



The Doynton **HARD HALF** *Marathon*

20 January 2019

Emersons Green Running Club



We're coming back!

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. It took us a little longer to get started this year but despite the delay and a few bumps along the way, we're pleased to advise that the race is taking place: on 20th January. More than four hundred of the five hundred available spaces have sold in the two weeks since we opened for entries and we're looking forward to spending another weekend with you in Doynton, we hope in slightly less challenging weather conditions than in 2018.

It's exactly the same

In many ways, DHHM2019 will be the same as it was in 2018: it will start promptly at 11am, there will be plenty of smiling marshals, an abundance of signs on a tough cross-country route and the strangely popular pub-themed water stations will be present with beer (non-alcoholic of course) and snacks. We also hope that the now-famous Doynton cakes will be making a return in 2019 and a few phone calls over the next day or so 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.

It's completely different

We also have a few changes for DHHM2019.

Firstly, we'd like to make better use of the cricket club and we'll move some of the race facilities which have previously been at the village hall up the road a few metres, including the start and finish line which will be in the cricket club grounds. There are a few reasons for our desire to make better use of the cricket club, some which are quite interesting and others which are very dull indeed; please ask us if you're interested (see below to see how you can contact us).

The route has also changed slightly for 2019. The first section of the route which goes towards Dyrham has been tweaked and the revised route takes the pressure off the main Cotswold Way path as well as introducing another significant hill. This means that the opening section of the race is now a very challenging 10 kilometre run.

Car parking arrangements are also different in 2019. We have secured car parking space at Wick Quarry for the majority of the 250 cars that arrive in Doynton for race day plus a few other overflow car parks if we need them. Runners will be transported from the quarry along Bury Lane by a means to be determined over the coming weeks.

We need help

DHHM requires a team of approximately 110 volunteers to achieve the high standard that we'd like to deliver on 20th January 2019. 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 while having a bit of fun. As a marshal, you'll get a packed lunch and a race t-shirt and our promise to look after you as well as we know how to.

Do you like us?

The 2019 race 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).

If you'd go as far as to say that you like what we do then a 'like' on our Facebook page is much appreciated. It makes conversations with our race sponsors easier.

We're coming to the pub

We're planning a 'run to the pub' on 7th November when we'll run from our club premises in Emersons Green to the pop-up pub at Doynton village hall. We'd be pleased to meet you and answer any questions you have.

Contacting us

We'll write to you again early in January 2019 with a brief race update but will otherwise not be in touch again about matters concerning the race. Our web site and Facebook pages are updated regularly with news, pictures and other race details and you're always welcome to get in touch.

Many thanks, and kind regards,

Pete Blanchard
on behalf of
The DHHM Race Team
Emersons Green Running Club
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