Name............ ............................ Entry No..........

**Malvern Midsummer Marathon 26.2 mile**

**Route Description 2019**

**Maps: OS Explorer 190 or Landranger 149 & 150**

**AH=ahead; BR/BL=bear right/left; FR/FL=fork right/left; L=left; R=right; TR/TL=turn right/left; [010]=magnetic compass bearing; BW=bridleway; FB=footbridge; KG=kissing gate; TK=track; WM=waymark; m=metres; RoW=right of way**

**PLEASE OBSERVE MARSHALS’ DIRECTIONS WHEN PARKING, PARK AS REQUESTED, ENSURE RESIDENTS’ DRIVES ARE NOT BLOCKED, PASSING SPACES NEEDED ON TIGHT ROADS. AT BUSY TIMES, SUPPORTERS MUST NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL OR CP2 AT LEDBURY**

**ROUTE DESCRIPTION IS FOR THE DAY OF THE EVENT ONLY AS SPECIAL PERMISSION HAS BEEN OBTAINED TO USE SOME FOOTPATHS**

**CATTLE MAY BE ON MALVERN HILLS IN TEMPORARY ENCLOSURES; CLOSE GATES; CROSS MAIN ROADS WITH CARE; BRING A PEN AND A MUG; NO DOGS**

**START: Wyche C of E Primary School SO 772 441 WR14 4ET**

**1a**. From the school TL, go up steps to reach road TL uphill to reach main road. Cross busy road with care. AH up tarmac path between houses to reach road TR. Follow road. In 30m at a circular stone WM on R, BR on a ridge path to reach the first summit, Summer Hill. AH downhill to tarmac and up any path to the top, Worcestershire Beacon. **What is the number on the base of the trig point? Box 1 on tally. SO 769 452**

**1b.** Descend to North over open heathland by main path (*alongside Shire Ditch)* and after 450m reach junction of paths at col by large circular stone WM. **SO 768 457**

**1c.** From WM BL uphill on [312] to reach summit of Sugarloaf. AH to descend ridge and after passing second bench reach broad col with multiple paths. BR for 35m to metal post then BL to follow path uphill [340] to summit of Table Hill.

**Marshalled Clip Point A: TABLE HILL SO 767 464 2.4 miles**

**1d.** AH on faint path, initially [035] to descend steeply to wide track. Cross wide track and continue descending, path levels then up to End Hill. Continue descending ridge, over hillocks, and down to track **SO 766** **471** and TL. Follow track to reach offset T junction and turn sharp R with houses now on L. Follow path to reach metal gate, descend concrete path, through gate and then tarmac path to road. **SO 765 471.**

**1e.** Cross road with care, down steps. TL on Old Hollow for 100m, cross road and follow tarmac driveway to Boundless Elements. Stay with main driveway to reach climbing pinnacles on L and pass through 3 wheel open gate. Immediately turn R to stile, over and descend to R of large oak tree to descend to plank and stile on R, not L, TR on bridleway to reach gate, through and head across field to far L corner. TL through gate and uphill, hedge on R, through gap, continue with trees on L, through gate and continue diagonally uphill to reach path on ridge. TR and in 50m FL on bridleway. Descend bridleway*, take care, barbed wire close,* to reach open area and track ahead**. SO 751 476.**

**1f.** BL down track to reach tarmac road, follow road down. After ½ mile road bends R, TL down side road to reach T junction, TL and in 20m leave road at stile ‘in gate’. AH on path across meadow to KG and cross FB to small metal gate. AH on enclosed path to reach path junction. TR past house/building site. AH on track to pass church on R. At war memorial FL, then TL and in 5m leave road L to Scout Hut, Cradley (Checkpoint 1) **SO 735 471.**

**Checkpoint 1: CRADLEY OPEN 9:15 TO 10:45 5.6 MILES**

**\*\*\* Entrants arriving after 10:45 will be switched to the 14 mile route \*\*\***

**2a.** Continue on lane from CP and in 80m BL on TK to pass white cottages on your R and after a further 50m TR through metal gate. TL and follow field boundary, hedge on L, to reach corner of field. Cross tarmac TK and maintain line [180] across field to gate next to tree and electricity pole in opposite hedge. Through and AH to tarmac TK in bottom corner, cross TK onto path through gate, over FB and on to gate and road. **Take care blind exit onto road.** TR to Mathon Church. **SO 736 458**

**2b**. At Church TL into church car park and take enclosed TK on L through wooden gate. AH to follow enclosed TK to its end at a weed-covered gate and go through gap to L. TL with hedge on L, and after 250m FL down to, and over, stile in fence. AH [155] across field to FB, over and cross field to gate, through and AH up steps to gate in fence, through and AH [145] across field then follow LH hedge to far LH corner of field. Take WM stile in corner and over FB. Path passes property, *care: barbed wire,* then over stile to reach road. BR and follow it to junction in 550m. **SO 742 446.** BR and in 45m TR over stile. Cross field [180] towards cottage just beyond stile.

