

All you need to know about
the Baxters Loch Ness
Marathon is here



LOCH NESS MARATHON

EVENT GUIDE
27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Baxters
LOCH NESS
MARATHON
and Festival of Running



SUPER GOOD IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE





WELCOME

We're delighted to welcome you to the 2026 Baxters Loch Ness Marathon & Festival of Running. With participants travelling from across the UK and around the world, we hope you enjoy your time in Inverness and the stunning Highland scenery that makes this such a special event.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Baxters Food Group, our title sponsor since the very first Loch Ness Marathon in 2002. Their longstanding support has played a huge part in the growth and success of the event over the years.

We'd also like to thank all of our sponsors and partners for their continued support in helping us deliver the event.

Our thanks also go to Highland Council, Police Scotland, Alba Traffic Management, Scottish Ambulance Service and all the other agencies and organisations whose expertise, support and hard work help make the event possible.

A huge thank you goes to the local residents, communities and businesses along the route for their patience, support and cooperation. We're also incredibly grateful to the many volunteers, charities and organisations who give their time over the event weekend - their enthusiasm and support are an essential part of the Loch Ness Marathon experience.

Finally, we'd like to wish you all the very best with your final weeks of training. We hope you enjoy the build-up, have a fantastic event and make the most of your Loch Ness experience.

We look forward to welcoming you to Inverness!



Malcolm Sutherland
CEO,
Caledonian Concepts



Audrey Baxter
Executive Chairman
& Group CEO,
Baxters Food Group

This year's Baxters Loch Ness Marathon & Festival of Running marks almost a quarter of a century of our association with this iconic event.

For almost 25 years, we have been proud sponsors and, during that time, the event has provided the perfect platform to demonstrate the visionary ethos established by my great grandfather, George Baxter, in Fochabers almost 160 years ago to 'be different, be better'. Each year thousands of runners, including many who have represented Baxters, take on the challenge to do just that.

And this year is no different. We will soon welcome runners from near and far to this glorious part of Scotland as they push themselves to great'ness' against the stunning backdrop of Loch Ness. Once again, personal goals will be achieved and huge amounts will be raised for a range of good causes.

Whatever your motivation to step up to the start line, I know the sense of accomplishment you will feel at the finish will be phenomenal!

Good luck everyone - wishing you all the very best for this year's event.

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THANK YOU

TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS



For nearly 160 years, Baxters has been one of the UK's best-loved food producers. From humble beginnings as a small, family run grocery store in Fochabers in Moray in 1868, the company has grown into a global organisation, renowned for its leading brands and products, including soups, conserves, condiments, beetroot, pickles and chutneys.

Baxters is extremely proud of its Highland heritage and ethos to 'be different, be better', which has been celebrated through the company's association with the iconic Loch Ness Marathon for almost a quarter of a century.

www.baxters.com



HIGH5 are a UK leading Sports Nutrition Brand that specialise in endurance sports. We have a range of trusted gels, drinks and bars which help you to be at your ultimate best, any day. At HIGH5 we're passionate about making sure you achieve your goals, however big or small they may be; whether you're a new starter or an elite professional. We've been on the Sports Nutrition scene for over 20 years and love constantly looking for new ways to make our products perform better, taste better and be more convenient. HIGH5 are committed to creating nutritious products with amazing natural flavours.



Run4It are delighted to support this year's Loch Ness Marathon and are offering participants a **15% discount** to help get their training off to the best possible start. Run4It pride themselves on offering great products, quality customer service, and expert, honest advice to help improve your running experience! You can use your 15% discount voucher in Run4It's **7 shops** across Scotland or online at run4it.com. In store, Run4It offer a free analysis and shoe fitting service called +runlab, and can recommend models best suited to your running style and needs.



