

Keep on runnin'



Six thousand runners, 13.1 miles and 14 race prizes for the taking – the second Oxford Half Marathon will be under starters orders on 14th October

Training has already begun for this year's Oxford Half Marathon runners, and that includes the team of three from Round & About, an official partner of the race. The 2012 event takes place on Sunday 14th October from the Kassam Stadium. A new and improved route has been plotted, taking in the wonderful landmarks and 'dreaming spires' of the city, including the Iffley Road area made famous by Sir Roger Bannister's iconic breaking of the first four-minute mile in May 1954, and the MINI Plant facility – home to production of the MINI and where the race passes through after the two-mile marker.

The times to beat were set last year by James Bellwood from Crawley AC, who won the pilot race in a personal best time

of 71 minutes; with Great Britain Olympian Liz Yelling taking the ladies' title in 74 minutes as part of her training for the 2012 London Olympics.

Running icon and local hero Sir Roger Bannister has been confirmed as the official starter for the half marathon. Andy Heyes, race director, commented: "We are honoured that Sir Roger Bannister has not only pledged support for the Oxford Half Marathon but that he has also agreed to be the official starter for the race. Having a running icon like Sir Roger start the race is inspirational for everyone involved and I'm confident that it will lead to more people deciding to register to take on a personal challenge."

Take part

Just under 2,000 runners have registered for the half marathon already and there's still plenty of time to secure a place. Go online to www.oxfordhalfmarathon.com Entry is £29 for affiliated runners and £31 for non-affiliated runners and all finishers receive a medal, a goodie bag and a Brooks Technical t-shirt.



Who we're supporting

Round & About is supporting the Oxford Transplant Foundation and we're hoping to raise at least £7,500 overall. The Foundation is a team of voluntary members of the public and healthcare profession dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the continued advancement of transplantation care in the Oxford region. Its objectives are to relieve sickness and preserve and protect health by furthering ongoing transplantation at the Oxford Transplant Centre, part of John Radcliffe Hospital, by providing for the following:

- The building of clinical and research facilities.
- The equipping of such facilities.
- The ongoing funding of these facilities.
- The funding of research fellowships and other clinical and research posts for or connected with the facilities.
- The provision of information relating to transplantation to patients, donors, relatives, carers and other interested parties.

Find out more about the charity online at www.oxfordtransplant.org.uk and support the Round and About runners at www.justgiving.com/roundandabout



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Meet the Round & About Runners

Chris Savage, Publisher

"Running a Half Marathon and raising money for a great cause will be a fantastic achievement. And running through an iconic city should, I hope, take some of the pain away..."

Alex Watts, Production Manager

"Never having done anything like this before, I'm looking forward to actually doing it. The planning and preparation is going well so far and I think I'll have achieved something personally, as well as for an excellent cause."

Stephen Clapton, Accounts

"This will be my second half marathon, so I'm hoping to improve on my previous time as well as raising money for a very worthy cause – and hopefully beat Chris and Alex!"

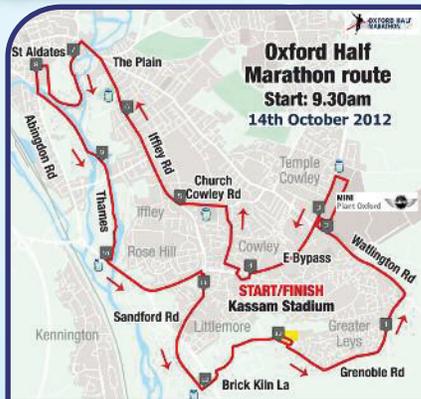


You can also support the Round & About runners by text, simply send **RMAG94** to **70070** to make a £5 donation.

The sponsors

MINI Plant Oxford is the Headline Sponsor for the Oxford Half Marathon for the second year. Other partners include Brooks Sports (Sports Brand Partner), Up and Running (Sports Retail Partner), Garmin (Training Partner), Highland Spring and Tesco (Water and Delivery Partner), Clif Bar, Moving Comfort, Visit Oxfordshire, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council with BBC Radio Oxford being the Broadcasting Partner and The Oxford Mail the media partner for the half marathon.

Oxford based charity Helen & Douglas House, a hospice providing care for children and young adults, is the Official Charity Partner for 2012.



The route...

The UKA licensed route can accommodate up to 6,000 runners and the course is largely traffic free with road closures in place. The pistol sounds at 9.30am on Grenoble Road near the Kassam Stadium with some of the route's highlights including running through the impressive MINI Plant Oxford and past the Iffley Road Track. Runners will be passing the Blue Plaque which records Sir Roger Bannister's 4-minute mile record on their way towards the city centre and world famous university college grounds including Christ Church Meadow and Oxford Academy. After crossing Folly Bridge the route heads south on to the Thames Path before merging onto Abingdon Road and finishing in the Kassam Stadium, home of Oxford United Football Club.

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