



# Simplyhealth



## **COMMONWEALTH FIELD ASSEMBLED FOR SIMPLYHEALTH GREAT BIRMINGHAM 10K**

THE SIMPLYHEALTH Great Birmingham 10k will feature a stellar elite line-up to mark the city's bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The 10k, now in its third year, takes place on Sunday, 30 April, and will be televised on Channel 5 for the first time.

Event organisers The Great Run Company have assembled a top-quality field with runners recruited from Commonwealth nations ahead of the event which takes place in the city centre.

Olympians Timothy Toroitich and Lee Merrien, of Uganda and Guernsey respectively, will battle it out with English Commonwealth games athlete John Beattie and New Zealander Dan Wallis, who was victorious in last weekend's Simplyhealth Great Edinburgh Run 10-mile race.

In the women's race, England's Gemma Steel will face stiff opposition from the Kenyan duo of Violah Jepchumba and Lucy Cheruiyot in a mainly domestic-based field.

While the Simplyhealth Great Birmingham 10k is an established event, with 8,000 runners taking part this year, it will be uncharted territory on a new course, which starts on Jennens Road and finishes at the new location of Millennium Point on Curzon Street.

A course record will therefore be up for grabs in front of the television cameras, and Toroitich will be the man to beat in the men's race.

The Ugandan 26-year-old represented his country at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, making the final of the 10,000m, and boasts a 10,000m PB of 27.31.

Merrien, who competed for Great Britain in 2012's Olympic Games, was 30th in the marathon and boasts a 29.26 10k PB, while 31-year-old Beattie competed for England in 2010's Commonwealth Games in Delhi, taking on

the 10,000m.

Kiwi Wallis is in fine form after taking the victory in last weekend's 10-mile race in Edinburgh, where he repeated his 2016 win in the Scottish capital. The 29-year-old goes into Sunday's race with hopes of making selection for the New Zealand team at 2018's Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Kenyan Frankline Keitany is the only other non-domestic name on the start list, with a raft of English runners all planning to give the frontrunners a difficult morning.

In the women's race, Steel – the third-best British female in history over the 10,000m - will be seeking to maintain a solid start to 2017 which saw her victorious in the Great Ireland Run three weeks ago, but will be given a run for her money from Jepchumba, the fifth-fastest woman in the world of all time over the half-marathon distance.

Lucy Cheruiyot will be one to watch, the Kenyan 19-year-old impressing in last year's African Junior XC Championships, while Katrina Wootton's best of 31.47 over 10k sees her placed second in the European rankings.

Double Commonwealth champion Liz McColgan-Nuttall will be honorary captain of Scotland's team, and will be taking on the 10km distance on Sunday.

The action is televised live on Channel 5, with coverage from 10am-12noon.

ENDS

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

### **The Great Run Company**

The Great Run Series is the world's favourite run with over 230,000 participants a year taking part. The events programme stretches across the UK from Aberdeen to Portsmouth offering a full range of distances from 5k through to the half marathon. A full range of online training services are available from Great Run Training. Great Run Local is a series of weekly events staged in our key cities. All designed to provide the support and advice for participants of all abilities to achieve their personal goal.

To find out more about the events and services provided by Great Run and its partners visit [www.greatrun.org](http://www.greatrun.org).

Great Run, the world's favourite run.

### **Simplyhealth**

Simplyhealth is the UK's leading provider of everyday health cash plans, dental payment and pet health plans. Since 1872 – long before the existence of the NHS – Simplyhealth has been helping people to make the most of life, by managing their everyday health needs. Today we ensure over three million people in the UK have access to the health products, services and support they need, when they need them and at a price they can afford.

Helping people make the most of life is our sole purpose and giving back is a huge part of that. As a result of our success, in 2015 we were able to donate £1.6m to our charitable causes, supporting 25 different charities including Revitalise (this year's Great Run Series nominated charity), Music in Hospitals, Brainwave Centre, British Lung Foundation and Rainbow Trust. Our future success and performance will enable us to deliver our ongoing pledge to donate 10% of our profits to charity every year, supporting health-related causes that help people with everyday health conditions to make the most of life.

Simplyhealth is a trading name of Simplyhealth Access, which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

For further information on Simplyhealth please visit [www.simplyhealth.co.uk](http://www.simplyhealth.co.uk)

**Revitalise**

Revitalise is the Great Run Series' nominated charity for 2017, and provides holiday-style breaks with care for disabled people and their carers. More details available from [www.revitalise.org.uk](http://www.revitalise.org.uk)