Make your fundraising count

We're celebrating all the incredible fundraisers who have already raised thousands for good causes, what an achievement. Fundraising is a brilliant way to make even more of your event and help a cause close to your heart. Haven't started fundraising yet? There's still time! Set up your fundraising page on Enthuse, our official online fundraising partner, and personalise it with your photo and story. Then share it with friends, family and colleagues and start collecting donations for your chosen charity. Whether you're just getting started or giving your fundraising one final push before the big day, every donation makes a difference.



Ready to get started? Click [here](#) to set up your fundraising page!!Is **ERDINGER Alkoholfrei** one of your rituals? Do you lay out your kit the night before a race, put your left sock on first or have a certain play list that you listen to? We all have our own rituals before we do any activity, but ERDINGER Alkoholfrei should always be your ritual after sport! Isotonic refreshment at its best and the only recovery drink your body needs – Cheers!

COO:PAH

THE RUN
COACHING APP

Meet Coopah, The Run Coaching App of the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon. Built by world-class coaches, backed by sports science, Coopah creates a plan based on your goals, your pace, and your schedule. Arrive at the start line race ready, chat to Coopah's UK Athletics coaches in app on anything, from fuelling to injury, strength training to kit. Use the code LOCHNESS for two weeks free & 25% off. Train smart with no wasted miles, on a plan handmade for you.



Versus Socks: Performance Socks Engineered for Every Mile

Born in 2015 in Stellenbosch, South Africa, Versus Socks set out to redefine one of the most overlooked pieces of performance gear: the sock. Frustrated by the uninspiring options available, the founders created performance socks engineered for comfort, durability and the demands of sport. From everyday training to race day, every pair is designed to go the distance. Technical materials, thoughtful construction and bold designs combine to deliver socks that perform mile after mile. Whether you're chasing a personal best or simply enjoying the run, comfort and durability come as standard. More than a sock brand, Versus is driven by innovation, craft and a relentless pursuit of better. What began in Stellenbosch has since gone global, with more than 6 million pairs sold worldwide and a place in the kit bags of runners and active people everywhere, from parkrun regulars to podium chasers.





BAXTERS LOCH NESS MARATHON 2026

EVENT WEEKEND TIMINGS

Saturday 26 September

10.00 - 18.00	Registration open	Event Village, Bught Park, Inverness IV3 5SQ
10.00 - 18.00	Expo & Runners Café open	Event Village, Bught Park

Sunday 27 September

07.00 - 07.30	Marathon participants arrive at bus departure point in Inverness	Inverness Ice Centre, Bught Drive, IV3 5SR
07.30 - 07.50	Buses depart Inverness for the marathon start See page 12 for bus pick up locations & times around Loch Ness	Inverness Ice Centre, Bught Drive, IV3 5SR
09.00 - 16.00	Event Village open – Expo, street food, kids’ activities, live music	Event Village, Bught Park
09.30	Start of Baxters River Ness 5K	Bught Park
09.45	Start of Wee Nessie	Bught Park
10.00	Start of Baxters Loch Ness Marathon	Near Whitebridge, South Loch Ness
10.30	Start of Baxters River Ness 10K & Corporate Challenge	Culduthel Avenue, Inverness, IV2 6RE
11.45	10K/Corporate Challenge presentation	Event Village, Bught Park
14.00	Loch Ness Marathon presentation	Event Village, Bught Park

Share your Loch Ness stories & photos with us



Plan your trip

The Event Village is in Bught Park, Inverness, IV3 5SQ, approx. 1 mile from Inverness city centre, bus and train stations, and 11 miles from Inverness airport.

TRAVEL TO INVERNESS

Please visit our website for information on getting to Inverness.

There are good road and rail links into Inverness offering the opportunity to enjoy fabulous scenery en route.

Ember offer an affordable, electric, 24-hour bus service connecting Inverness to the rest of Scotland.

WHERE TO STAY, WHAT TO SEE & DO

For accommodation, where to eat and what to see and do, visit **www.visitinvernesslochness.com**.

