

Frequently Asked Questions

Before the race:

How do you recommend I travel to the race?

- There will be **no parking available to competitors on the Hoburne Park site.**
We recommend travelling by bike if you can (there are five [Beryl Bike bays](#) very close to the race – one is even within the grounds)
There is a bike storage area at Hoburne Park. You will need to bring a lock.
- If travelling by car please arrive in good time so you can park considerately and have enough time to walk from the nearby housing estate and up the main drive to the Reception building at Hoburne Park, where the Race HQ will be.
- 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 please **share lifts if you can.**

Here is a link to an [interactive map to help you plan your journey](#).

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

- You will need to collect your bib number and pin it to the front of your clothing. The number and pins are collected from our Race HQ in the main building in Hoburne Park. **Race HQ must close 20 minutes before race start** (i.e. at 10:10) to allow sufficient time to process all the information that we need ahead of the race starting.
- 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 of any dangers we have spotted that may affect you.
- As we are using public roads, we have to notify the Christchurch Safety Advisory Group (SAG) 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. If any last minute changes are necessary we need time to communicate the information to you ahead of our allotted race time.
- We advise against on-the-day entries. But if you are entering on the day please allow extra time for us to process the extra race entries, especially if you have any medical condition we should be aware of or if you are visually impaired and with a guide runner.

What do I need to bring?

- Please wear clothing suitable for the conditions on the day. There are no shower or changing facilities available and we recommend leaving any personal items with supporters or locked in your car.

- There is limited storage in the Burry Room, but this area is not supervised and will be in use for our staff briefings before the race. Please do not leave any belongings in the reception area or restaurants at Hoburne Park.
- **We will provide race numbers and safety pins on race day.** Water and fruit squash will be available before and after the race.
- If you are taking someone else's place, please bring along a **transfer form** (available from the race website 2 weeks before the race) signed by the person whose place you are taking and bring the £2 admin fee with you.

The entry form asked for club/team names in addition to my club - why?

- Several local clubs and the Dorset Road Race League are using our race this year. UK Athletics Club teams are normally assigned to the runner id number used by the RunBritain race entry system. Club captains and the Dorset Road Race League administrator will find it much easier to keep track of qualifying runners if we also display team names on our results list.
- Other informal teams have often taken part in our race, and unfortunately the RunBritain entry system only recognises UK Athletics registered clubs. Therefore if you are not a UKA member, or if you have recently changed clubs, or if you just want to enter our team competition as a family, charity, works team or social group, you can use the club/team name to gain recognition at this race.

Who should I ask if I have any questions on Race Day?

- Please look for our Lead Marshal (look out for the yellow tabard).
- 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 have heard this comment from some, who are presumably comparing our five mile race to a parkrun (a 5km race held each Saturday at 9am in various parks which is free to participate). We do not make any money from this race and our entry fee is kept competitive with other local races of a similar distance. The profits raised are **all** donated to the local charities as shown on the entry forms. This has been a tradition for this race since its inception. The profit we generate is likely to be quite modest so please do bring money to buy raffle tickets or table top sales organised by these charities.
- In previous years we have spent a large proportion of the entry fee on souvenir medals. Some competitors regard these as essential, others have been critical of the design. Recently it has come to our attention that race medals are made from materials that cannot be recycled, and they have drawn a lot of bad press for the environmental impact. We

therefore decided not to arrange for finisher medals this year. Instead we are offering a rather more generous finisher reward than previous years: We hope you approve!

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 Road Running rules we must ask that you do not wear any type of headphones during the race. Our marshals must be able to communicate with competitors at all times. We are aware that one brand of headphones has a marketing slogan that claims it is accepted for all UK Athletics races. This simply is not true. Competitors wearing headphones will be disqualified (it is a race rule) so please notify our team if you need to wear headphones as an aid to hearing.

Parkruns let me push my child in our 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. Thus we do not think the race course is suitable for runners with a buggy or with dogs. Safety of other runners would be compromised, especially on some of the narrower sections of the course. It is also against the UK competition rules; breaking this rule may threaten this race from being given a licence in future years.

Are there water stations on the course?

- UK race rules require water stations only if the race is over six miles long, but competitors requested we provide a water station on the route which you will find just past the half-way point. This water station will provide water in paper cups, and also offers you the chance to top-up your water bottle if you want to carry one round with you.
- There is no official refreshment stop providing any other food or drink. Members of the public have been generous in previous years but please be aware this is not organised by us.
- Water is also available before the start and we will be providing water at the finish. If you prefer other food or drink for the race, please feel free to bring them along with you but dispose of any wrappers in the bins provided or hand items to one of our marshals. Please do not drop any rubbish on the course

What is there for supporters to do while I'm running?

- Hoburne Park is a very welcoming, family-oriented venue offering both indoor and outdoor play areas for children and there are many other amenities for adults.
- Your runners may appreciate you cheering them (and other competitors). The race route does a lap of the perimeter roads before leaving the holiday park so you should have a few chances to cheer the people you know.
- Reasonably priced refreshments are available in Cafe H, including tea and coffee and a range of cakes and other snacks.

- A new open-top bus service began in 2022, which terminates at Hoburne Park and runs along the coast to Sandbanks and back, with stops along the way allowing you to catch a different bus back. At the time of preparing this FAQ the service has been suspended owing to the provider going into administration. We understand that this holiday special service may resume, but have no further details at present.

After the race

What happens after the event?

- The Covid-19 pandemic meant many races discouraged competitors from congregating, even outside, and since this time the format of many road races has changed. There will not be a prize ceremony after this race. If we are able to offer individual or team prizes (subject to sponsorship at the time of preparation – note that prizes are not required by race rules for events of this size) these will be posted to the winners as soon as possible.
- Hoburne Park facilities include a bar and restaurant so please don't rush off (see below for how to reserve a table at the restaurant)
- We will try to repatriate any lost property before you leave – please check for any lost or mislaid items and feel free to ask any of our marshals in case anything has been handed in.

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

- Unfortunately not. Sorry.

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

- We can personally recommend the on-site restaurant, but we 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?

- However hard we strive for perfection we know we won't always get it right. Please give us a chance to respond to any problems you have had. Please also bear in mind that what may be expressed 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. We really do appreciate all comments, especially if they're kind - but more importantly if they're helping us to improve our race.
- 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 via our race report to UK Athletics.
- Competitors will have received an email from us with the joining instructions. Please reply to that address in the first instance; hoburne5@christchurch-runners.org.uk But if you wish to get in touch after the race actions have been completed please use the normal Christchurch Runners contact address; club@christchurch-runners.org.uk

- If you 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.