



EASTERN CAPE MARKETER

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DAWN RUN – The Caltex Border Masters Half Marathon is expecting a record number of runners competing this Sunday.



Caltex Border Masters Half Marathon – ready, set go!

08 February 2018 – MORE than 800 runners are expected to compete in the annual Caltex Border Masters Half Marathon taking place this Sunday (subs: 11 February 2018).

Now in its 41st year, the race promises to be highly contested in all five categories. "The course is fast, and we expect much excitement in all categories – especially the younger category where the winning title is up for grabs in the absence of

Lusapho April who take the honours in 2016 and 2017" said Border Athletics Association's John Oatley.

Caltex Eastern Cape Marketer is once again sponsoring the Border Masters Half Marathon, open to runners age 35 years and older, which starts from Winterstrand winding through the harbour, along the esplanade - ending at the Buffalo Club, East London.

CECM chief executive Clive Berlyn, himself an avid runner and previous participant, said the company was proud of its long-standing association with the event.

"We came on board as naming sponsors 3 years ago and must commend Border Masters Athletics Association on their professionalism and dedication – it is no easy task growing event entries with 10 to 15% year on year especially in this tough economic climate" Berlyn noted.

Into the 35-39 age group for the first time are Andrea Ranger (Old Boys) and Hanlie Botha (Born2run) both of whom regularly show many a younger runner, including the men, a clean pair of heels. In the other women's age groups those to watch include Karen Davis (40-44), Debbie Gee and a resurgent Sharon Wood both in the 50-54 category

Much is also expected from the 2017 Border Masters awardees Makhaya Masumpa (50-54) and Pastor Madlavana (40-44) both out of the Born2run stable. Pastor has posted two excellent overall race 2nd places in recent outings but should still look over his shoulder for the determined Nedbank AC stalwart Doran Fritz.

In the 45-49 group perhaps Desmond Witbooi (Born2run) 6th overall at the recent Gonubie Coastal Challenge is a podium contender, whilst Masters Awardee 60+ Charl Pienaar need to keep a keen eye on Temba Bhelwana who is new to the category.

Strong competition is expected from the Kowie contingent which includes Comrades legend Alan Robb of the red socks fame still rocking along at 64, who will be joined by former local Buffs legend Rob Joiner now turned 70.

The race gets underway at 6am on Sunday on the Winterstrand access road along the R72, through the harbour and esplanade to the Buffalo Club. Compulsory athlete registration (and late entries) takes place at the Buffalo Club on Friday evening (subs: 9 February) and on Saturday afternoon (subs: 10 February).

ENDS.

(Words: 432)

Issued by Maven Connection on behalf of Caltex Eastern Cape Marketer.

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EDITORS NOTE:

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Caltex Border Masters Half Marathon

A fast annual race, now in its 41st year, is organised by Border Masters Athletics Association in East London. The Border Masters Athletics Association was founded in 1978 with two main objectives, namely to encourage men and women aged 35 years and over to take an active interest in both administrative and competitive aspects of athletics; and to promote the use of internationally recognised age divisions for masters, especially in championship events.

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