CAR HIRE

Our official car hire partner is Arnold Clark Car & Van Rental.

Arnold Clark is offering all participants and supporters a **20% discount** off their best web rate on car rental. To book, visit **arnoldclarkrental.com** quoting promotional code **BAXT** or call **0141 567 0561**. Terms and conditions apply.



Parking

It is anticipated the area around Bught Park will be very busy on event weekend and traffic flow will be slow. We encourage you to allow plenty of time and where possible, please consider being dropped off, car sharing or walking to the Event Village.

Saturday 26 September

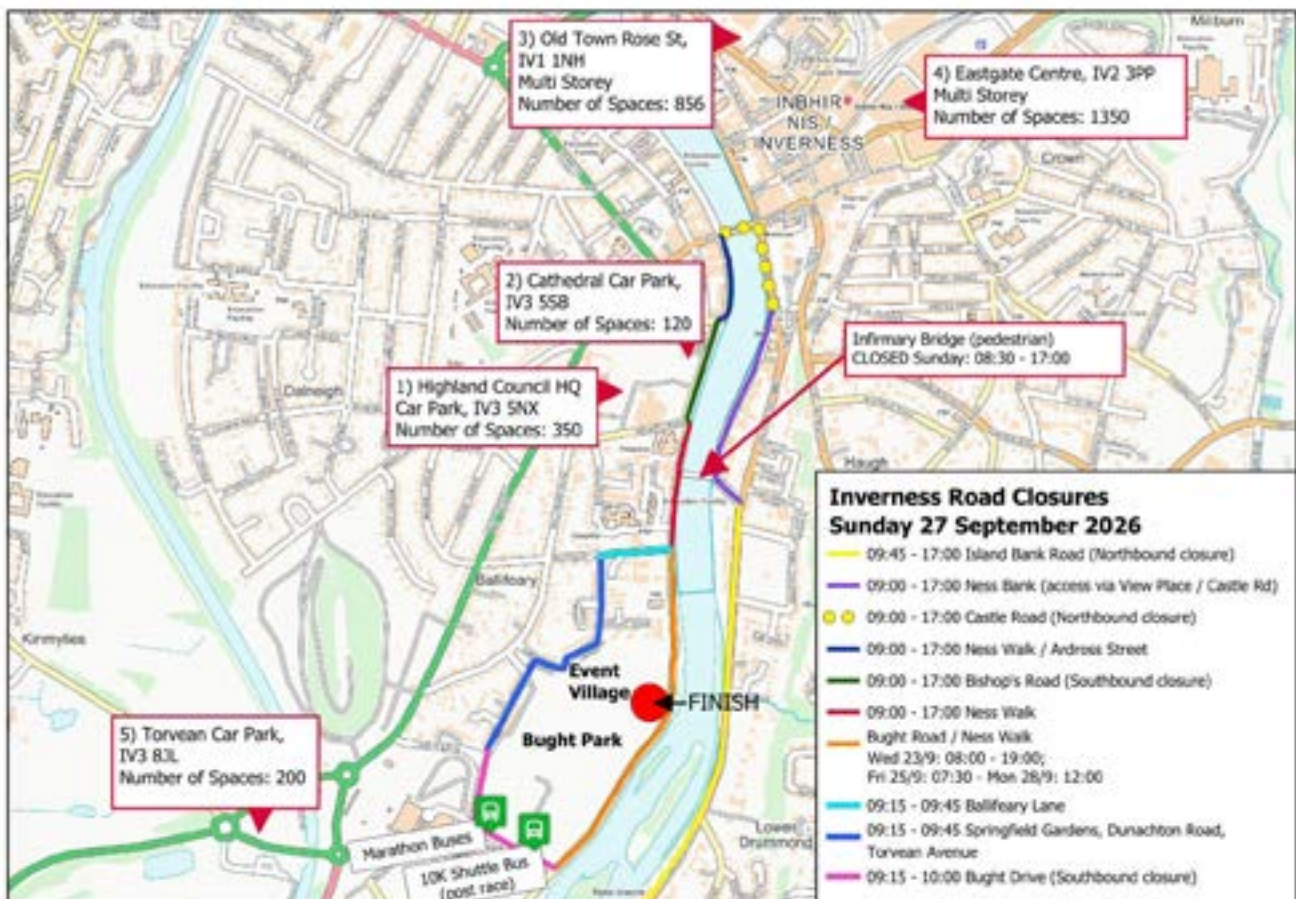
Event Village, Bught Park: there is **NO** parking available at Bught Park. Parking is available in public car parks, refer to the map below. Parking charges may apply.

