



PRESS RELEASE

6TH FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Forward comment from Race Director:

I am pleased to report we had a very successful day with over 550 registrations which was a slight increase on last year. Weather conditions were ideal and there was a terrific atmosphere at the event.

Congratulations to all those who participated. This year I was particularly pleased that the male course record was smashed along with many other results. The winner was Phil Anthony who completed the run in good weather conditions in 1:08:00 – the previous record that he broke was 1:11:10 from the 2009 run. The first female home was Rona Loubser, from the Folkestone Running Club who came in at 1:29:34. Also, Folkestone Running Club had a good result with winning the ladies team prize. The last person through at 5:16:00 was Margaret Hart who was fantastic by being determined to complete the race in aid of the Folkestone Rainbow Centre. Many Kent clubs participated and runners came from London, Essex and as far as Wales. We already have an entry for next year's race!

It is a fantastic achievement to complete the course either as an elite runner or a new participant to a Half Marathon. The objectives of the race were to encourage participation, assist charities, visit our district and promote good health, as well as increasing the profile of Rotary.

It was particularly pleasing that there were so many spectators along the whole route which gave tremendous encouragement to the runners – there must have been thousands providing support!

First indications are that the event has raised in excess of £26,000 and we are hopeful that we can beat last year's record of £33,000. Since the race first started in 2006, over £160,000 has been raised for very worthwhile causes. This year's chosen charity is Demelza although many runners were raising funds for various causes including Saga Charitable Trust who had a good crowd of runners and primarily Rotary which distributes funds to local and international good causes.

The event went extremely well and help was received with sincere thanks from members of the Folkestone Rotary Club, Hythe and Folkestone Channel Rotary Club, Folkestone Running Club, the Folkestone Interact Club, other running clubs and the local community also assisted. I would also like to thank Shepway District Council, Folkestone Police and St John's Ambulance for their valuable support.

Once again we have received tremendous feedback from the runners congratulating us for such a great event, by way of organisation, goody bags and encouragement from marshals. They also thoroughly enjoyed the course and all of the facilities available.

Please reply to:

Rotarian Ray Johnson

t: 01303 22 11 88 f: 01303 22 11 99 e: ray@independentinsuranceservices.co.uk

a: Independent Insurance Services, Church House, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2BN

w: www.folkestonerotary.org



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RIBI District 1120 Club 104

Page 2

Further feedback / information can be viewed by going to: www.runnersworld.co.uk/events and www.folkestonerotary.org

This year's event photographers were Lee Robinson Studios and runners can visit their website at www.leejorobinson.com to have a look at the race pictures which are available to purchase.

Prize Winners for Half Marathon 2011

Open Male

1 st	Phil Anthony	1:08:00	
2 nd	David Thompson	1:16:55	Barnsley AC
3 rd	Robert Latala	1:17:10	

Open Female

1 st	Rona Loubser	1:29:34	Folkestone Running Club
2 nd	Annette Oakman	1:30:13	Colchester Harriers AC
3 rd	Annabelle Stearns	1:30:38	Gravesend RR & AC

Vet40 Male

1 st	Gavin Kitchingham	1:20:37	Orpington Road Runners
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Vet35 Female

1 st	Annette Oakman	1:30:13	Colchester Harriers AC
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Vet 50 male

1 st	David Smyth	1:26:52	Folkestone Running Club
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Vet45 Female

1 st	Vicky Talbot Rosner	1:43.23	Invicta East Kent
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Vet60 Male

1 st	Kenneth Saffery	1:42:58	The Veterans Athletic Club
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Vet55 Female

1 st	Alison Jelly	2:03.03	Folkestone Running Club
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Winning Team (Male)

Ashford & District Road Runners

Winning Team (Female)

Folkestone Running Club

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Page 3

We were delighted that this year's event included such a good field of runners and as Race Director I would hope bringing regional talent together will produce good outcomes for the forthcoming Olympics.

A few points about the race

Total miles covered approx 6,026
Over 1,600 litres of water consumed
Over 2,400 cups used
900 bananas, 1,300 energy bars and 720 sports drinks distributed
Each male and female winner received £100.00 sponsored by Independent Insurance Services
All runners received a medal and a goody bag
Excellent feedback received
Youngest runner was 17 and the eldest runner was 73

Sponsors for the event were:

Main sponsor:

Independent Insurance Services / Insure Green

Other key sponsors:

The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust Sainsburys Move It

Other supporters

Kent Trophies Water for Work McDonalds Leas Cliff Hall

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Page 4

Feedback received so far:

Easy to enter on the day, very supportive marshalls and crowd, good goodie bag and always good to have a shout out at the finish line! Nice to be by the seaside too!!

That hill never gets any flatter, but hey you ran down it so you know you'll have to run back up again! This is still a superb race. Super encouraging marshalls and spectators, well manned water stations, nice personal touch of the PA calling out names/clubs and a goody bag that other races should take note of! The race director and his team clearly put a lot of effort into this one and it showed again this year. Next year though - switch off the wind and flatten out that hill!!

I would like to thank you and your organisation and sponsors on making the day and my first race an experience that I will never forget.

your marshalls were fantastic and the organisation of the day was spot on and the facilities that were available were also fantastic.

The route was perfect and a great motivation to run.

Again I can't thank you enough and look forward to next year's run.

"What a great day out! Thanks so much to the organisers of this one for the lovely day today.....even the weather was ideal but a bit windy"

"The best race in Kent, really friendly and challenging. A must do event!"

"Yep, there's a hill at the end - but its bowling green flat otherwise and at the end of the day you know you've conquered it - and you did run down it at the beginning!

Marshalls were brilliant, the goody bag was the best I've seen at a 'smaller' race. Great race organisation. Do it, you won't regret it."

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Page 5

Text below sent to runners:

Congratulations for finishing the race, you deserve a well earned pat on the back.

If you have given us your email address, the results will be dispatched to you in due course.

In addition, they will be published on www.folkestonerotary.org website and within the local newspapers.

Many of you have been raising money for charities; please return your sponsorship form, if we have provided this to you, as soon as possible. Alternatively, just drop me an email and let me know how much you have raised and for which charity, as it would be great to establish the grand total connected to this race. Last year over £33,000 was raised.

Next year's race will be held on Sunday 30th September 2012 and I hope you will choose to return to our popular event. You can now book online at www.runnersworld.co.uk/events

Thanks for your participation

Next year's race will be on Sunday 30th September 2012 and we have already received a few entries!!

Pictures available on request

Report Ends
Produced by Ray Johnson, Race Director
26.09.2011

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Page 6

About Folkestone Rotary Club

Club members have pledged to:

- serve the community, locally, nationally and globally
- promote the highest ethical standards in all areas of working life
- work for peace and goodwill worldwide

Why not visit our website www.folkestonerotary.org to learn more about Rotary in Folkestone. You may also like to take a look at www.rotary1120.org or www.ribi.org for further information.

NOTE FOR EDITORS:

1. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, part of Rotary International, has 1,845 clubs and more than 55,000 members.
2. Rotary International was founded in 1905 in Chicago and is now the world's largest international service organisation with 1.2 million professional men and women as members. There are 33,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas.
3. Rotary clubs are open to men and women who are business, professional or community leaders who want to use their experience for the benefit of others.
4. Rotary initiates local and global projects to promote world understanding and peace and improve life conditions for people of all ages and cultures. To find out more, visit www.ribi.org.

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