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## NEWS RELEASE

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### 14<sup>TH</sup> FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON

*29<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**Folkestone, Kent – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019** — Over 600 runners enjoyed the 14<sup>th</sup> Folkestone Rotary Half Marathon on Sunday. Weather conditions were incredibly difficult for all involved with gale force winds, rain and tidal issues however it did not deter the enthusiasm of the runners to complete the course. The event was the most challenging of conditions we have ever encountered and it was quite remarkable during very trying weather how the spirit and enthusiasm shined through. I have received some incredible feedback and overall it was a fantastic day for runners, spectators and marshals as well as achieving its aim of raising many thousands of pounds for local charities. Congratulations to all those who participated.

The race was established in 2006 and it has become a prominent fixture in the running calendar, bringing runners of all standards from all over the South-East into Folkestone.

The race was won by Rhys Boorman, in a time of 1hr 14 mins 43 secs, Marshall Smith of Ashford AC in second place 1hr 16 mins 14 secs, followed by Nick Collins also from Ashford AC in third place not far off at 1hr 18 mins 18secs. First female runner home was Hannah Roberts of Petts Wood Runners with a time of 1hr 33 mins 16 secs. Second female was Hannah Wilding of Canterbury Harriers at 1hr 42mins 55secs and Penny Ellison of Maidstone Harriers of Maidstone Harriers in third place at 1hr 43mins 20secs. The male team prize went to Cambridge Harriers (James MacDonald, Steven Groom & David Worden). The female team prize went to Folkestone Running Club (Victoria Green, Jenny Quinn & Catherine O'Connor). In addition, the children's race was well attended including a two year old!

Both race winners received a £100 prize courtesy of sponsors Independent Insurance Services.

This year's race proceeds will benefit local and international charities through the good work of Folkestone Rotary Club, with the main beneficiaries being The Fifth Trust.

Race director Ray Johnson was once again a happy man! "Despite crazy weather conditions runners, marshals, helpers and spectators all pulled together to support each other in what turned out as the toughest conditions we have ever encountered. I have received an overwhelming amount of thanks from all concerned which is great and it certainly proved we are a rather hardy bunch! And so may congratulations to all. It was wonderful to have so many participating and children running as well in those strong winds. The age range was 2years to 76. As always, I am most grateful for the support from a number of local organisations who help make sure this event remains one of the most popular

half marathons in the south east. We have now achieved over £469,000 for good causes since the race started in 2006 and many runners are raising further funds from their sterling efforts yesterday including a large contingent of runners representing the Pilgrims Hospice”

The event will return on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will primarily be supporting Folkestone Youth Project. The race features a prize of £100 to the runner that may crack the current course record of 1 hr 8 mins for the male and 1 hr 21mins & 05 secs for the female.

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.

As always it was particularly pleasing that there were so many spectators along the whole route which gave tremendous encouragement to the runners – it’s always great boost to them which helps push them on. We even had some providing extra support for our marshals.

First indications are that the event has raised in excess of £25,000 and we are hopeful that we can beat last year’s amount of just over £35,000. This year’s chosen charity is The Fifth Trust. In addition, many runners were raising funds for various chosen causes.

The event went extremely well, and help was received with sincere thanks to members of the Folkestone Rotary Club, Hythe and Folkestone Channel Rotary Clubs, Folkestone Running Club including the juniors, other running clubs and the local community also assisted. Thanks also to Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the public 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, goodie bags and encouragement from marshals. They also thoroughly enjoyed the course and all of the facilities available although many runners still request, we still remove the Road of Remembrance on the return which is known as the ‘Sting in the Tail’.

Further feedback/information can be viewed by going to [www.runnersworld.co.uk/events](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/events) and [www.folkestonerotary.org](http://www.folkestonerotary.org) in due course.