Sunday 27 September

Marathon participants: There is **NO** parking at Event Village, Bught Park (location of bus departure point) or at the Ice Centre, Leisure Centre, Archive Centre, Highland Rugby Club or Whin Park. Please consider walking where possible. Parking is available at the following public car parks, please note parking charges may apply.

- Highland Council HQ Car Park, IV3 5NX (10min walk to marathon bus pick up point)
- Torvean Car Park, IV3 8JL accessed from roundabout opposite Premier Inn, Glenurquhart Road (5min walk to marathon bus pick up point)

A drop off point is available on Bught Drive, please follow marshals instructions.



Parking for supporters coming to Event Village

There is **NO** parking available at Bught Park. Parking is available at public car parks (refer to map on page 8), parking charges may apply.

Disabled parking is available on Bught Park, please note this is on grass and is located 200m from the Event Village. Follow signs to 'VIP Parking'.

Please note there is NO parking available at the Ice Centre, Inverness Leisure, Archive Centre, Whin Park, Highland Rugby Club or in the surrounding residential streets.

Please be considerate towards local residents and businesses when parking around the Event Village.

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

On Sunday, road closures will be in place along the event routes and around the Event Village – please allow extra time. Bught Road is the only road closure in place on Saturday. Please refer to our website.



Registration & Event Pack

REGISTRATION

You are required to attend pre-event registration at the Event Village, open from 10.00 to 18.00 on Saturday 26 September, to collect your bib number. **Please bring photo ID and check our website in advance to find your bib number.**

If you are not able to make registration, a friend may register on your behalf. They are required to bring their photo ID as well as a signed letter or email from you ([template available here](#)) confirming permission to collect your event pack.

EVENT PACK

Your Event Pack contains your bib number with timing chip attached to the back, detachable baggage label (to attach to your kit bag) and safety pins to fix it to your top.

BIB NUMBER

- Complete the emergency contact and medical information on the reverse of your bib number.
- If you have a medical condition, provide as much information as possible on the back of your bib number and put a red cross on the front so medical teams are aware of any medical condition should you require assistance on the course.
- Attach your bib number to the FRONT of your top so it is visible at all times and not obscured by a hydration vest.



**Please add the Event HQ numbers to your phone:
07512 791602 and 07598 780779**

**These numbers will be operational from 06.30 on event day
and are to be used in an emergency ONLY.**

What to expect at the Event Village



There is lots going on at the Event Village all weekend for participants and supporters.

Whether it's some new gear to run in, some fuel to get you around, something to help you recover or some last minute running essentials, you'll be spoilt for choice at the Expo.

Come along to the Runners Cafe on Saturday and tune in to our panel of running experts or chill with some live Scottish music.

There will also be street food, pop-up bars, family fun activities, local bands and pipes & drums.

DOGS

Dogs are welcome in the outside areas of the Event Village at Bught Park.

Assistance dogs only are permitted inside the tents and marquees.

Please be aware the Event Village will be very busy over the event weekend which can create a stressful environment for dogs.

We recommend that you leave them at home where possible.

