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COMMONWEALTH GAMES STAR EILISH McCOLGAN TO JOIN SIR MO FARAH AT THE BIG HALF

- **Double Commonwealth Games medallist leads elite women's entries**
- **Jake Smith and Andy Butchart join Sir Mo in elite men's race**
- **David Weir racing on 10th anniversary of his Paralympic success**

Commonwealth Games star Eilish McColgan will look to continue her memorable year when she makes her debut at The Big Half on Sunday 4 September 2022.

The Scot had a Commonwealth Games she will never forget – winning the gold medal in stunning fashion in the 10,000m and then following that up with a silver medal in the 5,000m.

McColgan will be chasing further track success at the European Championships in Munich next week before turning her attention to the roads, starting with The Big Half on Sunday 4 September which she will use as preparation for her TCS London Marathon debut on Sunday 2 October.

McColgan said: *"I'm so excited to be coming back to London to run in The Big Half after a wonderful summer of sport for me. To be making my debut in The Big Half after winning a gold and silver at the Commonwealth Games is a dream come true. The TCS London Marathon isn't too far around the corner, so it'll be great to test my legs and see where I am before taking on the full marathon distance in October."*

McColgan is among a stellar list of British competing alongside Sir Mo Farah at London's community half marathon, which will once again be screened live on the BBC.

Challenging McColgan in the women's race will be reigning champion of The Big Half, Charlotte Purdue, who secured her third win at the event last year and set a new women's course record of 69:51 in the process.

Purdue, who had to pull out of the World Championships marathon after not recovering from a bout of Covid-19, is another athlete looking to test her fitness ahead of this year's TCS London Marathon.

Other leading names in the elite women's field include Samantha Harrison, who is a two-time runner up at The Big Half and placed sixth in the 2022 Commonwealth Games 10,000m final. Steph Twell, another former runner-up of the event, will also be on the Start Line of The Big Half this year.

In the elite men's race, Sir Mo Farah, who announced he was running The Big Half last month, will be joined by an extremely strong domestic field that includes two former champions: last year's winner Jake Smith and 2020 victor Chris Thompson.

Andy Butchart, seventh in the 2022 Commonwealth Games 10,000m final, will make his first appearance at The Big Half, which will be only his second race over the half marathon distance. Jack Rowe, runner-up in The Big Half 2021, is also on the Start List again.

There will also be a London reunion for Farah and Ellis Cross. Aldershot, Farnham & District AC athlete Cross made headlines in May when he shocked the four-time Olympic champion to win the Vitality London 10,000.

The elite wheelchair field will be headed by Paralympian David Weir, who returns to The Big Half for the fourth time. Weir will also be looking to celebrate 10 years since he won his four Paralympic gold medals at the 2012 London Games.

He said: *"The Big Half weekend falls on the 10-year anniversary of winning two of my four gold medals at London 2012 – the highlight of my career. To still be racing on the streets of London with the crowd cheering you on is something you never quite get used to. I'm looking forward to being back and I hope the crowds will be inspired by the memories of 2012."*

Weir will be hoping to bounce back from the disappointment of puncturing while leading the Commonwealth Games marathon final in Birmingham. Joining him on the Start Line will be the winner and runner-up in that Commonwealth Games marathon: champion JohnBoy Smith and second-placed Sean Frame.

In the women's wheelchair race, two-time London Marathon champion and 2020 Big Half winner Shelly Woods alongside Commonwealth Games marathon silver-medallist Eden Rainbow-Cooper.

The Big Half will be shown live on the BBC and on The Big Half Facebook page on Sunday 4 September.

Behind the elite races, an estimated 15,000 participants are due to take part in London's community half marathon. The event celebrates the diversity of London and, in particular, the four boroughs the route passes through: Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich.

The race starts close to Tower Bridge and finishes beside the historic Cutty Sark in Greenwich.

Also taking place on the day, as well as The Big Half, is The Big Mile which begins at 14:30 and is for all ages and abilities. The route starts and finishes in Greenwich with the finish also beside the Cutty Sark.

To apply for media accreditation for The Big Half [click here](#). **Media accreditation will close at midnight on Friday 19 August.**

- Mo Farah (59:07)
- Jake Smith (60:31)
- Chris Thompson (61:00)
- Paulos Surafel (61:51)
- Jack Rowe (62:11)
- Mohamud Aadan (62:28)
- Ross Millington (62:33)
- Philip Sesemann (62:47)
- Matt Leach (62:57)
- Adam Clarke (62:58)
- Adam Craig (63:12)
- Omar Ahmed (63:33)
- Weynay Ghebresilasie (64:06)
- Paul Martelletti (64:18)
- Nicholas Torry (64:23)
- Joshua Grace (64:27)
- Charlie Hulson (64:28)
- Andy Butchart (70:03)
- Ellis Cross (Debut)

ELITE WOMEN START LIST (all GBR unless stated, PBs in brackets)

- Eilish McColgan (66:26)
- Charlotte Purdue (68:10)
- Samantha Harrison (68:12)
- Steph Twell (68:55)
- Clara Evans (70:17)
- Calli Thackery (72:16)
- Louise Small (73:47)
- Breege Connolly (IRL, 74:40)
- Anna Bracegirdle (74:53)
- Rebecca Bunting (78:14)

MEN'S WHEELCHAIR (GBR unless stated, PBs in brackets)

- David Weir (41.19)
- JohnBoy Smith (43.34)
- Sean Frame (49.04)
- Danny Sidbury (51.34)
- Sam Kolek (POL, 51.50)
- Tiaan Bosch (51.51)
- Moatez Jomni (52.52)
- Michael McCabe (54.17)
- Matthew Clarke (57.25)
- Jamie Edwards (68.30)
- Steve Montgomery (69.10)

WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR (all GBR, PBs in brackets)

- Shelly Woods (49.49)
- Eden Rainbow Cooper (62.37)
- Martyna Snopek (63.02)
- Liz Mcteranan (70.11)
- Claudia Burrough (75.67)
- Claire Danson (82.11)
- Ella Bouvard (90.35)

ENDS



NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Big Half is a world-class mass participation event, organised by London Marathon Events, over the half marathon distance (13.1 miles)
- The community event was first held in 2018 and takes place in four London boroughs: Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.
- The Big Half is also a campaign called #WeRunAsOne. This unique event will demonstrate how sport and community can come together to inspire social change, create social cohesion and improve health and wellbeing. Find out more at thebighalf.co.uk
- London Marathon Events Ltd, organisers of The Big Half, gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

For further information, please contact:

Ryan Goad | Head of Communications & TV | London Marathon Events Ltd
e ryan.goad@londonmarathonevents.co.uk | m +44 (0) 7950 708574

