in charge of safety.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.
- 1p 4 Citeer de eerste twee woorden van de zin waarin Charles Armstrong een suggestie doet om de situatie voor mensen in rolstoelen te verbeteren.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.