
NEWS RELEASE

18TH FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON

Sunday 24th September 2023

Folkestone, Kent – 24th September 2023

Forward comment from Race Director Ray Johnson:

“ The Sunday morning of the event we gathered on a blustery Leas in Folkestone for the 18th Folkestone Half Marathon, an invigorating race down the seafront from Folkestone to Hythe and back again. This year was also marked by the presence of the British Masters Championships and we were joined by several of their runners looking to enjoy stunning coastal views and catch a Personal Best.

This was not an easy race; our runners had to contend with strong winds and the famous Remembrance Hill before crossing the finish line to enthusiastic cheers from the supporting crowds. We were joined by a record number of runners since Covid; 420 runners took to the tarmac and everyone who competed put in a magnificent performance. They were rewarded with a special commemorative 100 year anniversary medal of the club.

This year’s winners were Charlie Brisley (*Newhame & Essex Beagles*) who completed the course in a stunning time of 01:08:41 and Roanne Vickers of (*Southern Counties Veterans AC*) who brought home her win in 01:22:09.

It’s worth noting that Charlie was a mere 41 seconds off the course record – quite a remarkable performance! Charlie has vowed to return next year with the course record firmly in his sights. We look forward to welcoming Charlie and all our runners of 2023 back to the start line for next year’s Half Marathon extravaganza!

The Folkestone Half Marathon is a stupendous and spellbinding community event committed to raising funds for good causes. Folkestone Rotary Club along with the runners have raised over £600,000 for charities such as The Folkestone Youth Project, Kent Association for the Blind, Demelza House, Pilgrims Hospice and The Rainbow Centre since its inception in 2006.

We are incredibly proud to welcome many of our local clubs to the start line; our runners are the heart of race day, and without their support we would not be able to complete such fantastic work.

We look forward to cheering them on at the 19th Folkestone Half Marathon 2024 on Sunday 29th September.

Help was received with sincere thanks from over 100 marshals and assistants including Hythe, Channel, Deal & Folkestone Rotary Clubs, Nice Work and many local support volunteers including the Police Cadets. I would also like to thank our many sponsors including Alcaline Transport, The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, McDonalds, PodPlus, Asda and Folkestone & Hythe District Council 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, encouragement from marshals and most importantly holding the event safely although some runners still prefer not to have the return leg of the Road of Remembrance hill.”

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/7107325818590129152>

Next year’s race will be Sunday 29th September 2024

Prize Winners for Half Marathon 2023

Open Male

01:08:41	Charlie Brisley	Newhame & Essex Beagles
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Open Female

01:22:09	Roanne Vickers	Southern Counties Vets AC
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Winning Team (Male) - Ashford AC

Winning Team (Female) - Maidstone Harriers

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. 5,500

Over 900 litres of water consumed.

Each male and female winner received £100.00 sponsored by Alkaline Transport and a fab goody bag!

All runners received a special 100-year celebration medal of the Club

Excellent feedback received.

Youngest runner was 17 and the eldest runner was 84

Sponsors for the event were:

Main sponsor:

Alkaline Transport

Other key sponsors:

The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust

McDonalds Folkestone

Pod Plus

Cafe2U

Asda

Other supporters

Nice Work

Academy FM

Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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

Report Ends

Produced by Ray Johnson, Race Director

27-09-2023

ABOUT FOLKESTONE ROTARY CLUB

The club was formed in 1923 and in 2023/24 we celebrate 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.

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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