

FAQ

Before the race:

Why do I have to arrive at least 30 minute before the race is due to start?

- There will be a pre-race briefing for all competitors to explain the route, outline the rules that apply to this race and most importantly to give a safety briefing.
- As we are using public roads, we have to notify the Christchurch Safety Advisory Group of the times that our event will be affecting the roads in our area. We must start on time to minimise disruption to any Emergency Services relief plans they have put in place.
- We think there may be parking difficulties due to the increased number of competitors this year. So please don't leave it to the last minute and **share lifts if you can**.
- There are no on-the-day entries this year. But if you are transferring on the day please allow time for us to process the extra race information, especially if any medical condition is relevant.
- **RACE HQ WILL CLOSE 20 MINUTES BEFORE RACE START**
Allow sufficient time to collect your race number!

What do I need to bring?

- Please wear clothing suitable for the conditions on the day. You may also need a towel and spare clothing for before/ after the race. There is a baggage area in the Burry Room, but this is not supervised so please make sure your valuables are kept in a safe place (e.g. locked in your car, left with supporters).
- **We will provide race numbers and safety pins on race day.**
- If you are taking someone else's place, please bring along a **transfer form** (see website) signed by the person whose place you are taking and bring the **£2 admin fee** with you.

Where can I park?

- We have a record number of entries this year, so beware that parking space at Hoburne Park will fill up and **lift share if you can**. If your supporters include people with disabilities or babies/toddlers please arrive early so you can park within the Hoburne Park site. Surplus parking is available in the adjacent housing estate in **Primrose Way** and is recommended for all late arrivals. There will be signs directing you to the race.
Please be considerate of the residents when parking. Traffic is not heavy, but do take care when crossing Hoburne Lane, preferably via the alleyway near the bus stop at Celandine Close, opposite the main entrance.
- The main access road to the Hoburne Park site forms part of the course. **If arriving after 10:00 please do not attempt to enter Hoburne Park by car.**

I am thinking of cycling to the venue, are there any facilities?

- The National Cycle Route 2 is nearby, so cycling may be a good option for many local people. Our website has a link to the **interactive course map** which also lets you change the layers shown. One option is tailored for cyclists, which may help in planning your route. If approaching from the east we advise you to either use the crossing before the roundabout before the dual carriageway section. Similarly from north or west, take the pelican crossings or footbridge via Sainsbury's to avoid the A35 roundabout. There is a bike storage area at Hoburne Park. You will need to bring a lock.

Why are you asking for club/team names?

- Several local clubs and the Dorset Road Race League are using our race this year as part of a competition series. Club team captains and the DRRL administrator will find it much easier to keep track of qualifying runners if we also display team names on our results list. Some take into account UK Athletics affiliation, others don't, so if you are a club member but not UK Athletics affiliated your club name will appear in brackets on the final results (as it did on the entry list).
- We encourage participation by family groups, charity teams and others who aren't in the competition series, and we're happy to show your allegiances.

How can my family/friends volunteer to be marshals, or is there any other way they can help?

- We are small running club of about 60 members so we rely on many volunteers to help us on race day. We take our marshalling very seriously. Please note there is a marshalling briefing before the race which all volunteers are expected to attend. But we do show our gratitude by giving our marshals free refreshments and (if available) a goody bag in return, but as with all others involved with this race, there is no payment!
- Please ask our Lead Marshal (look out for the yellow tabard) on race day. They will be very grateful for an extra pair of willing hands.
- If you have connections with local businesses who can offer sponsorship, spot prizes or small items to go in our goody bags, please get in touch (details on website) and let us know what we can do in return.

What happens to the entry money?

- We do not make any money from this race. No officials, marshals or staff are paid. All profit after costs are donated to the local charities, as shown on the entry forms. This has been a tradition for this race since its inception. Bear in mind the entry fee! - The profit we generate is likely to be quite modest, so please do bring money to buy raffle tickets or tabletop sales organised by these charities if you can. They are supporting our race by helping as marshals and are keen to explain more about their charity and where their money goes. We will publish our accounts via the race website after the costs are settled. The amount donated in previous years is always declared via our race website.