Transport to the Marathon Start

FROM INVERNESS

All marathon participants are transported by bus to the marathon start from Inverness Ice Centre on Bught Drive IV3 5SR. This is a 10-minute walk from the Event Village. Please arrive between 07.00-07.30. Buses depart from 07.30-07.50. Please note you do NOT need to pre-book your place on the bus from Inverness.

Portable toilets are located at the bus departure point and at the start. The journey from Inverness takes around one hour and buses will not stop after leaving Inverness.

There is strictly no spectator or vehicle access to the marathon start due to traffic restrictions and logistical and safety reasons. It is not possible for participants or spectators to make their own way to the marathon start.

LOCH NESS PICK-UP LOCATIONS

For those staying around Loch Ness, buses will pick-up from the following locations.

Pre-booking is essential. Please complete this [form](#) by 20 September to book your place. Return transport is not provided to these locations after the event.

North Loch Ness

08.15	Loch Ness Hub, Drumnadrochit IV63 6TX (off A82)
08.40	Fort Augustus village car park, PH32 4DF (off A82)

South Loch Ness

07.40	Dores (opposite Dores Inn, IV2 6TR)
07.55	Inverfarigaig (junction of Inverfarigaig Pass/B852)
08.05	Lower Foyers (junction with B852)
08.10	Foyers Stores, Foyers IV2 6XU
08.25	Junction of B862 & B852
08.35	Whitebridge Hotel, Whitebridge IV2 6UN



What to expect at the start

When you arrive at the start, our marshals will guide you to drop off your kit bag and to take your place at the start line.

There are portable toilets at the start. Please be considerate to those around you, we do not tolerate antisocial behaviour.

DROP OFF YOUR KIT BAG

- On arrival at the start, you can drop off your kit bag in the baggage vehicles.
 - Make sure your baggage label (this is attached to your bib number) is securely attached to your kit bag.
 - Only small kit bags such as a daysack or sports bag will be accepted. No suitcases or loose items. We recommend placing items in a waterproof bag within your kit bag to protect contents from the weather.
- We recommend having some warm dry clothes to change into at the finish.
- Do not put any valuables or anything flammable or sharp in your kit bag.

KEEP WARM & DRY!

Weather conditions can change very quickly in the Scottish Highlands and you should bring appropriate clothing to keep warm and dry at the start in case of adverse weather. We recommend wearing some old clothes or 'throwaway' layers to keep you warm whilst waiting to start. All discarded clothing will be collected and donated to local charities.

Think layers!

It's easier to take a layer off if you're getting too hot rather than the discomfort of feeling cold.



What to expect along the route

THE ROUTE

The Marathon starts at 10.00 between Fort Augustus and Foyers on the B862 (grid ref: NH460120; what3words: node.range.relieves) and finishes at the Event Village, Bught Park in Inverness.

We have priority on all roads along the route, however please keep to the left hand side of the road at all times so that emergency and official vehicles can travel along the route if required.

The final section of the route is northbound closure only from the village of Dores to the finish where traffic will be travelling on the opposite carriageway. Take extra care on this section and keep in the left-hand lane at all times.

We reserve the right to alter the route if operationally required.

WATER & GEL STATIONS

Being well hydrated and drinking little and often is essential for achieving your best performance. Stop for drinks as you have planned in your training – remember you don't need to drink at every station, forcing yourself to drink too much water during an event is as dangerous as drinking too little.

There are 7 water stations and 4 gel stations providing High5 Energy Gel Aqua along the marathon route. Water will be provided in 330ml recyclable plastic bottles.

Try not to alter direction suddenly at water and gel stations and steer a course for a table where there are fewer participants.

Our decision to use plastic water bottles at water stations is based on a combination of participants' welfare, the importance of hydration during an endurance event and the environmental impact.

We have therefore chosen to work with Wenlock Spring because the bottle is 100% recyclable including the sports cap and label.

TOILETS

Portable toilets are available at the start and at every water station along the marathon route. There are also portable toilets at the Event Village and bus departure point in Inverness.

