OPTIMUM MEIRINGSPOORT 21.1km AND 12.5 km

**NEWS BRIEF 1 / 2021**

As organizers we and the whole of De Rust dearly want to welcome all our participants and supporters here in October 2021.

Covid Lockdown levels and regulations continue to throw curve balls at our planning. We have, however, put in place what we can, as far as we can and to the best of our ability. All in anticipation of a positive outcome to the current situation by October. This has all been done in consultation with Disaster Management and our Local Authorities. Compliance and the safety of everybody is not negotiable.

Before the “Covid 3rd wave” there was a period when 500 people were permitted at an outdoor gathering. We are holding our breath that by the end of August this level of parity may be restored.

Our idea then, is to have two separate races on the 9th (a 12.5km event and a 21.1km event) starting at say 90mins apart in order to prevent a “mass gathering” on the finish line. Consideration is even being given to repeating this on the 16th again. So doing we will be able to accommodate 2000 participants. Lower numbers, unfortunately, will not make the event economically viable in these circumstances.

We do not want to risk the standard of our event by improper preparation. We, too, have empathy with you, our loyal supporter, in these uncertain times. You also need to finalise arrangements and that we understand. Please bear with us as we try and delay a final decision till later this month, awaiting a positive “Family Gathering”.

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Ons, die organiseerders, saam met die hele De Rust, wil bittergraag al ons deelnemers en lojale ondersteuners hier verwelkom gedurende Oktober.

Inperkingsvlakke en regulasies rondom Covid bly ons grootste uitdaging met beplanning. Die beplanning word sover moontlik gedoen met die hoop op ‘n lekker wedloop in Oktober. Ons werk saam met die span van Rampbestuur asook ons Plaaslike Owerhede. Die veiligheid en welstand van almal bly ononderhandelbaar.

Voor die 3e Covid vlaag was daar ‘n tydperk waarin 500 mense buite kon bymekaar kom. Ons hou duimvas dat daar teen einde Augustus en met inentings op dreef, die 3e vlaag iets van die verlede sal wees. Hopelik word groter getalle dan in die buitelug toegelaat.

Die plan is om op 9 Oktober die twee wedlope 90min uitmekaar te laat begin. Sodoende sal daar by die eindpunt geen opeenhoping van mense wees nie. Oorweging word ook daaraan gegee om die wedlope weer op die 16e te herhaal. Sodoende sal ons 2000 deelnemers akkommodeer en die sal geleentheid ekonomies lewensvatbaar wees.

Die standaard van die wedloop kan nie in die gedrang kom nie. Ons verstaan ook julle, ons ondersteuners, se frustrasies. Reelings moet getref word. Ons leef in onseker tye en vra nederig dat jul ons sal ondersteun terwyl ons ‘n finale besluit tot later in die maand uitstel. Ons vertrou dat daar later ‘n positiewe “Familievergadering” gaan plaasvind.

**Meiringspoort21.1km & 12.5km Organiseringskomitee.**