

The Operations Director comments: -

Thanks to all who have contributed feedback on the events on Sunday. Please keep reflecting on your experience; this will inform our post-event review and help build a better event for the future. Distance running is not intrinsically dangerous, and our role is not to avoid discomfort but to mitigate risk to its lowest level. Many did withdraw on the forecast of adverse weather, but over 1400 were prepared to face a challenge. Most took extra precautions against the weather.

Comments about our wonderful volunteers were very much appreciated BUT we know there were serious issues and gaps.

Some things didn't go to plan and the atrocious weather was often too much for both runners and the crews who were out from 4am setting up the facilities. The first major failure was the Bag Drop and our failure to keep your kit dry. The pop-ups used at the start points became so sodden during the early morning storms that when they were moved to the finish they could not be erected. This was indeed a calamitous mistake, for which any apologies are insufficient for the degree of risk and discomfort that resulted. This will not be allowed to happen again. There are alternative ways of delivering this service which have been successful in the past

The second failure was the perceived lack of warm and dry changing facilities. The Leisure Centre showers and changing rooms were there but many seemed unaware. This is the nearest and most comprehensive such facility. We have identified the need to review the signing and access arrangements.

Although the events were during college term time, restricting the usage of the buildings, the college did re-locate much of the infrastructure inside as those who had been exposed to the elements for more than 3-4 hours will testify. The medical support team was greatly enhanced from previous years and response times were minimal. All who supported this event are thanked for their flexible attitude and concerns shown for the runners who faced the severe weather. My sincere apologies for the things that failed, and my grateful thanks to all the crews and volunteers for their continuing support to the runners. Mike Sharp, Ops Director.