USE OF HEADPHONES OR EARPHONES

Only bone conductor headphones are allowed in the event, standard headphones, earphones or earbuds are not permitted.

DOGS

For safety reasons, NO dogs, including assistance dogs, are permitted on any of the event routes.

LITTER & RECYCLING

➤ PLEASE DO NOT DROP WATER BOTTLES OR LITTER ANYWHERE ON THE COURSE APART FROM AT LITTER DROP ZONES OR WATER/GEL STATIONS.

- Recycling and general waste bins are provided at the start, at each water and gel station along the route and at the Event Village. Please do not litter and take care to put your waste in the correct bin.
- Litter drop zones with recycling bins are located every mile between mile 3 and mile 25 where you can discard your water bottles, gel wrappers and other waste.
 - When using these zones, take care to discard your litter at the LEFT edge of the road to reduce the risk of hazard to participants behind you.
 - Keep your rubbish in your pockets and get rid of it at these locations.
 - Only clean water bottles can be recycled, those thrown into the verges and hedgerows cannot.
- We aim to recycle every plastic bottle used at the event however plastic bottles can only be recycled if they are empty, so please remember to #DrinkDrainDrop.
- It is a privilege to run alongside Loch Ness and through Inverness and we encourage all participants and everyone coming to the event to dispose of their rubbish responsibly and recycle where possible.

CUT-OFF TIME

Our aim is to support every participant, whatever their pace, from start to finish and provide the best possible experience.

The Marathon starts at 10.00 and the cut-off time is 7 hours at 17.00. In the interests of safety and to minimise the disruption to the local community and residents, roads along the final 3 miles in Inverness start to re-open from 16.30 and the finish line and Event Village start to be dismantled from 17.00. If you think that you will take longer than 6 hours 30 minutes, we ask you to use the pavement through Inverness. Our team will be there to support you to the finish line.

RETIRING

For those participants who can no longer continue, a sweep bus follows the rear of the field and will take you back to the Event Village in Inverness.

Please notify a marshal or one of our medical team at the nearest water or gel station if you wish to retire, and then indicate to the bus as it passes that you wish to be collected. For safety reasons, please do not leave the course without informing an event official.

FIRST AID & MEDICAL CARE

First Aid will be available in both static and mobile units along the course. First Aid will be located at the start, every water station, at the finish line and the Event Village. Should participants not be allowed to continue for medical reasons or require hospital treatment, Event HQ will be notified.

We hope your training has gone well and would like to remind you that if you have recently had a bad cold or have been ill it is important to seek medical advice prior to the event. Also if your training has not gone to plan, we ask you give serious consideration to your ability to run the marathon.

What to expect at the finish

THE FINISH

The Finish line is at the Event Village at Bught Park, Inverness. Once you cross the finish line, please keep moving to make space for other participants.

Once you've collected your finisher items, please head to the baggage collection area.

All finishers receive a medal, t-shirt (unless you opted out during registration which will be indicated on your bib number) fruit, Erdinger Alkoholfrei beer and a fantastic goody bag.

Baxters soup and roll is available for all finishers in the food tent.

FIRST AID & MEDICAL SUPPORT

First Aid will be available at the finish line and Event Village, please notify a marshal if you or a fellow participant feel unwell or require medical treatment.

MEETING YOUR SUPPORTERS

The finish area is secure and extremely busy, with no access for supporters. They will be able to wait within the Event Village to meet up with you.

CHANGING TENT

A changing tent is available in the Event Village. We are sorry there are no showers available. Please note that showers/changing are NOT available within Inverness Leisure Centre.

MASSAGE

Massage and taping will be available during Registration on Saturday and after your event on Sunday.

SPECTATORS

The final 4 miles through Inverness provide the best vantage points for spectators. Please note the Infirmary Bridge will be closed to pedestrians and cyclists 08.30-17.00 on Sunday. For safety reasons, it is NOT permitted to accompany any participants by bike or to cycle along any section of the route.



