

Hi everyone,

Firstly, thank you for entering the **2026 Blackrod Scarecrow 10K**. We can't wait to welcome you to Blackrod on Sunday!

Last year we became aware that many runners couldn't hear the pre-race briefing over the PA system, so rather than risk anyone missing important information, we've included everything you need to know below.

On race morning we'll simply thank our fantastic sponsors, volunteers and supporters, make a few brief announcements, and we're delighted to welcome **Richard Harrison, Mayor of Blackrod**, who will officially get the race underway. We're also extremely grateful for the continued support of **Blackrod Town Council**, who have awarded the event a **£500 community grant** this year, helping us deliver the race for the local community. This will be the **third consecutive year** that the **Mayor of Blackrod** has joined us to officially start the event.

Weather

The forecast for Sunday is thankfully much cooler than we've experienced recently, making for much better running conditions.

Thanks to our friends at **The Tree Barn**, we've added an **extra water station**, meaning water will be available at approximately:

- 2.5km
- 5.5km And now the full email (hopefully) !!!
- 8.5km
- Finish

Please help us keep the course tidy by using the bins provided. If you can't reach a bin, simply hand your bottle or cup to a marshal. **Please don't throw bottles or cups into the undergrowth.**

Saturday Night...

With England playing on Saturday evening, we'd politely suggest saving the celebrations until after you've crossed the finish line on Sunday. If England win, the beer will still taste just as good a few hours later! 😊

Start & Race HQ

Hilltops Sports & Social Club
23 Hill Lane
Blackrod
Bolton
BL6 5JW

Registration opens at **7:30am** and closes promptly at **8:45am**.

Please arrive in good time. We'd recommend arriving **no later than 8:15am**, giving you plenty of time to collect your number, visit the facilities, warm up and soak up the atmosphere.

The race starts at 9:00am PROMPT.

If you're late, please don't simply set off after everyone else. Let an official know. We count every runner out and every runner back in again, so we need to know exactly who is on the course at all times.

Toilets

Toilets are available inside **Hilltops Sports & Social Club** before and after the race. Please allow plenty of time and avoid leaving your arrival until the last minute.

Race Numbers

Please wear your race number clearly on the **front of your chest or stomach**.

Please don't pin it to your thigh, your back, underneath a jacket or anywhere else the timing team can't see it. If your bib number can't be read as you cross the finish line, you won't appear in the results and won't be eligible for any prizes.

Parking

PLEASE CAR SHARE WHERE POSSIBLE!

Parking is extremely limited during the Blackrod Scarecrow Festival weekend.

There is absolutely NO parking at Race HQ or on Hill Lane outside Race HQ.

Please approach via the **A6 Blackrod Bypass** and park on **Chorley Road (B5408)** on the uphill section of the road.

Please:

- Don't block driveways.
- Don't double park.
- Leave enough room for buses to pass in both directions.
- Don't park on bus stops.

The walk from the recommended parking area to Race HQ is approximately **10–15 minutes**, so please allow plenty of time.

A limited number of small public car parks are available around the village, although these fill quickly.

Street parking should only be used as a last resort and, if you do park on residential streets, please do so considerately. **Please also avoid parking anywhere on the race route.**

We'd also like to thank the residents of Blackrod for their patience and understanding while the event takes place. Please help us repay that support by parking responsibly and showing courtesy throughout the village.

Your cooperation is hugely appreciated. We want to be welcomed back next year!

Running the Course

The roads are NOT closed.

Please be aware of your surroundings throughout the race.

Where footpaths are available, **please use them**. Unless you see a sign or a marshal directs you elsewhere, simply continue following the road, path or track ahead.

Please remember you'll be sharing parts of the course with pedestrians, cyclists, dog walkers and local residents, so be courteous and considerate at all times.

Our marshals are there to help keep everyone safe, so please listen carefully to their instructions.

If you hear a marshal blowing a whistle, **it's a warning, not a cheer of encouragement!** It usually means there's approaching traffic or another hazard ahead, so please react immediately.

Bone-conduction/open-ear headphones are permitted, but please ensure you can hear instructions from marshals at all times.

And yes... there **is** an uphill finish! Fortunately it's only at the end, and you'll have earned that goodie bag by the time you reach it.

Safety

Our event medical cover is being provided by **Bolton Mountain Rescue Team**.

If you become injured, feel unwell, or see another runner who requires assistance, **please inform the nearest marshal immediately**.

Equally importantly, **if you decide to retire from the race for any reason, you MUST tell a marshal**.

We count every runner out at the start and every runner back in at the finish. If you disappear without telling anyone, we'll think you're still out on the course and may send people looking for you. We'd much rather save Bolton Mountain Rescue's time and energy for those who genuinely need their help!

Transfers

Can't run after all?

A replacement runner may take your place **on race morning**.

The replacement runner should collect the original runner's race number from Registration by giving their name, then visit the **Enquiries / Transfers** desk where we'll officially transfer the entry before they run.

