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## NEWS RELEASE

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### 15<sup>TH</sup> FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON – Challenging weather and requirements do not stop runners having a good time.

*27<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

Folkestone, Kent – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

#### **Forward comment from Race Director Ray Johnson:**

“Today’s race was challenging with constant rain and strong winds and in addition to the many requirements for runners due to the Covid-19 situation with distancing rules and other requirements which did not stop or deter runners from having a good time. Many participants have already been in contact to thank the club and helpers for providing a much-needed race to the area.

A restricted sold out field of over 300 runners lined up on the famous Folkestone Leas promenade on Sunday for the start of the popular 15<sup>th</sup> half marathon.

Runners set off in waves of 12 for distancing requirements after a temperature check to comply with the new Covid-19 rules set by UK Athletics. We were not permitted to hand out our medals and trophies, but these will be despatched in the post.

I was pleased to see a few newcomers at 17 years old to one runner at 81 some who came as far as Cambridge and Oxford.

Congratulations to all those who participated. This year’s winner Anthony Johnson of Kent AC at 1:08:24 just 24seconds out of the course record and similarly the ladies’ winner was Georgina Wiley achieved a commendable 1:24:17 also from Kent AC. My heartiest congratulations to both runners who clearly pushed incredibly hard.

The male team prizes went to Kent AC and female team to Maidstone Harriers. Many clubs participated and runners were most pleased to return once again to a competitive environment in addition there were many teams and many participating for charities.  
Everyone seemed in high spirits”

Club president Terry Cooke-Davis commented: "It is a fantastic achievement for the runners to complete the course either as an elite runner or a new participant to a half marathon – 13.1 miles no mean feat. The objectives of the race are to encourage participation, assist charities, visit our district and promote good health, as well as increase the profile of sport and I am particularly delighted that there was such a good turnout during these challenging times. Thanks to you all that have made the event such a success once again.

This year we support The Folkestone Youth Project and we are aware they are in need of funds and this event will assist them greatly"

Ray Johnson continues: "The event went extremely well, and help was received with sincere thanks from over 60 marshals and assistants including Hythe, Channel & Folkestone Rotary Clubs, Nice Work and many local support volunteers. I would also like to thank our many sponsors 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. They also thoroughly enjoyed the course and the seafront areas.

Further feedback / information can be viewed by going to: <http://folkestonerotary.org/half-marathon> Full race results can be found here: <https://www.nice-work.org.uk/races/folkestoneHalf/2020>

Next year's race date is under consideration to link in better with the London Marathon 2021

#### Prize Winners for Half Marathon 2020

##### Open Male

1	01:08:24	Anthony Johnson	Kent AC
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##### Open Female

33	01:24:17	Georgina Wiley	Kent AC
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Winning Team (Male) - Kent AC

Winning Team (Female) - Maidstone Harriers

Children's Run – N/A 2020 as not permitted.

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. 39,300

Over 1,050 litres of water consumed

Each male and female winner received £100.00 sponsored by Independent Insurance Services

All runners received a medal in the post due to Covid-19 rules.

Excellent feedback received

Youngest runner was 17 and the eldest runner was 81

Sponsors for the event were:

Main sponsor:

The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust

Other key sponsors:

Independent Insurance Services

Other supporters

Nice Work    Academy FM            Pod Plus            R & R Photos  
Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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

The race was incredibly well put together during such difficult times and we want to say thank you for making it happen!!! There is nothing like (after a summer of lonely training!) working towards something and it was brilliantly organised. We felt safe and enjoyed it. The marshals were troopers in that weather and they remained supportive and cheerful the whole way round. Of course, it felt quite lonely without supports but we are thankful to you and all the team for making it work.

**Run was superbly organised – my first race in COVID and not felt safer. Big thanks to all who helped me on my way and spurred me on.**

I just wanted to say thank you for putting on such a great event today. Was really thrilled to be able to still do a race in these times and getting over the starting line I can imagine was a real challenge so thank you.

I just wanted to say also that the Marshalls were superb. Really proactive in directing you and from a long way out - those small things make a huge difference when you're seeing double.

**Thank you for making it happen!!! Wonderful organisation and loved it!!!  
Sunshine next year please!!!**

Please pass on thanks to all the very friendly and encouraging Marshalls and helpers who had to stand in the cold, wet and windy weather, they were great. We (three Crows) all thought the wave starts worked well and the vast majority of runners respected distancing. In fact, it was good to be able to park near the start and not to have to hang around in that awful weather

**Thanks to the marshals, you were awesome.**

**Really enjoyed it even with the testing conditions.**

**Thanks for the brilliant marshals in such awful conditions.**

**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.**

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

**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  
28-09-2020

### **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 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](#).

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**CONTACTS**

Ray Johnson: 01303 22 11 88 / 07968 290 352 [rdjohnson2020@outlook.com](mailto:rdjohnson2020@outlook.com)

