

Dear PHOENIX Race the Thrones Runner,

Please find below a summary of the final instructions for the Race to the Thrones 2 NIGHT Run, 6 hour timed event, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

***(Please note, we absolutely cannot make ANY changes to entries at this late stage)***

If you're not already in our **Phoenix Running UK Facebook Chat Group**, please consider joining as final info is also posted there as well as any last minute updates and other information - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/500321893480620/> and come and find us on Twitter @PhoenixRunning2

If you have run with us before, please **do still have a read through** and familiarise yourself with the points below as these will cover off any questions you may have and should ensure things go well on the day.

**REGISTRATION AREA – Opens at 3.15pm**

**Elmbridge XCEL LEISURE CENTRE – at the FRONT of the centre.**

**Waterside Drive  
Walton-on-Thames  
Surrey  
KT12 2JG**

**RACE Numbers**

All race numbers will be given out at registration on the day from the Leisure Centre. Race numbers must be displayed clearly on the front of your apparel at all times during the event.

**START TIME**

**4.00pm** – this is a 6 hour timed event where everyone starts together.

There will be a mandatory pre-run race brief 15 minutes before the start time at the leisure centre and then we all walk to the start together.

**RUNNING at NIGHT (Head Torch)**

This is an evening run and as such you may be running after dark. There are no lights whatsoever on some sections of the towpath, so a torch is mandatory.

You **MUST** carry a head torch after 6.30pm (sunset on the day is 7.03pm) with spare batteries in case of battery failure.

If you fail to have a working head torch after 6.30pm we reserve the right to remove you from the event – it sounds harsh, but this is a condition of our permit (so please, please bring a working torch and spare batteries)

**PARKING – for your sat navigation, use KT12 2JG**

**Important note on Parking – the parking barrier will close at 9.00pm**

There is ample parking in the new Sports HUB centre, in the Xcel Leisure centre and on both sides of Waterside Drive, before the mini roundabout. All parking in the area is **FREE** of charge.

The barriers on both the Hub and the Xcel Leisure Centre close at 9.00pm so if you think you will still be running after this time, then please park on the sides of Waterside Drive (on the approach to the centre) – there are no restrictions here and parking is free of charge.



**Please help us with this as the leisure centre has been awesome in accommodating our runs!**

Please, please **DO NOT** park in the small Weir Hotel (pub) car park as it is reserved for hotel residents only. This is a strict stipulation from the landlords and I'm keen that we can keep coming back.

### The VENUES

#### The REGISTRATION VENUE

The Elbridge Xcel Leisure Centre will be opening their doors to us and giving us the use of their facilities. The café will be open for teas, coffees and other refreshments.

### TOILETS & FACILITIES, BAGGAGE

**Registration Area** - Please come to the registration area first. There are toilets in the Leisure Centre which will be open for our use. There are also hot showers for afterwards, which you can use for just £1 if you show your race number (these are usually £5). There are lockers in the leisure - **you will need to bring your own small padlock** - where you can leave

small bags and valuables. There is then a short walk to the start line (approx. 3-4 minutes) which we will all make together after the mandatory briefing. **The Leisure centre closes at 9.00pm.**

**VERY IMPORTANT** – Once we leave the registration area at the Leisure Centre all access to the toilets at the centre can **ONLY** be made through the **FRONT OF THE BUILDING**. Please, please **DO NOT** try and gain access through the rear doors as these are linked to the alarm system. Even if you think these doors are open – please go around to the front – its only a little bit further to walk (or run)!

### **The START VENUE**

The start / finish area is in front of the Weir Pub on the towpath. The pub will be open throughout the event and allows us use of their toilets during our events and they also have an excellent menu. Depending on what time you finish, you may want to stay on after the event for a bit of food and a drink or two before last orders at 11.00pm.

**Start Area** - There are toilets at both the Weir pub and in the Leisure Centre which will be open for our use during registration and the event. The Leisure Centre also has showers, **but remember it closes at 9.00pm.**

**Turn-a-round Point** – There is a public toilet block about 150 meters away from the turnaround point. You will need to cross the road next to the towpath, please take care here, especially after dark. These toilets are sporadically closed due to some ongoing plumbing issues and will not be open later in the evening, so if you do need to pre-plan toilet stops into your run, best to plan these around the leisure centre and / or Weir pub, near the start / finish end of the route.

### **BAGGAGE**

There are lockers at the registration venue in the Xcel Leisure Centre where you can leave any valuables - **BUT please remember this closes at 9.00pm.** We'll have a tent at the start area on the towpath, which will be carefully positioned to be in our view at all times, where you can leave baggage or extra clothes at your own risk. I would strongly urge you **not** to leave any valuables here.

### **RACE HQ – Start & Finish Area & Aid Station**

Race headquarters, also known as 'the tuck shop' will be in front of the pub on the towpath, where there will be a well stocked aid station with lots of water, various squash flavours and chocolate, sweets, crisps and general fun. We have a significant section for Vegan runners, so if in doubt then please ask because we have a lot more vegan options than you might think! If you want you can leave your own drinks and supplies here too (please label and place them on the left side of the tables). You will never be more than 1.65 miles from the race HQ as you run, (as long as you stay on the correct route that is; see route description below).

### **DRINKS SYSTEM – your very own watering hole!**

We're very proud of our drinks system. It's taken a lot of trial and error, but now it couldn't be simpler. At our main start / finish aid station you'll find one or two large drinks holders. These have numbered holes which match your race number. That's basically it - find your watering hole and drink from it all day!

