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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Ready, set – Time for the SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon**

It is just over two weeks away and several hundred people are again expected to line up for the SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon and its associated events when race day is held on Sunday 16 May.

Last year a record field turned out with nearly 100 taking part in the half marathon, and a further 220 taking part in the 6km and 12km fun run or walk. It is hoped to exceed those entries again this year with entries numbers already equalling the corresponding period last year.

Manager of SBS Bank Gore Scott Bowden said he and his team were looking forward to another great event this year with a strong turn out from both serious and social participants.

“It was great to be able to share in the community spirit of the event last year when my daughter Hannah and I took part in the 6km walk. Seeing the families and, particularly, the sense of achievement among all those involved is fantastic.

“With the event incorporating the Southland Half Marathon Championship, there will again be a high level of competitiveness in the main event and our team at SBS Bank Gore will again be dusting off the trainers to take part and to help the organising committee ensure the day runs smoothly for everyone’s enjoyment.

Mr Bowden said being such an avid sports enthusiast, he loved being a part of the Half Marathon and it was always satisfying to be out and hands-on in the community.

“Providing community support and benefits is an active theme that runs deeply in the veins of everything that SBS Bank and our staff stand for so we all do really enjoy a good community outing. It’s just another way we give something back to our people.”

SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon co-ordinator Graham Hall said they were potentially on track for a record turnout again this year.

“There’s been a lot of local interest in Gore with several business groups using the event as a team building challenge this year and we are hoping to surpass the 300-plus entries we received last year. That will probably be weather dependent, so we hope the weather gods are gentle on us.”

Mr Hall said there were a lot of new names registered among the many regulars and they were still waiting to see if Queenstown’s Adrian Bailey would be returning to defend his winner’s title from last year.

“He would certainly be looking down the barrel of a record-breaking run now that he knows the course, so it would be great to see him back.”

Mr Hall said the support of SBS Bank has been fundamental in being able to continue the event, considering its future was in serious doubt five or six years ago. The event was now well established on the running calendar and, with less and less races being held on the road, it was a good chance for people to take part in such an event.

“The Gore Half Marathon is not about making big money, it’s aimed at being user-friendly for the mass rather than the elite. I think its design of being a good package with the option of three distances, lunch, prizes, a great venue and fantastic atmosphere, along with the support of the community sponsorship, is the reason that the numbers have grown to what they are today when other events are experiencing a decline in numbers.”

Mr Hall said everyone who pre-registered by Friday 7 May would go in the draw to win a pair of Asics running shoes, valued at \$200, from Asics and B&B Sports. Registrations and entries could, however, be done on race day from 9am at the Gore Town and Country Club.

**Fast facts:**

AGE: SBS Bank Gore Half Marathon is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year

WHEN: Sunday 16 May

TIME: All events start 10.30am

WHERE: Starting outside the Gore Camping Ground, Main Street

EVENTS: Half Marathon with 6km and 12km fun run or walk options.

PRE-REGISTRATIONS: Post to Gore Half Marathon, C/- G Hall, 13 Naumai Street, Gore.  
Postal entries close Friday 7 May.

RACE DAY REGISTRATIONS: 9am at the Gore Town & Country Club

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