

11 March 2016
For immediate release

**BRIGHTON MARATHON
WEEKEND
PRESS RELEASE**

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Presenter and broadcaster Zoe Ball named as official starter for Brighton Marathon 2016

Zoe Ball will be sending over 10,000 runners on their way as she officially starts the 2016 Brighton Marathon on Sunday 17th April.

Zoe, a long term Brighton and Hove resident, is delighted to have been asked to start the race: "I'm absolutely honoured and thrilled to start the Brighton Marathon this year on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. I lost my stepfather Rick to MND, and my husband Norm ran the Brighton Marathon a few years back, so it's a pleasure to be involved. My family and I cheer the runners as they go past and I always end up so emotional, seeing all of them take part on behalf of so many great causes or friends and family. Running the marathon is such an achievement; I'm always in awe of everyone who does it and I think they're all heroes."



After presenting the much loved children's show Live & Kicking, Zoe became the first woman to solely front Radio 1's Breakfast Show and has since hosted a number of popular TV series including BBC's Strictly Come Dancing's It Takes Two.

Zoe is also an established radio presenter and regularly presents on BBC Radio 2. A former Strictly contestant, Zoe has also presented the Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour. Zoe is hosting a new BBC1 entertainment series beginning late March called "Can't Touch This" with Ashley Banjo. She will be representing the Motor

Neurone Disease (MND) Association at the Brighton Marathon, the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning.

MND is a fatal rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, attacking the nerves that control movement so muscles no longer work. It kills a third of people within a year and more than half within two years of diagnosis.

It's a devastating disease that affects up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time and kills six people every day. There is no cure.

Tom Naylor, Brighton Marathon Race Director said: "Zoe and her family are well-known Brighton residents and fantastic ambassadors for the City. We're delighted she will be starting the race for us and adding to the excitement at the start."

Ends.

Further information

The Brighton Marathon Weekend comprises [The Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens Mini Mile Races](#) on Saturday 16th April, the [BM10k](#) and the [Brighton Marathon](#) on Sunday 17th April and the [Brighton Marathon Exhibition](#) on the 15th and 16th April in the Brighton Centre.

Photos: The photo used here is available in high res from press@brightonmarathon.co.uk and are as follows:

Pic 1: Zoe Ball

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About the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association

- The MND Association was founded in 1979 by a group of volunteers with experience of living with or caring for someone with MND.
- We improve care and support for people with MND, their families and carers.
- We fund and promote research that leads to new understanding and treatments, and brings us closer to a cure for MND
- We campaign and raise awareness so the needs of people with MND and everyone who cares for them are recognised and addressed by wider society.

For more information visit www.mndassociation.org





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