

LONDON MARATHON - SUNDAY, 22 APRIL 2018

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering to contribute to the success of the 2018 London Marathon, please email chairman@dfok.co.uk by **13th March 2018**.

This is to enable a personalised pass to be prepared for you in advance of the race for access onto the course.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Ever since the first London Marathon in 1981, DFOK has marshalled a one mile stretch of the route centred on John Wilson Street in Woolwich. We have the most interesting part - it is where the runners from the Red and the Blue starts converge, one group running down one side of the dual carriageway and the other group down the other carriageway. Runners merge on Woolwich Church Street at the end of the route we marshal. Club member Peter Townsend acts as one of the 7 segment marshalls, a lead coordinating marshal role for the first 3.5 miles of the course.

As well as patrolling our part of the route, we are responsible for taping the barriers along the central reservation of the dual carriageway. This is to keep the runners to their allocated course (those from the Blue Start would gain an unfair advantage if they were able to cross over to the Red Start route as Red Start runners have a simple left turn at the roundabout by the Woolwich Ferry whereas Blue Start runners go the longer 3/4 of the way round it.

We meet around 8am to set up the course ahead of the wheelchair competitors, the first to set off from Blackheath. The Elite Women and the Elite Men are next followed by the rest of the 36,000 participants, including the full array of Fun Runners wearing various attire. All runners will have passed our stretch by about 11:30 and our involvement finishes shortly thereafter.

Acknowledging the significant contribution the club and our friends make, London Marathon provide a few guaranteed entry places to us each year. These are allocated having regard to those who are club members, especially those who have volunteered to help previously, other previous volunteers and then, if any places remain, to close family and friends of club members. The entry fee still needs to be paid but with over 385,000 applications for 2018, this is a most welcome gesture by the Organisers.

Andrew Evans