**2c**  Over stile, *care,* *(14ml route goes L here)* TR along lane and immediately FL. At end of lane TR and in 25m, opposite old farmhouse, TL through small metal gate. Across field half right [235] to small gate, through gate and slight BL to stile in LH fence, over stile and BR [240], across marshy area after rain to cross FB over Cradley Brook and stile in field corner. **SO 734 438**

**2d** *Beware of field edge paths which are planted without giving space to walk.* Cross TK and go over stile into field, AH fence on R through 3 fields to reach road. Cross road and go through black metal gate and follow LH hedgerow, follow hedge to R round corner and in 20m cross two stiles and plank in hedge. TL and follow LH edge of field uphill to reach stile hidden in corner over rough ground with hidden WM sign to reach road. **SO 725 426**

**2e** TL along minor road (ignore L fork after 45m), then in a further 330m, where lane bears R and before it starts to descend, FL off road (WM sign), up RH TK. Continue for 160m through two gates close together and bear R to open hillside and climb steadily [180] to summit of Oyster Hill. Leave trig point [220], maintain height and in 130m go though gate with forestry on R. Continue ahead and in 400m through gate. Follow path through field along line of occasional trees until after 500m go over a stile to drive and TR to reach road. CARE: busy road. **SO 720 409**

**2f**  TL along road for 520m and TR along TK though gap at side of gate on FP CW56. After 330m enter Frith Wood through gateway and continue along main TK. In 400m TR at T junction and continue on TK signed West Frith Road for 1.2k to approach gateway and KG. *Please respect homeowners in this section who have given permission to use their drives.*  AH onto private drive, in 150m pass house on L, and continue on track curving R to pass 2 houses on L to reach road. **SO 712 385**

**2g Cross busy road with care** and go up steps opposite then AH along path with houses below to R. Continue along path for 600m until it descends shallow steps to road. AH along L side of road for 50m and continue on path on L through remains of old KG, immediately TR though gap in brick wall. Follow path through gardens, at exit TR to go down cobbled Church Lane and in 50m Checkpoint 2 on L. **SO 711 377**

**Checkpoint 2: LEDBURY, BURGAGE HALL OPEN 10:30 TO 13:45 13.0 miles**

**3a** Leave checkpoint and TR up Church Lane, through gates to church, BR round church and take wall enclosed path on R to road. TL for 160m. At WM on post **Cross very busy road with great care** and go up stepped TK opposite. 50m beyond last step, bear L up gully [085], up steps, over cross TK and continue upwards on LH TK up deep gully through wood, up steps to cross wide TK, AH up path to reach end and go through KG. **SO 718 378**

**3b** BL to follow edge of field and wood on L for 200m as it curves R to far L corner of field. Through gate and go AH down TK [120] to reach field, continue down LH side of field. At end of field in L corner enter trees at a KG next to gate and up TK for 20m to reach minor path on L, BL on minor path to go through trees to reach field TR and in 50m rejoin TK. AH [140] cross field to go through trees, AH up TK to field. Follow track as it BL down field to corner of hedge. At corner of hedge leave TK which turns R and continue AH to follow WM along side of field with trees on R. Go down steps in far RH corner to reach lane. TR on lane going past Church on R. **SO 732 372**

**3c** Continue to pass grass triangle on your L to enter Clenchers Mill Lane and immediately TR onto BW to Eastnor Pottery. AH up BW and when tarmac ends BL up TK**. SO 729 370**

**3d** AH ignoring all side TKs to reach in 500m a junction of 5 TKs. AH [193] on TK with WM ascending with wood on L and field on R. In 450m after 15m of wooden fence on R go through single gate on R, often open, and immediately TL to go down meadow [175] (not the TK) to cross stile in fence between fields ahead**.** Continue AH descending next field towards stile into woodland. Over stile into wood, path leads to gate. Through wood and TL on drive for 30m to an open gate on R, through and leave open, TL and continue with hedge on L, through another open gate **SO 725 353**

