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## Gatwick Airport to partner with Brighton Marathon Weekend

The Grounded Events Company, organisers of the Brighton Marathon Weekend, is delighted to announce a new two-year partnership with Gatwick Airport for 2017/18.

The partnership will benefit Gatwick Airport's national charity partner, Cancer Research UK, by waiving the entry fee to the Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens Mini Mile Races. Instead of paying an entry fee, entrants will be invited to make an optional donation to Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens.

Making the event free to enter will also give children who might not have otherwise taken part the opportunity to be a part of one of the largest youth races in the UK.

The Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens Mini Mile gives youngsters aged 7 to seventeen the chance to run a one-mile distance around Preston Park and experience the atmosphere of Brighton Marathon Weekend while having fun with family and friends.

Alison Addy, Head of Community Engagement, said: "Gatwick is proud to be one of the main sponsors at this year's Brighton Marathon Weekend and is especially looking forward to encouraging as many young people as possible to take part in the various races scheduled across the weekend. As an accredited family friendly airport, Gatwick is fully committed to providing all children, regardless of age, ability or background with the opportunity to take part in sport and lead a healthy lifestyle."

"This is a fantastic new partnership which means that any child can take part and we're delighted that Gatwick Airport have made this possible." said Tom Naylor, Managing Director of The Grounded Events Company. "We are always blown away by the enthusiasm and commitment of the children who take part and look forward to encouraging more and more children into running. We hope that this is a big step towards increasing participation in sport."

Money raised in sponsorship and donations through the Mini Mile Races will support Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens and help fund vital research into cancers affecting children, teens and young adults.

Lynn Daly, spokeswoman for Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens, said: “We’re very grateful to Gatwick Airport for their support in making the Mini Mile free to enter. It’s a welcome added extra to what is already a fun-filled event.

“By raising vital funds, every step the children take along the mile will help bring us one step closer to beating children’s cancers sooner.”

**Entries for the Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens Mini Mile Races open on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. <http://www.brightonminimile.co.uk/enter>**

ENDS.

### **Contacts:**

For further information on **The Brighton Marathon Weekend:**

Denise Tyler

Tel: 01273 201260

[press@brightonmarathon.co.uk](mailto:press@brightonmarathon.co.uk)

Notes to Editors:

### **Brighton Marathon Weekend**

The 2017 Brighton Marathon Weekend is organised by The Grounded Events Company, which was established in June 2007 by Tim Hutchings (CEO) and Tom Naylor (Managing Director). The inaugural event took place in April 2010 and has since established itself as a premier fixture on the UK’s sporting event calendar.

2017 is set to be the biggest event to date with increased participant fields for the Brighton Marathon and the BM10k taking place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The event also comprises The Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens Mini Mile Races for children aged 7-17 (Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April), and the 2-day Brighton Marathon Weekend Exhibition (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017).

### **About London Gatwick**

Gatwick Airport is the UK’s second largest airport and the most efficient single-runway airport in the world. It serves more than 220 destinations in 80 countries for 43 million passengers a year on short and long-haul point-to-point services. It is also a major economic driver for the South East region, generating around 21,000 on-airport jobs and a further 10,000 jobs through related activities.

The airport is south of Central London with excellent public transport links, including the Gatwick Express, and is part of the Oyster contactless payment network. Gatwick Airport is owned by a group of international investment funds, of which Global Infrastructure Partners is the largest shareholder.

For further information on Gatwick Airport see [www.gatwickairport.com](http://www.gatwickairport.com) or follow via Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatwick\\_Airport](https://www.twitter.com/Gatwick_Airport)

### **Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens**

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research. It's also the biggest funder of research into childhood cancers in the UK.

- In the UK, more than four children (0-14 year-olds) are diagnosed with cancer every day (around 1,500 a year)
- Around 2,200 teens and young adults (15-24 year-olds) are diagnosed with cancer every year in the UK – that's around six teens and young adults every day

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