

## 24 runners follow their Olympic marathon dream in Sundays Volkswagen Marathon Prague

**Prague / Volkswagen Marathon Weekend fever is spreading throughout Prague. According to tradition, the highlight of the weekend will come on Sunday with the marathon taking place for the 18<sup>th</sup> time this year. There are plenty of reasons to venture out in search of runners or maybe you'll even be running along with them? It also marks the second part of the spectacular running series, RunCzech.com 2012.**

Kenyan runner, Philemon Limo who ran his first half-marathon here last year in under one hour (59:30) is getting ready for his marathon premiere here in Prague. "I'm certain that I'll run my best time here," he says, laughing. He claims Prague is like a second home to him. "I have been working hard training since January. I've also picked up loads of information from the other runners. I want to run as best time I can".

His fellow compatriot, Lydia Cheromei is keen to beat her race record of 2:22:34 from last year. "I've been spurred on by the amazing Kenyan record of 2:18:17 achieved by my training partner, Mary Keitany from London. This is great motivation for me," she says.

A further 24 runners will be attempting to run qualifying time for limit to participate at the London Olympics. At 39 years of age, Australian runner Lee Troop would like to make it to the Games for the fourth time in his career. "I have the same desire now as I did the first time around. Things have changed quite a bit, we've moved to the USA with my family. And I've left them there now in order to run for the Olympics," he claims.

On the other hand defender for the Czech championship, Petr Pechek would be delighted to make it to the Games for the first time. "My goal is to run a personal best and at least to make the Czech B-limit (2:18:00). It'd be great to also pick up a Czech Gold even though it's going to be tougher than last time for me and Honza Kreisinger," he claims. The third Czech out to qualify for the London Olympics is Robert Krupička.

Apart from the elite runners, more than nine thousand runners from 92 countries will be taking part just for fun. Among these is former football star, 39-year old Pavel Nedvěd. For him the Prague Marathon will be taking precedence over the Championship celebrations of Juventus in Turin. "I'll be celebrating on Old Town Square. Carlo, I'm not sure...I just hope that I get to the finish line," came his message to the Chair of the Organisational Committee, Carlo Capalbo.

"It's our goal to spread the principles of healthy living and a sense of community, as well as the principles of sport and respecting our environment. We are proud to boast the IAAF Gold Label and are keen to prove once again that we can do it," Capalbo added. To show this is possible to the organisers of the largest world marathons in New York, Boston or London who are here for the Congress in Long-distance Running AIMS.

"For us every runner is just as important as the next, we're not just interested in the best ones. Hence why we have been supporting this socially prominent event for the past ten years," added Jan Procházka Director from the Utility Vehicles Division Volkswagen, the main race partner.

A number of other personalities will be kitted out in their running gear and taking part on the day. These include writer, Michal Viewegh, who recently decided to "award" himself the chance to take part as a way of celebrating his fiftieth birthday. We can also look forward to seeing Vice-Mayor of Prague, the Hawaiian Iron Man, Pavel Richter. "I

haven't been doing anything special to prepare for it but I'd like to complete the race between 3:10 and 3:20," he says of his goal. The cardiologist, Jan Pirk will also be running along with his patient, Aleš Tvrдый, a 51-year old man with a heart transplant.

You can tune into live broadcasting of the event on ČT4 as well as in a further 74 countries including Brazil as well as Greece. An additional 89 companies will be recording the marathon race.

more [www.runczech.com](http://www.runczech.com); [www.pim.cz](http://www.pim.cz)

**Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. / tempo team prague s.r.o.**

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**Poznámky pro editory:**

**Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o.**

Společnost Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. („PIM“) založil v roce 1995 Carlo Capalbo, prezident společnosti, s cílem zorganizovat v ulicích Prahy velký mezinárodní maraton. Na start prvního závodu se téhož roku postavilo 958 běžců. Od té doby se aktivity PIM rozrostly a rozvinuly do celé série běžeckých akcí známých jako PIM Běžecký seriál. V roce 2011 se závodů v rámci PIM Běžeckého seriálu zúčastnilo přes 60 000 závodníků z celého světa. Volkswagen Maraton Praha patří mezi top 10 maratonů světa odehrávající se v jedné z nejkrásnějších lokalit a v roce 2010 se stal 7. nejrychlejším na světě (Eliud Kiptanui doběhl v čase 2:05:39). PIM je rovněž od roku 1999 pořadatelem pražského půlmaratonu a závodů na kratší tratě Grand Prix.

Závody organizované PIM jsou sponzorovány jedněmi z největších investorů v České republice, společnostmi Volkswagen, adidas, Hervis a Mattoni. Celková organizace a atmosféra závodů přilákala do České republiky řadu předních světových atletů zvučných jmen (Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui a Antonio Pinto) a tisíce návštěvníků.

PIM je také jedním z mála organizátorů závodů na světě, který je držitelem kolekce 3 ocenění IAAF: IAAF Road Race Silver Label pro METRO Běh na 10 km a IAAF Road Race Gold Label pro Hervis 1/2Maraton Praha a Volkswagen Maraton Praha.

**tempo team prague s.r.o.**

Výraz "tempo" je zkratka organizace "The European Marathon Promotion Organization", která se zaměřuje na rozvoj maratonských závodů a dalších běžeckých akcí v Evropě. Společnost tempo team byla založena v roce 2000 skupinou odborníků a sportovních nadšenců.

Aktivity společnosti tempo team zahrnují vytváření konceptů, budování značky, marketing a samotnou organizaci sportovních akcí. Od jejího založení se společnost tempo team stala nedílnou součástí organizace pražského maratonu a také rozvoje PIM Běžeckého seriálu.

Za účelem uspořádání závodu Volkswagen Olomoucký 1/2Maraton vytvořila společnost tempo speciální tým odborníků s patnáctiletými zkušenostmi v oblasti organizace běžeckých akcí. První ročník závodu Volkswagen Olomoucký 1/2Maraton se pořádal v roce 2010 a jednalo se o první závod, který společnost tempo team organizovala mimo Prahy. Sérii závodů doplnil v roce 2011 závod Volkswagen Ústecký 1/2Maraton, který se konal v září.