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MIDMAR MILE MAKES A SPLASH WITH RECORD ENTRIES AND STAR SWIMMERS

JERRY BARNES

Excitement is mounting as the annual aQuellé Midmar Mile gets underway today, with organisers expecting a record-breaking event as entries surpass 10 000.

The opening day will see charity swimmers take to the water, raising funds for various causes, including the Pink Drive, Choc (Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa), Cansa Active, the Chad Le Clos Foundation, Happy Bundles, Mr Price Foundation, Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation, Frankie Says, and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. Events begin at 7.30 am, with swimmers navigating the course in both directions. The charity races are a major draw, attracting fundraisers, families, spectators, and potential sponsors.

Wayne Riddin, race director of the aQuellé Midmar Mile, told *The Witness* that preparations were on track for a successful weekend. "So far, everything is running smoothly. We are fully prepared and excited to host this year's event. The number of entries has exceeded expectations — we have 1 500 more participants than in 2024. There's a fantastic buzz around the event, and with good weather forecast, we're looking forward to an exciting race," said Riddin.

Among the local hopefuls is University of Pretoria (Tuks) student and national swimmer Megan Shepherd, who will be aiming for a podium finish. The competition is set to be fierce, with several international swimmers also taking part.

Paris Olympic silver medallists Oliver Klemet and Moesha Johnson are among those expected to add an extra level of excitement to the race.



FROM LEFT: Shannon Hugo (15), Sne Sibiyi (17), Gemma Goncalves (16), Bailey Lambert (15) and Daena Robinson (17) prepare for the aQuellé Midmar Mile at the G.C. Jolliffe Swimming Pool in Pietermaritzburg yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAMA MYEZA**

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