

The Doynton **HARD HALF** *Marathon*

Back for a sixth time – 23rd January 2022.

It's once again that time of year when we get in touch to say 'hi' and to provide a few details about plans for the next staging of The Doynton Hard Half Marathon (DHHM). Firstly, we're pleased to advise that the race is going ahead: on 23rd January 2022 and entries open on 10th October 2021.

It seems a long time ago since January 2020 when we last organised the DHHM. Given everything that has happened since, we've decided to change as little as possible for the January 2022 event.

We're pleased to be returning to Doynton Cricket Club where we'll again have our Race HQ. This worked very well in January 2020 and gave us plenty of space to fill with tents and marquees to create a small but effective event village. We will be keeping the same route, ensuring that the route stays true to its reputation of being a hard and hilly cross country run and we'll make sure we spread plenty of smiling marshals and an abundance of signs around the new parts of the route. The popular pub-themed water stations will be present with beer (non-alcoholic) and snacks and we hope that the now-famous Doynton cakes will be making a return, a few phone calls over the next months will hopefully confirm this.

We don't intend to change the spirit of the race in any way and it will remain a friendly and fun but tough running race supported by the community and in support of local causes.

Car Parking

Car parking arrangements at Wick Quarry worked wonderfully in January 2020 and it felt like we finally got the race car parking right! Race car parking will be at Wick Quarry and we'll shuttle people to and from Doynton on mini buses as we did last time.

We need help

Doynton Hard Half Marathon (DHHM) requires a team of approximately 110 volunteers to achieve the high standard that we'd like to deliver on 23rd January 2022. We need people to marshal, attend water-stations, deploy signs, help in the car parks, look after the baggage store, assist at the finish line, tidy up, shout encouragement and many more things. If you're able to give up some of your time on or around race day then please let us know. No previous experience is required and volunteering is a great way of getting involved and having a bit of fun without the inconvenience of having to run 13.1 miles. As a volunteer, you'll get a packed lunch and some other goodies.

Do you like us?

The web site is now up and running (www.doyntonhardhalfmarathon.co.uk) and the race Facebook page (www.facebook.com/doyntonhardhalfmarathon) is updated regularly with news, pictures and other information. We aim to promptly reply to all messages that we receive on the Facebook page and the race email address (dhhm@emersonsgreenrunningclub.co.uk).

What about Covid?

We received a race licence from the Association of Running Clubs (ARC) and we follow the guidance of England Athletics (<https://www.englandathletics.org/>). A condition of this is that we prepare and submit a detailed risk assessment, including Covid-19 Risk Assessment. It is our intention to proceed with the DHHM as planned unless otherwise required by the government or public authority or local authority. We will continue to monitor the situation and will appraise participants and potential spectators of any change in the situation as the event date draws closer. Our Covid-19 policy is available at our website (www.doyntonhardhalfmarathon.co.uk) and our emphasis will be on personal responsibility as per government guidance we do not anticipate requiring a Covid passport (proving vaccination status) or undertaking a temperature check. We do reserve the right to turn people with COVID-19 symptoms away. Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and take a PCR test, even if these symptoms are mild (a new, persistent cough; a high temperature; or loses/has changes to their sense of taste or smell).

We will be making some adjustments:

- We will register all participants in advance and do an ID check on arrival on site for all Runners, Volunteers and Suppliers – contact details will be collected which will help to support NHS Track and Trace to reduce the spread of the virus, should it be required.
- Runners to wear face coverings whilst being transported by mini-bus from car park to the village and whilst registering. Anyone not bringing a face covering will be offered a face covering by the event organiser and encouraged to wear it.
- Hand sanitiser will be mandatory for runners to use i) before entering a mini-bus ii) at registration and iii) before/after using toilets – hand sanitiser will be provided.
- No indoor changing facilities will be provided. Outdoor changing facilities will be provided.

Handing over the reins – Goodbye Pete! Hello Andrew!

Many of you know Pete Blanchard who organised the DHHM event for the last five years. In 2020 Pete handed over the reins to Andrew Cook who has been volunteering and working closely with Pete since the first DHHM. Pete remains treasurer and advisor to Andrew in his first full year. Please do say hello if you see me treading the paths of Doynton, Dyrham and Wick over the coming weeks.

Contacting us

Assuming nothing changes with Government guidance around Covid-19, we will write to you again in the first few days of January 2022 with a brief race update but will otherwise not be in touch again about matters concerning the race. Our website and Facebook pages are updated regularly with news, pictures and other race details and you're always welcome to get in touch.

If Government guidance does change and we have to cancel the event, then I will write to you again.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Andrew Cook

on behalf of

The DHHM Race Team

Emersons Green Running Club

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