

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Run in the sun - The Chichester Half Marathon is revived

More than 500 people took place in the revived Chichester Half Marathon on a sunny Sunday morning in the city.

After a 25 year absence, the multi-terrain race started at Chichester College and passed through the city before heading north to the pinnacle of the Downs. Runners then returned to the city through Centurion Way.

The race was organised by Chichester based charity, Children on the Edge in conjunction with Chichester District Council. The charity described the event as "a challenging yet beautiful half marathon through Chichester city centre and the South Downs that aims to raise vital funds for the work of Children on the Edge" and the runners did not disagree.

"It was a fantastic event today and I really enjoyed it. The course is superb and the organisation and cheerful nature of all the correspondence has been fabulous. I was really impressed by the number and friendliness of the marshals today and also by the truly high quality good bag" (Su Leeming - Runner)

Scores of runners came in singing the praises of the marshals who were all volunteers from the local area, one said "I have never been at a race where every marshal seemed to want to be there and were all smiling and cheering the runners on". The goody bags were also a firm favourite, containing contributions from Montezuma's Chocolates, The Body Shop, Higher Nature and GNC.

The winner in all categories was James Baker with a net finish time of 1 hour, 15 minutes and 27 seconds and both Children on the Edge and the council are hoping this will grow into an annual event. One runner, Mark Ponsford stated "This will become an iconic south coast race.. a must for every serious runner".

Sponsored and supported by Montezuma's Chocolates, Store Property and Covers and a string of other local businesses and excellently marshaled by local volunteers, the race was a truly local success. Ben Wilkes from Children on the Edge said "Children on the Edge has a global reach and helps some of the most vulnerable children in the world, so it was amazing to see our local community come together not only for a fantastic race, but to support our projects in such a positive way"

Extra quotes:

Great run, loads of friendly marshals, lovely morning and stunning and challenging route, fantastic massage at end and cool goodie bag (Helen Jerome)

What a great run! Scenic, sunny, challenging, on/off road had it all and chocolate in the bag at the end. Simply Brilliant, well done all and all the volunteers/cheerers on! (Rob Sharkey)

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