## Prize Winners for Half Marathon 2019

### Open Male

1	01:14:43	Rhys	Boorman	
2	01:16:14	Marshall	Smith	Ashford AC
3	01:18:18	Nick	Collins	Ashford AC

### Open Female

28	01:33:18	Hannah	Roberts	Petts Wood Runners
64	01:43:55	Hannah	Wilding	Canterbury Harriers
66	01:43:20	Penny	Ellison	Maidstone Harriers

### Vet40 Male

1st Nick Collins 1.18.18 Ashford AC

### Vet35 Female

1st Hannah Roberts 1:33.16 Petts Wood Runners

### Vet45 Male

1st Steve Hobbs 1:19.45 Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets

### Vet40 Female

1st Penny Ellison 1:43.20 Maidstone Harriers

### Vet 50 Male

1st Mark Melton 1:35:40 Gravesend RR

### Vet45 Female

1st Kerstin Sung 1:45.47 Larkfield AC

### Vet 55 male

1st Tim Coswell 1:41.59

### Vet50 Female

1st Anne Crawford 1:56.02

Vet60 Male  
1st John Gurney 1:36.59

Vet55 Female  
1st Alma Botes Horley Harriers

Vet65 Male  
1st Jeff Mewes

Vet60 Female  
1st Anna Rowland

Vet70 Male  
1st Asmeron Beraki 1:50.40 Green Korfadan

Vet65 Female  
1st Joyce Bell Cambridge Harriers

Winning Team (Male) - Cambridge Harriers

Winning Team (Female) - Folkestone Running Club

Children's Run – 25 participants

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 8122

Over 2,800 litres of water consumed

Over 2,400 cups used

740 energy bars and 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 2 and the eldest runner was 80

Sponsors for the event were:

Main sponsor:

Independent Insurance Services / Insure Green

Other key sponsors:

The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust

Other supporters

Nice Work	Harvest Caterers	Kent PA	Academy FM	Geerings Print
Pod Plus	R & R Photos	Walker Highways	The Grand	Frizbee
Folkestone Vehicle Rental				

### **Feedback received so far:**

What an event! The weather was the biggest challenge and hats off to all participants who braved the ferocious weather to battle through and complete the run. Legends, all of them! Well done for continuing to provide these events and all the work you do locally for the community too Ray.

Blustery? Not sure that's the word I'd have selected! That was probably the hardest run I've ever done (and I've done a few)! Miles 4-7 before turning around were savage. A big 👍 to all the Marshall's today, but especially those on the seafront.

Thank you marshals, I don't know how you managed to keep smiling in all that wind and rain!

Thanks everyone it was teamwork in motion

See you in France!

I've enjoyed the run thoroughly, been race director for many years for another event and couldn't top this.

I'll be back!

You have certainly exceeded my expectation this year, another uplifting event which certainly brought community much closer!

You have taken the sport to another level; I really admire your work and the Rotarian, thank you.

Organisation cannot be faulted, big thank you to the Marshalls who did a great job. I really liked the medal with the idea of putting race time on it yourself.

I have to say that the marshals (and the spectators) were fantastic – so encouraging.

Great T-Shirt worth the effort.

Just wanted to say thank you to you and all your team for a great morning. The event was well organised and had a great atmosphere. I was particularly impressed by your marshals who were helpful and supportive all the way round.

Thanks to all involved,

I just wanted to say was a fabulous race your team organised this morning. It ran like clockwork, unfortunately I didn't. The Marshalls were plentiful and full of encouragement. It was an absolute pleasure to take part.

Thank you very much for a terrific morning and a huge well done to your team

Thanks to all the volunteers today and thanks to everyone who cheered me on my way.

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

Report Ends

Produced by Ray Johnson, Race Director

29-09-2019

### **ABOUT FOLKESTONE ROTARY CLUB**

The club was formed in 1923 and in 2013 we celebrated 90 years.

Club members have pledged to:

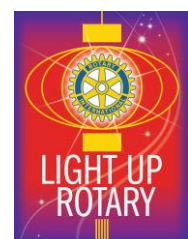
- serve the community, locally, nationally and globally
- promote the highest ethical standards in all areas of working life
- work for peace and goodwill worldwide

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

### **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](http://Rotary).

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