



Blackmore Vale Lions Club
Charity number: 1019759

Blackmore Vale Lions Club
"We Serve"
The Whole of the Blackmore Vale

Postponement Blackmore Vale Half Marathon 2026 from 1 Feb 2026

It is with great regret that following; a survey of the course and infrastructure, conversations with local people, the Met Office, The Environmental Agency and Dorset Council and a study of the weather forecast the Race Committee has decided to postpone the 1st Feb 2026 version of the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon to a date, yet to be decided, later in the year.

Safety of all the participants and staff is our main concern. When this notice was drafted many of the roads into Bishop's Caundle were blocked by floods, some of the course was under water and the alternative routes were equally difficult. Infrastructure (parking, water points etc) was underwater/slushy and unsafe to park on. The drains in the villages on the route are full to literally overflowing. Whilst it might be possible to splash through the puddles no one can predict things like potholes which can't be seen under the water nor predict the behaviour of drivers who may well think the runners needed soaking to cool down.

There are more pulses of rain forecast and the predictions for Sunday ranges from light to moderate showers and a fairly strong breeze with some sun too(!) but feeling like 4-6°C. Given the race staff do this voluntarily and a good few of them and more than a few of the runners are on the experienced side of life and many of the staff relatively young the conditions are ripe for hypothermia.

For the avoidance of doubt;

- We are very sorry this has happened for a second consecutive year. It is a pain, inconvenient and it means a lot more work for our volunteers..
- All entries (as at 14.30 on 30th January 2026) will be carried forward to the new date which will be decided as soon as possible. Selection of that date is not easy or a "gimme", but it will be done as soon as possible in consultation with the authorities, suppliers and the clubs.
- Once published should any existing (as at 14.30 on 30th January 2026) person with a valid entry be unable for good reason (at the discretion of the Race Director) to make the new date their entry will be carried forward to the 2027 event, provisionally 7th Feb 2027.
- As agreed with all sponsors and charities they will receive publicity on both club and half marathon websites and club Facebook pages from 1st Feb for one year. Should Blackmore Vale Lions Club adopt a different/host bearer system for the websites publicity will continue on the new website from its opening until the 2027 event.
- I will get the race opened up beyond the 30th Jan for new entries.
- All existing suppliers will have their order honoured.

Thank you for your continued patience and continued support. We and our supported charities are most grateful.

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Otter'.

Tim Otter
Race Director
Blackmore Vale Half Marathon
President
Blackmore Vale Lions Club.