Don't miss out on...

RESULTS

Results will appear on our website by the end of event day and you will also receive a text with your official time.

Please note results and prize giving are based on the information provided by you at the time of entering.

PRESENTATION

The Loch Ness Marathon presentation takes place at 14.00 on the podium in the Event Village. It is not possible to post prizes overseas, please contact the Events Team to arrange collection.

OFFICIAL PHOTOS

Your official photos will be going LIVE from the moment you pass a MarathonPhotos Live photographer around the course. Share your bib number with your friends and family and they can [register here](#) to be notified as soon as your first photos are available online. Share your photos and event day experience on Facebook and Instagram.

iTAB

Official times will be provided to iTAB and you will receive yours in the post soon after the event.

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

Our exciting range of official merchandise, featuring t-shirts, hoodies, running caps, buffs and keyrings will be available to purchase at the Expo.





Event day check list

- ✓ Get dressed in tried and tested gear.
- ✓ Pin your bib number to the front of your top before leaving home or your accommodation, and check it is not obscured by a water belt or vest.
 - ✓ Attach your baggage label to the top of your kit bag.
 - ✓ Allow plenty of time to get to your bus departure point on event morning as buses cannot wait for late arrivals. If you miss the bus, it is not possible to make your own way to the marathon start.
- ✓ Go to the toilet before getting on the bus! Portable toilets are located at the bus departure point in Inverness. The journey from Inverness takes around one hour and buses will not stop after leaving Inverness.
- ✓ Please be aware that weather conditions can change very quickly in the Scottish Highlands and bring appropriate clothing / layers to keep warm and dry at the marathon start in case of adverse weather.

Helping our environment

We are committed to making the event as sustainable as possible and to minimise the event's environmental impact. Please refer to our website for some of the ways we are eliminating waste and reducing the environmental impact of the event however we do need your help.

Save the Date:
26 September 2027

Early bird entry
opening on event day

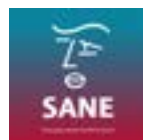


RUN FOR CHARITY

Make your marathon miles count by fundraising for one of our official charities.

There are lots to choose from, all doing incredible work to help others and improve lives. Take a look below and check out www.lochnessmarathon.com/run-for-charity/

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GET YOUR NUTRITION RIGHT ON RACE DAY

During a marathon, more than two thirds of your energy come from carbohydrate but as the miles tick by, your stores get depleted. With your energy levels low, you will find it harder to maintain your early pace. You could even hit the dreaded 'wall'. But with the right nutrition strategy, you can keep your energy levels higher. HIGH5 are passionate about helping you achieve your goals and have put together a guide to fuel your marathon to help you get the most out of your race and enjoy your time on course.

[Get your nutrition plan now](#)



The on course nutrition:

Energy Gel Aqua

Orange and Berry

[Product Info](#)

ZERO

Citrus

[Product Info](#)



improve your run



FIND US AT THE **SPORTS** **EXPO**

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-6PM
& SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 8:30AM-5PM

Event Village, Bught Park, Inverness IV3 5SQ

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App Store Rating
4.8 ★★★★★

Play Store Rating
4.9 ★★★★★



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

A registered charity



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**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Join Team Macmillan

Use your place in the Loch Ness Marathon to fundraise for Macmillan Cancer Support and make the miles count for the 3.5 million people living with cancer in the UK.

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

A registered charity

Why Team Macmillan?

At Macmillan, we do whatever it takes to support every person living with cancer in the UK, whoever and wherever they are. But we can't do it without your support.

To join Team Macmillan, visit our webpage [here](#). You'll receive a complimentary post-run sports massage, top and goody bag, as well as the loudest and proudest cheer on the course!

Just £17 could provide a session of emotional support to a person living with cancer with a Macmillan buddy.



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