



# *The Doynton* **HARD HALF** *Marathon*

**19 January 2020**

*Emersons Green Running Club*



## **Back for a fifth time!**

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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and entries open at 7pm on 1<sup>st</sup> October. We expect places to quickly sell out as with previous years.

## **Hello to Dyrham**

The route has been changed a little for 2020 and now includes a short tour of Dyrham village. For the Dyrham residents: there are lots of details about the race on the race web site and Facebook page (see below for details). We're always pleased to talk so do get in touch if you have any questions (contact details also below). A few other tweaks here and there ensure 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 of course) and snacks and we hope that the now-famous Doynton cakes will be making a return, 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.

## **Anyone for Cricket?**

We're pleased to be returning to Doynton Cricket Club where we'll again have our Race HQ. This worked very well in January 2019 and gave us plenty of space to fill with tents and marquees to create a small but effective event village.

## **Car Parking**

Car parking arrangements at Wick Quarry worked wonderfully in January 2019 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 this year. There will, as with 2019, be NO car parking for race participants in Doynton village and we aim to keep this a traffic-free zone.

## **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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020. 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 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 2020 race web site is now up and running ([www.doyntonhardhalfmarathon.co.uk](http://www.doyntonhardhalfmarathon.co.uk)) and the race Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/doyntonhardhalfmarathon](https://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](mailto: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.

## **Handing over the reins – Hello Andrew!**

My close involvement with DHHM for the past 4 years has been an experience that has kept me sane and driven me to insanity in equal measure. Keeping the race fresh and exciting each year has been challenging and fun and, as always, there are a few new things this year to surprise the runners as they trot around the Doynton countryside. It is, however, time to get some fresh (and new, bigger and better) brains on the case and I'd like to introduce Andrew Cook who will be taking on the role of DHHM Race Organiser. Andrew is working closely with the race team this year to see what it's all about and you may see us treading the paths of Doynton, Dyrham and Wick over the coming weeks.

## **Contacting us**

We'll write to you again in the first few days of January 2020 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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