

CALLING ALL DEVON RUNNING CLUBS - WOMEN NEED YOU!

Dear Devon Running Club,

A unique, one-off celebratory running event is happening in East Devon in 2017 – a year which marks a 50th anniversary milestone in women's endurance running.

At a time when women were effectively restricted to races of a mile and a half, Kathrine Switzer proved they were capable of much more. Using only her initials on the entry form, she was the first female competitor to complete the prestigious Boston Marathon, despite attempts to remove her from the course.

She paved the way for many thousands of women to take up the marathon challenge and was instrumental in it becoming an Olympic event for women in 1984.

Today it is accepted that every woman has the right and opportunity to complete the distance.

Or it is?

There are still places in the world where a woman can risk being ostracised, harmed or even killed for considering taking part in such an event.

It is the legacy of Kathrine Switzer, the 50th anniversary of her Boston run, and the 50th anniversary of the Tipton playing fields, coupled with the impact of running on her own life, that gave Jo Earlam, director of the Otter Rail and Trail 10k, the idea for a one off celebratory Women Can Marathon.

In the SW we have long supported the full inclusion and progression of women and girls in our clubs and recognised their contribution.

In recognition of this support we hope that the men of every SW club will take a special and significant role in enabling the event.

What you can do:

Encourage your lady runners to take part including younger members who might make up a relay team.

Supply marshals and helpers on the day covering the course, refreshment provision, ferrying teams, clearing the course, helping direct parking and traffic and generally cheering and celebrating with us the Women Can take part in the marathon.

In return helpers will also receive a commemorative memento to mark this exceptional occasion.

So come on and party with us on Sunday May 28th 2017.

To register your help please contact me Peg Wiseman peg@womenscan.co.uk

Thank you!

Peg Wiseman

Tutor with UK Athletics and part of the Women Can organising team

