



11 April 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon – one for all the family!

Organisers of the annual SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon are hoping for another record field at next month's event and, to add extra incentive, families are encouraged to take part and celebrate International Day of Families.

The event, which has continued to grow in popularity during recent years, is being held on Sunday 15 May and incorporates the Southland Half Marathon Championship.

SBS Bank Gore manager Scott Bowden said the SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon would again offer 6km and 12km run or walk options for "those wanting to set a personal challenge but take a more relaxed approach to achieving their goal, while the half marathon is certain to attract some key names who will be out to set some record-breaking times."

"It was fantastic to see a number of local businesses using the event as a team-building challenge last year and it would be great to see that happening again. This year the half marathon also happens to coincide with International Day of Families so it would be an ideal opportunity for families to register as a group challenge for one of the race events."

Mr Bowden said the team from SBS Bank was again looking forward to assisting organisers on the day and cheering on those taking part.

"When we're involved with our customers and our communities, they can expect us to lend a helping hand – it's what we do at SBS Bank. The support and benefits we provide is not something everyone can expect from their local bank, but with more than 140 years experience and a commitment to giving back, it's just part of our everyday culture.

"We couldn't be more proud to get on board with Gore Harriers and help with such a successful and worthwhile community event as the half marathon again this year."

SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon co-ordinator Graham Hall said it had been another year for record entries last year with more than 300 participants and an increase in half marathon runners.

"The 12km proved to be the most popular and there were a lot of new faces with a good number of younger people and first-timers. It had a real community, feel-good atmosphere about it with a great turnout at the lunch and prize giving so we're certainly looking forward to more of the same this year."

Mr Hall said the SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon was designed to be a user-friendly event for everyone to enjoy, rather than being an elitist event. By offering a comprehensive package, including the option of three course distances, lunch, prizes, a great venue and fantastic atmosphere, along with the support of community sponsorship, the event had evolved into a valued and well established attraction on the region's running calendar.

Everyone who pre-registers by Friday 6 May will go in the draw to win a \$200 pair of Asics running shoes, with a draw for men and women, courtesy of Asics and B & B Sports, in Gore. Postal entries also close on 6 May, but entries can be taken on race day from 9am at the Gore Town and Country Club.

Fast facts:

AGE: SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon is in its 24th year

WHEN: Sunday 15 May

TIME: All events start 10.30am, Compulsory race briefing at 10am

WHERE: Starting outside Resthaven, Main Street. Finishing outside Gore Camping Ground, Main Street

EVENTS: Half Marathon with 6km and 12km fun run or walk options.

PRE-REGISTRATIONS: Post to Gore Half Marathon, C/- G Hall, 13 Naumai Street, Gore.

Postal entries close Friday 6 May.

RACE DAY REGISTRATIONS: 9am at the Gore Town & Country Club

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