## **Jogglers Jottings – February 2025**

Hello Jogglers past, present, and future

Welcome to the latest edition of Jogglers Jottings, where we present a round-up of joggling activity from these past 3 months, continuing in the tradition of Bill Giduz. It's typically a quieter time for the sport, but here are a few events planned for the season ahead – get involved if you can! Email me at jogglingresults@gmail.com for more information.

- April 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: British Joggler meet up, Edinburgh. Plans for a fast 5km, and track time trials.
- **June 7**th-**8**th: Jersey Joggler Mini Fest, New Jersey, USA. Plenty of juggling, and the 2 mile superhero sprint. Organised by Karly Swaim.
- **July 14-20**<sup>th</sup>: <u>IJA Festival</u> Sterling Franklin has already got the wheels in motion for this track meet, held in Evansville, IN, USA. For those further afield, there's a virtual champs as well, as well as a planned Fun Run category.
- **August 2**<sup>nd</sup>-**10**<sup>th</sup>: <u>European Juggling Convention</u>. Working with Mark Fiore, we're hoping to host a joggling track meet at the EJC in Arnhem in the Netherlands. Details to follow.

## **Recent Joggling Highlights:**

- Back in November, four British jogglers took part in the Watchtree Half Marathon, just outside of Carlisle. **James McDiarmid** finished in 1:29, **Dom Lodge** followed close behind in 1:32, and **Scott Jenkins** made debuted with 4 balls, with excellent pacing from **Chris Edwin** to cross the line in just under 2 hours. An intimate affair, both Dom and James paced in the top 10.
- Also that month, **Barak Hirschowitz (USA)** took on the New York Marathon, finishing in 4:29:32. It was his third time joggling the event. He went onto complete the St Pete Half in Florida just 2 weeks later.
- Indian joggler, **Ketan Abhonkar** started the year strong, debuting over the marathon distance in Pune on January 5th in 5:21:45, only to complete his 2<sup>nd</sup> joggling marathon in Mumbai just two weeks later in 4:59:43. That's fantastic progression! Ketan, who was voted Joggler of the Year at the end of last year in a public vote, has been developing his endurance following a string of 10kms and Half marathons in 2024.
- In the world of 5 ball joggling, Stefan Nygard (Sweden) has continued to push boundaries, completing an impressive 5b 20km training run in just two hours. I believe this is the furthest continuous 5b joggle on record. Michal Kapral (Canada) completed 17km of 5 balls in the Toronto marathon in 2017, and Barry Goldmeier (USA) has been entertaining marathon crowds for years with segments with 5 balls, amongst a selection of other props. Will Stefan go for a 5b Half or even a 5b full in 2025? Watch this space!
- **Kacper 'Rock Joggler' Suchora (Poland)** has been taking on the Krakow Mountain Running Grand Prix, joggling over tough terrain through snow and ice. On one occasion, he lost a ball, and improvised with a rock he found on the ground! His efforts demonstrate the versatility of the joggling community.
- On far smoother ground, the 2 Edinburgh jogglers Scott and James took on a track 10km time trial, with Scott setting a new personal best of 38:34, no drops. Both are showing strong early-season form, which is looking good for their upcoming half and full marathon outings.

- A recent post in the Jogglers United Facebook group produced a list of countries we have collectively joggled in. On holiday in December, **Scott** added another country to this list, joggling a 3b 400m personal best (1:06.4) at the Kirani James National Stadium in Grenada.
- **Attila Suszter (Hungary)** put in a flawless performance in Budapest, completing a 7.5km event without a single drop.
- Brady Xue (USA) joggled his way through his local Turkey Trot Half Marathon. An impressive debut over the distance, he finished in 1:56, with only 6 drops.
- **Karly Swaim (USA)** has a relentless event schedule, and this continued in the back end of 2024. She took on the Navisink 12km, her alumni cross country run, and the Santa 5km, adding a festive touch to her joggling calendar.









And that's it for another Jogglers Jottings. I'll write again in the Spring with more joggling news. In the meantime, you can keep up to date with the joggling community on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Strava</u>.

Until then, happy joggling

**Scott Jenkins** 

Edinburgh, Scotland, 12th February 2025