
NEWS RELEASE

20TH FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON

Sunday 28th September 2025

Folkestone, Kent – 29th September 2025

Forward comment from Race Director Ray Johnson:

"Sunday saw the long-awaited Folkestone Half Marathon return for 2025 in its 20th year, setting Folkestone alight with race day vibes and finish line smiles in the autumnal sunshine. With a sellout crowd of over 800 entries, the race enjoyed a record year and The Leas was bursting with runners, supporters and charity groups flocking to take part in this magnificent community event.

It's not just the stunning seafront route and electric atmosphere that makes this race such a calendar highlight. The Folkestone Half Marathon benefits from the support of local groups such as The Cadets and has raised over £750,000 for charities in the area since it first began. It's an event with community at its heart supported by the very same at every level of organisation.

This year saw funds raised for The Sports Trust who achieve some fantastic outcomes. As a not-for-profit charity they dismantle barriers to sport participation.

With the Road of Remembrance still inaccessible, the Half Marathon entertained once again a different route for 2025, but our runners remained undeterred, still braving the distance to cross the finish line. They were cheered on by crowds of spectators who came to lend support to their valiant efforts and join the race day celebrations.

First place male was taken by Wagahata Zereom who flew across the finish line in 01:11:22. First female was awarded to Alice Tidswell who completed her Half Marathon in an incredible 01:30:22. Folkestone Running & Athletics Club proudly took away the first team prizes in both the male and female categories. It was a splendid day of racing enjoyed by all.

We look forward to welcoming back our triumphant runners to The Folkestone Coastal 10k next May and, of course, back to The Folkestone Half Marathon in 2026!"

Help was received with sincere thanks from over 100 marshals and assistants including Hythe, Channel & Folkestone Rotary Clubs, Nice Work and many local support volunteers including the Police Cadets. I would also like to thank our many sponsors including Alkaline Transport, KAP Group, Folkestone & Hythe Catering Association & McDonalds. Our thanks also to Folkestone & Hythe District Council, NHS and Riviera Residents Ltd for their valuable support. A special mention to Christpher Finn-Kelcey our eldest participant of 80 years with a commendable time of 2:27:00 who also raised vital funds for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Once again, we have received tremendous feedback from the runners congratulating us for such a great event, by way of organisation, encouragement from marshals and most importantly holding the event safely particularly with a new route due to the Road of Remembrance hill being closed."

Further feedback / information can be viewed by going to:
<http://folkestonerotary.org/half-marathon>

Full race results can be found here:
<https://results.sporthive.com/events/7354473226237418752/races/1>

Race reviews and feedback here:
<https://www.nice-work.org.uk/e/folkestone-rotary-half-marathon-9459/reviews>

Next year's race will be Sunday 27th September 2026

Prize Winners for Half Marathon 2025

Children's Boy Guy Slingsby & Girl Madison Hart

Open Male

01:11:22	Wagahata Zerom	Ashford A C
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Open Female

01:30:43	Alice Tidswell
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Winning Team (Male) - Folkestone Running & Athletics Club

Winning Team (Female) - Folkestone Running & Athletics Club

We were delighted that this year's event included such a good field of runners.

A few points about the race

Total miles covered approx. 8,554

Over 1253 litres of water consumed.

Each male and female winner received £100.00 sponsored by Alkaline Transport

All runners received a special medal

Excellent feedback received – one of the most positive in Kent

Youngest runner was 17 and the eldest runner was 80

Funds raised to date £757,000 since 2026. (includes estimate £52,000 2025)

Sponsors for the event were:

Main sponsor:

Alkaline Transport

Other key sponsors:

KAP Group

Folkestone & Hythe Catering Association

McDonalds Folkestone

Cafe2U

Run With It

Other supporters

Nice Work

Folkestone Radio

Kevin Daly

Folkestone & Hythe District Council

NHS Mobile Unit

Pod Plus

Pictures are available via <http://folkestonerotary.org/half-marathon> where you are free to help yourself.

Report Ends

Produced by Ray Johnson, Race Director

29-09-2025

ABOUT FOLKESTONE ROTARY CLUB

The club was formed in 1923 and in 2023/24 we celebrated 100 years.

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 look at www.rotary1120.org or www.ribi.org for further information. We also have a new corporate membership available please contact Rotarian Ray Johnson.

ABOUT ROTARY

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit Rotary.

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CONTACTS

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