

Ox Races 2018

Its Ox half time from your hosts White Star Running

So you love hills right?

Big thanks to the Rushmore Estate for allowing us to run in such a beautiful place.

Race timetable and race info

Sunday 13th May

Ox Half Marathon Start 10.30

Race briefing 10.15 admin area

First runners expected back 11.40 maybe dunno

Last runners 14.30

Cut off 4 hours

CUTOFFS

Cut off in the half is 4 hours.

All times are generous you can walk them in less

The events are also races, so some sort of running should be involved.

There will be a sweeper in all races and we reserve the right to pull you out of the event if you will not make the cut off.

THE RACE \ ROUTES

The area in which you are running is typical Wiltshire chalk down. All the paths we use are usually well maintained public access routes.

The course is designed to take in the smashing views and beautiful countryside. The course follows several paths, farm tracks a couple of roads and all are rights of way.

The majority of the route is on trails owned by the Rushmore Estate and rights of way open to the public.

We are very grateful to the Rushmore estate for their co-operation in bringing this event to life. All the team here have been very helpful moving livestock allowing us to open some gates and helping with logistics.

We rely on the goodwill of the landowners please don't do anything to jeopardise our good working relationships.

The course will be well marked with signs, arrows; some trees, posts etc will have red and white marker tape around them just to reassure you that you are not lost.

We reserve the right to change the route at the last minute. We won't do this for fun we would only do this in an emergency. For example: flooding (Ox 2014), Bull in field (Giants Head 2014), herds of pregnant angry cows (Giants Head 2013).

TERRAIN All the races are trail races, therefore about 95% of the routes are off road. There are stretches of tarmac and some made, unmade and almost made road. There will be one or two hills, (understatement). It will be muddy in places. Please don't swim in the puddles. Shoes. Difficult one, trail shoes are recommended, something with a grip. That said studs and spikes are not a good idea. We wore a variety of shoes over the terrain on our test runs. Adidas Kanadia, New Balance thingies (can't remember what they were) were ok. Inov-8 Rocclites and Terrafllys were best. Personal choice. We don't recommend road shoes.

Please note the whole course will be sign posted.

GATES

Most of the gates will be open, if its shut, its shut for a reason, please shut it behind you, don't leave it open for someone behind you. The last thing we want is an animal escaping. In some places the gates are next to a stile please go over the stile it's easier for you and we don't have to worry about gates being open.

WEATHER

The race is in the countryside in May and as we have seen in the past couple of years the British springtime can vary from beautiful warm to belting down with rain. So please take into consideration the previous days weather when considering what to wear on your feet. Trail shoes are recommended. Basically be prepared for all eventualities and bring clothing suitable for the changeable Wiltshire climate. If it's blowing a gale and belting down with rain, wear appropriate clothing. We won't be cancelling or changing the race if it's inclement weather. We will be sitting in the warm by a fully stocked bar full of cider eating pizza waiting for you.

SAFETY

On the back of your number write an ICE number. In Case of Emergency. This will help us and you. If you are kidnapped by locals or pass out at the sheer joy of seeing man in a kilt, we need to get you help as quickly as possible. We recommend that you carry a fully charged mobile phone for emergency use with race HQ emergency number stored. This number is

07930335746

If you need to drop out of the race at anytime we will try and get you as quickly as possible. The good thing is, the race is very centralised and you are never far from an access road or from the finish. We will have 4X4 vehicles and ambulances on standby to come and get you if need be. If you do drop out

please, please return your number to admin. We then know that you are safe and we do not have to send out search parties. If you drop out at a marshal point, aid or waterstation give your number to the lead marshal.

We advise you carry a fully charged mobile phone with just in case.

ROADS

There are a couple road crossings and there are some quiet sections of road in the race. The dangerous crossings will be manned, you are responsible for your own safety, marshals cannot and will not stop traffic for you. If a marshal stops you at a road junction or crossing, it's for your benefit. People round here drive tractors and Combine Harvesters and 4x4s and they will win in a "runner vs. 12 ton Tractor game of chicken".

IPODS & MP3 PLAYERS

The perennial question about these devices...is, are they allowed? Yes. We won't drag you out of the race for wearing one, but we advise against it. "WHY? I love my new Shed 7 album, I can't run without it"

Safety is the only reason we don't encourage you to wear them. The roads, as we said are quiet country lanes, but there are cars, trucks, tractors and even the odd combine harvester out there and you need to hear them and any instructions from marshals and warnings. If you really must sing along to your favourite Perry Como album, turn it off when you get onto the road sections. For your safety and the fact it's a lot of paperwork for us if you get flattened by a tractor.

WATERSTATIONS \ AIDSTATIONS

Waterstations will be evenly placed. About 4-5 miles apart. These stations will have plenty of water. All drinks will have cups. We know not everyone likes cups but we want to cut out litter completely, cups are easily disposed of, as bottles are bulky and are usually chucked after a mile or so. The area is full of Organic farms and has many sites of scientific interest, Wildlife reserves and is teaming with Deer, Old Dears, Pheasant, Snarks and Pandas and other wildlife and livestock. We would not want any animals affected by litter. So we ask everyone to drink and dispose of the litter at the waterstation or carry it with you to the next one.