We actively encourage you to bring your own reusable cup if you have one, but if you don't then don't worry because we have fully biodegradable and compostable Planet X 7oz paper cups for those who don't like the squashy reusable ones. The choice is yours!

When you head to the start we recommend that you glance across to see roughly where your numbered watering hole is and pop your own cup in there if you have one. That spot is yours all day long. Then just start running and we'll do the rest. Any reusable cups placed in the drinks holder get filled with water for the first lap. If you haven't got your own cup then by the time you get back one of our Planet X cups will have magically appeared in your hole, also with water in it. After each lap you can let us know what you want next (more water or a variety of squash flavours are available) and when you get back after each lap your drink choice will be waiting for you. How's that for service!

We do ask you not to force water bottles or other oversized bottles into your hole as it's specially designed for the cups, but rather pop these on the left side of the tables where you can just as easily access them after each lap.

If you're using one of our Planet X paper cups and you want to be super-efficient then help us at the end of your run by taking your cup out when you finish and pop it in the bin! These all go into our composters later.

### **Race Timing - LAP RULES and Etiquette**

This is a **six-hour** timed event. You can complete as many or as few full 3.28 mile laps in this time as you want. You need to complete one lap to qualify for the finishers' medal. After each lap you will pass in front of the pub, through the Race HQ and collect a coloured wrist band. You **MUST** get a wrist band for every lap you complete. When you finish running the wrist bands will be counted and verified to give you a final distance and time. Please do not just leave without ensuring we have captured your finish time and counted your laps.

We reserve the right to ask you **not** to go out for another lap, towards the end of the time limit. This is only if there is no chance you will complete another full lap in the remaining time – please work with us on this – it's for safety!

Complete 1 lap and you're both a finisher and a winner in our eyes!

Complete 4 laps for a half marathon distance

Complete 8 laps for a full marathon distance, recognised by the 100 Marathon Club

Complete 9+ laps for an ultra marathon distance

When you no longer want to run you must **RING THE BELL** (an old 1920's antique school-bell) which will be located at the race HQ. This is the signal that you have finished. At this point your distance and race time will be manually recorded, to be published in the results section on our website. You will then be presented with your finisher's medal.

**The PB GONG** – we also have a 'Personal Best' gong (located near the finisher's bell), so if you run a PB time with us, then feel free to dong that gong as loudly as you can!

### **The ROUTE & WEATHER**

Please do have a look at the weather forecast in the days preceding the event and come prepared.

It has turned chilly of late, almost like..... Winter is coming!

As the sun goes down (sunset is 7.03pm) the temperature will cool. You **MUST** have a head torch with you for any running you do after 6.30pm as most stretches of the towpath do not have any lighting and will be very dark after sunset.

Either trail shoes or road shoes are perfectly suitable options – personally I only ever wear road shoes on this route.

Please note that the towpath is a public right of way, so we would ask that you give due consideration to all other users. In particular, take extra care at the start / finish area, where there is a 100 meter section of towpath which is occasionally access by vehicles, please be vigilant. As the route is an 'out and back' you will be passing other runners coming in the opposite direction, so please give care and attention to this and have a safe run. Use the opportunity to hurl encouragement, amongst other things, at your fellow runners. ***Personally, I've found that every single time I wish another runner well I run just a tiny bit faster myself!***

All runners begin with the River Thames on their right hand side and run towards and under Walton Bridge. Navigation is about as easy as it can get – just follow the river! If you can't see the river, then somehow you are lost. Retrace your steps until you can see the river and you are found.

At 2.65km, or 1.64 miles you will reach the **turning point**, which is past Walton Bridge at the far end of an area called Cowey Sale.

Please go all the way to the turn-point where there will be a large yellow sign on the left of the path telling you to 'turn around'.

The overall course has no elevation gain or drop making this a flat and fast route. Well, except for the small blue bridge you go over at the Marina, but that is sure to get easier and easier on each lap.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS for your phone**

In the event of a medical emergency call the emergency services on 999 **AND** contact the Race Director, Rik Vercoe, directly on 07949 273732 **AND** always pass a message onto the next available runner (in case you do not have a mobile phone, this step is particularly important as the message is then relayed back to Race HQ). If you are that next available runner, come directly to race HQ and inform the Race Director or one of the Marshals.

Whilst it is not compulsory to carry a mobile phone during this event we do highly recommend it. Regardless, please program my mobile number into your phone – **not later, do it right now!**

Race Director: **Rik Vercoe**  
Mobile: **07949 273732**  
Email: [PhoenixRunningUK@gmail.com](mailto:PhoenixRunningUK@gmail.com)

### **FIRST AID / DEFIBRILLATOR & Medical**

A first aid kit is located at the race HQ.

A fully automatic CPR Cardiac Science **G5 DEFIBRILLATOR** is located to the right side at the rear of the race HQ. Look for the AED signage. In an emergency this can be accessed by anyone. Open the case, open the defibrillator and follow the voice commands.

A Medical, Emergency & Ambulance Evacuation Plan is located at Race HQ in a red waterproof folder.

Foil blankets are kept at Race HQ for both emergency purposes and can be requested at any time.

### **And FINALLY**

Our races are generally small and designed to be low key and FUN!

We hope you have a great day out with us and we look forward to welcoming you!!

### **PHOENIX Running Ltd**

*For our full terms & conditions, we ask all participants to go to [www.phoenixrunning.co.uk](http://www.phoenixrunning.co.uk) and familiarise yourself with our T&C's and general race rules.*