Entries on the Day

We currently have **just SIX places remaining**.

If they're still available on Sunday morning they'll be sold on a first come, first served basis for **£25**.

Correct cash only please.

Want to Recce the Course?

If you'd like to familiarise yourself with the route before race day, here's a runner's-eye view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8aqh8-cQ0A>

Course Records

Men's Course Record

34:46 – Dom Carter (2025)

Women's Course Record

43:50 – Mel Walls (2024)

A **£30 cash bonus** will be awarded to the first male finisher under **34:46** and the first female finisher under **43:50**.

Results

Results will be published live shortly after the race at:

<https://www.ukresults.net/2026/blackrod.html>

Prize Giving

Prize presentations will take place at approximately **10:30am**.

If you're in contention for a prize, please stick around as **we're unfortunately unable to post prizes afterwards**.

Any unclaimed prizes will, of course, be **personally consumed by the organisers and marshals**... although we suspect the sports massage voucher may prove slightly harder to digest than the bottles of wine!

Finish

Every finisher will receive one of our **well-stocked goodie bags** together with a commemorative **collapsible water bottle**.

Please remember to collect yours as you leave the finish area.

Refreshments

We're delighted that **Charlie – The Mobile Catering Van** will once again be joining us.

They'll be serving tea, coffee, hot drinks and delicious homemade cakes.

Every purchase helps support **Backup North West**, so please pop over and say hello.

Supporting Our Charities

This year's event is proudly supporting **Bolton Mountain Rescue Team** and **Backup North West**.

As organisers, we're donating:

- **£200 to Bolton Mountain Rescue Team**
- **£100 to Backup North West**

Many of you also chose to make an optional donation when entering. Thank you!

So far you've donated:

- **£54 to Bolton Mountain Rescue Team**
- **£34 to Backup North West**

As promised, **every pound donated is being matched by the event**, meaning your generosity is doubled.

That means the charities will receive:

- **Bolton Mountain Rescue Team – £308**
- **Backup North West – £168**

A combined total of **£476**.

Thank you for helping support two fantastic local charities.

Dogs

Dogs are very welcome to spectate with family and friends.

Unfortunately, they are **not permitted to take part in the race**.

Walking the Course

This is a race rather than a walking event. Power-walking is fine!

We operate a **2 hour cut-off**, after which marshals and timing services may begin to be withdrawn.

Lost Property

Any items handed in during the event can be collected from the Registration Desk before you leave.

Worried You'll Finish Last?

Don't be.

We'll have a tail runner bringing up the rear, so no-one finishes behind them.

Besides... everyone crossing the finish line is still lapping everyone sat comfortably on the sofa!

Supporting Sponsors & Prize Donors

A huge thank you to the businesses who have generously supported this year's event.

Porterstore (Adlington) – Year-round storage facility support for race equipment

<https://porterstore.com/locations/adlington>

The Tree Barn, Blackrod – 2 × £25 Gift Vouchers

<https://thetreebarnblackrod.com>

S&P Phillips Butchers – 2 × £20 Gift Vouchers

<https://phillipsbutchers.com>

TransformMaze NLP Coaching & Hypnotherapy – 90 Minute NLP Breakthrough Session (worth £225), plus **20% off** all follow-up bespoke coaching appointments.

<https://transformazenlp.co.uk>

Thrive Sports Massage – 1 Hour Sports Massage Session

<https://thrivesportsmassage.com>

Community Support

The organisers would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank **Blackrod Town Council** for supporting the 2026 Blackrod Scarecrow 10K through a **£500 community grant**, helping us deliver this local event.

Enjoy the Scarecrow Festival!

The race forms part of **Blackrod's annual Scarecrow Festival**, which takes place throughout the weekend.

If you've got time after the race (and after you've caught your breath!), we'd encourage you to stay a little longer and wander around the village to see the weird, wonderful and often hilarious scarecrows created by local residents, schools and community groups. Programs are available to purchase (£2) which highlight official displays and maps of the village.

While you're here, please also support our fantastic local businesses by popping into one of the village's cafés, pubs or shops for a well-earned drink, bite to eat or a little retail therapy. Every penny spent helps support the local community that so warmly welcomes our event each year.

We're proud to be part of the Scarecrow Festival weekend and hope you'll enjoy everything Blackrod has to offer.

Finally...

Every marshal you see around the course has volunteered their Sunday morning (after a very early start!) to help make this event possible.

A smile, a thank you or even a **high five** as you pass is always appreciated!

Above all else... enjoy it.

Whether you're chasing a course record, a personal best, your first ever 10K, or simply trying to beat your mate to the finish line, we hope you have a brilliant morning.

Thank you once again for supporting the event, for supporting our charities, and for helping us make the Blackrod Scarecrow 10K another fantastic day for runners, spectators and the local community.

Good luck, travel safely... and we'll see you on the start line!

Phil Howard
Race Director
2026 Blackrod Scarecrow 10K