If you have a Camelbak or carry a bottle ask the nice marshal to fill your bottle straight from the container.

Anyone caught deliberately littering will be carted through the streets of Tollard Royal in chains and disqualified, **we have zero tolerance to rubbish** (rant over).

Aid stations will have the usual goodies.

This years Lovestation will be sponsored by **Piddle Brewery**.

Now these aid stations are designed for you to get some cake, a sports drink, a gel, jelly babies, there will be cider and a few savoury bits.

Half Marathon

3 ish miles and maybe 7 ish miles Aid station, 10 miles Lovestation---Cider time 10 miles aid station

PHOTOS

Race photos are expensive, so we have our own photographers and make photos available to you, free, on our own race facebook page, there will be a selection of the best photos on Facebook and on our site in the Gallery area.

Look for the big bloke in the beard.

Last year we took 9,000 all of them great except the one of the cow poo.

This means any photos you or your supporters or fan club take can be added as well. Our pet photographer will be on site to snap you looking your best, before, during and after the race. Our photographers will be wandering around the course taking snaps and will be at the finish should you wish to have a photo with friends and family. These snaps will then be uploaded in due course to the Flickr page and to Facebook. By entering the race you are giving your permission to have your photo taken and placed on Flickr. If there is a pic you object (didn't get your right side, your bum looked too big etc.) please contact us and we will remove it. (Please note you must highlight the said photo we won't root through all the pics looking for it)

MEDALS & TSHIRT

All runners in the half will receive free race t-shirt and a quality uniquely minted race medal. You get this if you complete the race. No finish no medal, no t-shirt, no regrets, no tears goodbye.

RACE NUMBERS We will be chip timing the event.

Pick your numbers up on the day from Race admin at the race start area.

If you are camping, pick up your number on Friday

Please arrive with enough time to pick up your number/chip.

We will have a fast track system to get you and your number together quickly.

Basically anything that will save us a bit of time on the day will be helpful. The Ox admin will be open from 7am-ish on Sunday to pick up your numbers.

BAGGAGE

So it's much easier if you keep your stuff in your car. Leave your car keys with Auntie Julie

Car Keys are better yes?

Detach Baggage label from race number and attach to keys. We will keep them in a box with a label, when you return you can then pick a random car at the end of the day to drive home in.

No number no car keys

Please note you leave the bags at your own risk. Just give Auntie Julie your keys its good yes?

CHANGING

There isn't any. We feel nudity in the middle of field in Wiltshire is more fun.

SHOWERS

There are showers onsite please clean up after yourselves.

TOILETS

There will be portaloavs at the Ox. There is never enough we know, we ask you to be patient.

FOOD ON RACE DAY

BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be available to buy from Catering team onsite and Coffee from Rosie at Grounded look for the Land Rover and will be served from 7am-ish

FINDING US

Use the post code **SP5 5QB** in satnavs.

DIRECTIONS TO RUSHMORE PARK

From Blandford Forum

Leave Blandford on the A354 heading towards Salisbury. After about 3 miles you will pass through the small village of Tarrant Hinton. About a mile further on, you will pass a turning on the left signed Chettle & beyond, at the brow of the hill, there is a left turn, marked Rushmore Golf Club on a large brown tourist information sign. Turn left here. You will now be following small brown signs marked with a golf flag & a directional arrow.

Follow the WSR signage Do not turn off the lane you are on & follow the direction of the arrow **NOT THE FLAG**. The lane runs for about 1 mile before it meets the B3081. As you approach the junction you will see a large triangle of grass, which the road forks either side of. Take the right hand fork (you will see another small brown sign). Follow the WSR signage

Turn right onto the B3081, heading towards Sixpenny Handley. The road heads up hill & at the top of the slope, you will find the golf club entrance on the left hand side.

The drive takes you through the Rushmore Park. Follow the WSR signage.

From Bournemouth

Leave Bournemouth on the A338 towards Ringwood.

At the large roundabout (junction with A31) take the 2nd exit towards Three Legged Cross.

Stay on this road for about 6 miles, through Three Legged Cross & through Horton until you reach the junction with the B3078.

Cross over the B3078 by turning left & immediately right outside the Horton Inn & continue for a further 3 miles. You will reach a junction with the A354. Cross over this road by turning right & immediately left. You will see a large brown tourist information sign indicating the golf club. Follow the WSR signage

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The drive takes you through the Rushmore Park. Follow the WSR signage.

From Salisbury

Leave Salisbury on the A354 heading towards Blandford Forum.

After about 11 miles you reach a large roundabout. Take the 3rd exit onto the B3081 towards Sixpenny Handley.

Pass through Sixpenny Handley village heading towards Tollard Royal. The golf club entrance is about a mile further on the right hand side.