During the race:

Why are personal audio devices banned?

- We want everyone to enjoy a safe race with us. Our course is on quiet residential roads and crosses one fairly busy road. In accordance with our Risk Assessment and Run Britain rules we must therefore ask that marshals can communicate with competitors at all times.

Parkruns allow me to use my baby buggy/ run with my dog. Why can't I do the same at this race?

- This is a road race including crossing roads shared with traffic – i.e. with no road closures. We do not think the course is suitable for runners with a buggy or with dogs. The safety of other runners would also be compromised, especially on some of the narrower sections of the course. It is also against the UK competition rules; breaking this rule (or any other UK Athletics rules) may threaten this race from obtaining a licence in future years.

Are there water stations on the course?

- Yes! UK Athletics rules only require water stations if the race is over six miles long, but we have responded to feedback from runners who found it quite a struggle in the heat, and now have cups of water available just after mile 3. Hopefully that means you won't have to carry water with you up the hill!
- Water is also available before the start and at the finish. If you require more fluids for the race please feel free to bring them along with you.

What is there for supporters to do while I am running?

- Hoburne Park is a very welcoming, family-oriented venue offering both indoor and outdoor play areas for children. There are other activities for all ages too.
- Your runners may appreciate their supporters cheering them and other competitors on. Supporters should be able to see runners set off, again as they complete the first loop of the park and cheer you across the finish line, fitting in a visit to the Café H or children's play areas in between!
If using a mobile phone tracking app to give real time locations of runners, please be aware that the EE network coverage is quite bad in Hoburne Park. Other networks appear to be much better!
- For those who have travelled some distance to be with us, there are many attractions worth a visit in the area. Reasonably priced refreshments are available in Hoburne Park, including tea, coffee and snacks from Café H and other beverages at the bar.

After the race:

What happens after the event?

- **There are plenty of reasons to stay on after the race so please don't rush off!**
- The post-race massage c/o AECC will be subject to availability and (depending on the weather and circumstances on the day) be either under a gazebo in the area in front of reception else in the Burry Room.

- The **age/category prizes** will be presented soon after midday. We will also try to repatriate any lost property at this time. **Spot prizes** (see **raffle** draw board for winners) may be collected at any time after the race from the charity area.

Are there changing facilities, lockers or showers I can use?

- Competitors may change in one of the toilet cubicles on site. But please arrive dressed for the run if you can. Unfortunately there are no lockers or showers available. You may leave belongings with the staff at Race HQ although we cannot accept any liability for loss or damage. It would really help to label any bags left with us with your race number to ensure they are returned to the right person.

How do I book a meal at the Hoburne Park restaurant?

- We recommend the on-site carvery restaurant and advise you to pre-book a table as we expect the restaurant to be busy on the day.
- A menu is available on-line ([THIS LINK](#) should work) Please call 01425 273379 to make a reservation.

How do I leave feedback about my race experience?

- So the saying goes; 'you get what you pay for with volunteers'. However, we strive for perfection and really do appreciate all comments, good and bad.
If your comments relate to safety matters they may be shared with other race organisers in the area via the Dorset Road Race League committee and UK Athletics.
- Competitors will all have received an email from us with the joining instructions. Please reply to that address in the first instance; hoburne5@christchurch-runners.org.uk
- Please give us a chance to respond to any problems – as some will inevitably arise. Please also bear in mind that what may be intended as a casual remark via social media can easily cause great offence to our volunteers, which makes our job of putting this event on all the more challenging next time.
- If you subsequently feel your feedback isn't being taken seriously, this race is subject to the national governing body for road running; UK Athletics, who licence our race. See the UK Athletics website for how to contact them.
- Virtually all our prizes were donated by local businesses and trades. If you win a spot prize please put a few words of thanks that we can share with the people who donated the prize.
- If you want to get in touch with us a while after the race, please contact us via club@christchurch-runners.org.uk