

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

## Big increase in entries for local race

**Entries for this year's Barns Green Half Marathon are 75% up** on this time last year. **470 runners** have so far entered the race which goes through **Barns Green, Itchingfield, Christ's Hospital and close to Southwater** taking in some of the most picturesque countryside in West Sussex. New car parking facilities, and additional facilities at the start and finish area have enabled the organisers to accommodate more runners for this year's event.

Last year 1800 runners took part in the race in very wet and trying conditions and the race organisers are hoping to reach the 2000 mark this year for the **28<sup>th</sup> running of the event on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October**. Many other races all over the country are finding it increasingly hard to get all the relevant permissions for road closures and such like. This means there are much fewer race opportunities and options for runners of all standards to experience the thrill, colour and excitement of taking part in a proper road race with hundreds of other competitors.

Barns Green Half Marathon **Chairman, Vernon Jennings** commented, "We are delighted with the number of entries so far. We are very lucky to have such great support from a whole host of local people and groups in the village who help with the planning and logistics of staging the Barns Green Half Marathon. All the local clubs and societies get involved, from the cubs, brownies, rugby, cricket and football clubs through to the stool ball team. They all put in a huge effort to prepare the course and the event for the committed running enthusiasts and indeed those people that just want to get some exercise, have a great day out or take part in the fancy dress competition".

This year the race is sponsored by Five Oaks Audi and Slinfold Golf and country Club and their involvement will help to increase the amount of money that the event raises for various charities and youth organisations in Barns Green.

This year's Barns Green Half Marathon chosen charity is Bliss, the special care baby charity for premature babies. Entry to the race is through the Barns Green Half Marathon website; [www.barnsgreen-half.org.uk](http://www.barnsgreen-half.org.uk)

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