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## McCOLGAN, FARAH & WEIR SET TO LEAD MORE THAN 16,000 PEOPLE AT THE BIG HALF 2022

- **London's community running festival returns on Sunday and will be streamed live on BBC iPlayer and the Red Button**
- **Eilish McColgan, Sir Mo Farah and David Weir head the stellar British elite field**

The Big Half – London's community half marathon – returns on Sunday (4 September) with an exciting mix of world-class racing, fundraising and community celebrations.

Leading the elite fields will be recently crowned Commonwealth Games 10,000m champion Eilish McColgan, multiple Olympic and World Championships gold medallist Sir Mo Farah, and Paralympic star David Weir.

McColgan will be up against the reigning The Big Half champion Charlotte Purdue in the elite women's race, while two former winners, Jake Smith and Chris Thompson, will be among those challenging Farah in the elite men's race.

Commonwealth Games marathon champion JohnBoy Smith will renew rivalries with Weir in the elite men's wheelchair race, while Commonwealth Games marathon silver medallist Eden Rainbow-Cooper is the one to watch in the elite women's wheelchair race.

For full details on the elite fields, click [here](#).

The wheelchair races will start at 08:25 and the elite men and women plus the masses will get under way at 08:30. The action will be shown live across the BBC from 08:10 to 10:30 on BBC iPlayer, the Red Button and [BBC Sport website](#), and on The Big Half [Facebook page](#).

In addition to the elite races, there will be more than 16,000 The Big Half participants, including more than 3,000 people from community groups across London and a number of famous faces, including Harry Judd from McFly, *Casualty* actor George Rainsford and comedians Helen Thorn and Rob Deering.

Also included in The Big Half is the New Balance Big Relay, where teams of four can take on four legs of the 13.1-mile distance, and The Big Mile, a family-friendly event over the final mile of the route.

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whether to select a New Balance finisher's T-shirt designed by a community group and/or finisher's medal, or to have a tree planted instead, as part an initiative with Trees not Tees that has seen more than 3,000 trees planted.

Full event details and start times:

- **The Big Half (08:25 start)** – a half marathon starting close to Tower Bridge before passing through four London boroughs – Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets – and finishing in front of the iconic Cutty Sark.
- **The Big Mile (14:30 start)** – a free, family-friendly one-mile fun run around Greenwich for first-timers, families and children of all ages.
- **The New Balance Big Relay (08:30 start)** – teams of four participants take on The Big Half in relay legs of around 5K each.

**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](https://thebighalf.co.uk)
- London Marathon Events Ltd, organisers of The Big Half, gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust
- The Felix Project is the official charity partner of The Big Half. Find out more [here](#).
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £97 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

**For further information, please contact:**

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