The drive takes you through the Rushmore Park. **Follow the WSR signage**

Once you are in the park follow the White Star signs

Please drive carefully in Rushmore Park. Sheep graze on all the fields and there are few gates and fences, it's quite likely sheep, pedestrians and the odd Golfer will wander out in front of you. The roads are narrow on the estate but there are plenty of pull ins to allow overtaking. That said there is little traffic on the roads. The campsite, start/finish and race HQ are beyond the golf club up the road. Race HQ is at Cuttice lodge, the campsite is next door on your left. Follow the WSR signage

Once you go past the building on your left you will go through some big gates and a cattle grid

Camping on the left, You cannot miss us.

Day parkers follow the signs

Follow the WSR signage

Please don't park on the roads as they are in constant use and you don't want your car clipped by a tractor.

CAMPING AND EXTRA INFORMATION

The campsite, start/finish are all in the same area.

Please bring the kids they are more than welcome. **But we are not a crèche you look after them.**

Water will be available at race admin. There will be portaloos. There will be bins to chuck rubbish in and please if you bring your dog clear up after them, sheep graze the fields so we don't want them catching anything nasty. Please keep your dogs under control at all times. The estate has graciously allowed us to have dogs on the campsite. Sheep graze in the fields next to the campsite they must not be disturbed. If in doubt leave Fido at home.

White Star staff will be onsite all weekend please rock up Friday night, we have permission for camping all weekend

No open fires or singing late into the night THAT'S YOU Chippenham Harriers

Be aware of random nudity....just saying it happens THAT'S YOU AGAIN
Chippenham Harriers

We cannot guarantee the security of valuables, please lock them in your car out of sight.

Subtle Touch

Will also be on site once again to offer lots of treatments, get in touch to discuss your needs. https://www.facebook.com/Nikkiismall/?hc_location=group

Freebies

We have partnered up with Runderwear for the upcoming 2018 races and are giving 5 lucky Ox runners the chance win a free pair of their Award-winning Runderwear. Enter here for your chance to win: <https://a.pgtb.me/0bdsVp>

Being runners themselves, they know how important is to feel comfortable when you run. Their high performance underwear is guaranteed chafe-free and uses 360 degree seamless technology and a lightweight, durable and moisture wicking fabric.

If you know the essentials you need for upcoming races then they have also given entrants an amazing 15% off to use in their online shop <https://www.runderwear.co.uk/>

Simply use WSR discount code: RW-RUNOX15 - valid until 31 May 2018

Also our friends @Primrose Kitchen will be on hand giving away tasters of their muesli and Granola. They'll also be able to tell you about all their other products from their delicious selection <http://primroseskitchen.com/>

Some things to remember:

- This is deepest, darkest Wiltshire the nearest cashpoint will Blandford or Salisbury.
- Bring sunscreen and wet weather gear.
- Bring insect repellent, it should be ok on that field, just in case.
- Bring torches there are no street lights out there.
- Bring toilet paper.
- There is a shop in Six Penny Handley.
- We will have a generator so there will be some lighting onsite.
- The nearest hospital God forbid you need one is Salisbury Odstock which is about 25 minutes.

FAQ

Q. What's a "Lovestation"?

A. At our races we realise that sometimes you need a bit of boost at the bit in the race where you are starting flag, normally 20 miles in marathons, 7 or 8 in a half etc, so we have the Lovestation.

So when you rock up to the Lovestation you can have a sit down and glass of something nice like flat Coke or a cider and chew on a cake or Scotch egg and just get your s*** together before venturing on to finish the race. There may be a hug or two.

The serious side is we can also have a look at you and assess whether you are in a fit state to carry on.

We realise that most of our races are not easy and present some challenges , heat, hills, exhaustion etc can all take a toll and we are keen not to have any casualties. We take safety seriously and would only pull you out of the race if we felt you looked like death and for you to continue would put you at risk.

Q.What's the weather going to be like?

A. One moment while we consult with the weather Gods.....dunno It might rain, it might not, it might be sunny. Bring all your clothes and every pair of running shoes you own just to be safe. And a warm vest.

Q.Is the route marked and signposted?

A.Yes

Q.Is it self supporting?

A.No we will feed you, we like well-fed runners.

Q.Can I wear an ipod?

A.If you want

Q.Can my tent go next to my mates?

A.Sort your own camping out, camp in the areas marked and you are fine.

Q.Can my car, motorbike, light aircraft, park next to my tent?

A.Yes it's a big old field..

Q.Camper vans?

A.Yes bring them, if it has loo we may want to borrow it....joke btw

Q.When my husband, wife, boyfriend, sweetheart etc runs where can I go?

A. Tell them to hang around and watch you are elites it will be over in a flash

Q.Headtorch why?

A. Camping is dark in the night you know dark

Q. Do I have to enjoy myself?

A. No, its running about in the most beautiful areas in Wiltshire you will hate it

Q. What other races do you organise?

A. Loads look on the website

Have fun at the Ox but remember its not a Funrun.