**3e Part of this section is by permission of the landowner and is only available on the day of the event, please respect this.** AH with hedge on L to reach gate, through gate, path bears R, keeping to L , exit through gap, and keep to L of field descend and reach and cross stile in corner (Joins RoW). Continue across field [140] to stile in opposite hedge 35m to L of RH corner, cross stile, TR keeping bushes on R and go though gap (leaves RoW). TL keep hedge and fence on L, curving to reach stream. **Marshalled Clip Point:B Glynch Brook.** Go through gate on R, AH with field boundary on L, keep to L, to reach gap 65m after L corner, through gap to TK, TL down TK to reach a ford. **SO 737 343**

**3f**  Cross slippery ford (bridge on R if in flood) and in 60m TR to cross 2 stiles hidden on RH hedge. Cross field [130] to gates in far corner. Go through RH gate, often open, and AH on wide grassy TK between wire fences. Ahead over stile next to gate twice then in 25m BL through small gate. AH to road. **SO 744 339**

**3g**  TL along road and in 400m FL (signed Chace End – *yes it is spelled this way on the sign!*). In 200m, TR through gate with FP sign. AH through trees and over stile to open parkland, ascend along line of 3 mature trees [85]. Over brow & down to lake aiming to L of copse. On reaching lakeside TR, lake on L, AH along bank and after stile AH to far corner of lake, 5m thro bushes to stile, over. BL [045] to follow dry valley curving L. Pass to L of small tree lined pond and then gradually BL, keep parallel to LH fence. Pass to R of large oak tree and head for house visible between trees, cross stile to reach checkpoint. **SO 757 349**

**Checkpoint 3: CHASE END OPEN 11:20 TO 16:10 19.2 MILES**

**The route from Chase End to the finish follows the main Malvern Ridge and takes in ten named summits. KEEP TO MAIN RIDGE, passage controls may be deployed.**

**4a** Follow main WM TK up to trig point at the summit of Chase End Hill. TL down steep, wide grassy slope which becomes a TK to reach cottage and road. TR along lane past post box and round bend to R to pass ‘Lamberts Cottage’ on your L, then immediately FL up TK. **SO 760 359**

**4b**  Through wooden gate and along TK to a sharp L bend. Immediately after the bend TL off TK up a narrow path (stone sign on R) and in 175m BR by WM post and continue ascending. Near top follow path which swings R to east summit of Ragged Stone Hill. **SO 760 364**

**4c** BL down grassy summit to reach stone at start of path descent, continue with wood on L. At T junction TL to go through gate and AH down drive to A438 road**. SO 761 369**

**4d** TL on pavement and in 200m cross busy road with care to Hollybush car park. Cross car park to go through small metal gate to ascend grassy hillside aiming for path in top LH corner; continue through trees to climb eventually onto open hill and BR to reach summit shelter of Midsummer Hill. **SO 760 375**

**4e** From shelter [021] continue along green ridge passing between earth mounds of iron age fort. AH on main path bearing L to reach cross TK. TR down to junction of TKs and BR to follow TK [350] from just before cattle-grid. Follow TK to reach next cattle-grid, over and in 10m TR and AH though trees to open hillside. TL uphill to follow ridge to summit of Swinyard Hill. **SO 762 386**

**4f** AH to descend to Junction and BL up path (stone sign to British Camp). After 40m TR (stone sign to Hangmans Hill) to ascend then curve L to follow Shire Ditch on your R. Continue following ditch when it again swings L and descend past circular stone WM and AH to zig zag up to summit of Millennium Hill. Continue on grassy path to ascend through earth works to summit of British Camp. Follow main path downhill (North East) to reach car park. Proceed through car park and **CROSS THE BUSY A449 WITH EXTREME CARE** onto B4232 road opposite. Follow B road for 100m to end of pavement, cross and take lower of 3 paths parallel to road to reach car park. **S0 766 406**

**Checkpoint 4: BLACK HILL CAR PARK OPEN 11:20 TO 18:3O 23.6 miles**

**5a**  BL on TK behind ticket machine and follow it to climb up to the Malvern Ridge. In a little over 3km the route goes **OVER** the summits of Black Hill, Pinnacle Hill, Jubilee Hill and Perseverance Hill before descending to the Wyche Cutting on the B4218. **SO 769 437**

**5b** TR through cutting and TR into Old Wyche Road to go steeply down for 480m then TR down steps to school: **SO 772 441**

**Finish at: WYCHE CE Primary School by 20:00 26.2 miles**

**You have completed 26.2 miles with a total ascent of 1450m or 4800 feet.**

**Congratulations!**