



15 June 2020

Dear PARAS'10 tabbers and runners,

I wrote to you on 5 June about PARAS'10 Catterick 2020 and promised an update today

Today, you may have heard that the Great North Run in Newcastle scheduled for 13 Sept, the week after our Catterick event has been cancelled following the pattern of many more mass events under COVID.

Sadly, we have therefore decided after consultation with the Commanding Officer at the Training Battalion in Catterick that we cannot predict with enough certainty that we can hold our event on 5 September. The Army will not place its primary infantry training establishment at risk of coronavirus infection. Recruits and training staff are currently operating under social distanced conditions and in isolation after training hours. Although government advice is changing weekly, lockdown relaxation may bring new and regional pandemic surges, and we just cannot plan properly without knowing what the status will be in September.

This will be a huge disappointment to you as it is to us. But your safety and well-being is paramount, as well as that of spectators, event partners and the staff soldiers and recruits who host the event so superbly. And we wanted to save you travel planning and accommodation difficulties as early as possible.

As part of our contingency plans, we are investigating how we can hold a virtual event, based on individuals' 10-mile tab/runs. In May, the BMF At Home Challenge was conducted under government guidance that did not allow public exercising for more than one hour. That has now lifted, so distance events are now feasible. We will let you know more soon

Our event is organised by our charity Support our Paras to fund the welfare of soldiers, veterans and families. Welfare need has increased during COVID while fundraising has all but ceased. We need to stand by our no-refund policy and hope you will understand. All who have entered will be given FREE transfer to a PARAS'10 event of your choice in 2021, or Colchester on 7 November. (We realise that some Catterick entrants have already transferred from Colchester in May, and we hope you will bear with us.) We are still planning on Colchester on 7 November, which will be a special day around Remembrance. As soon as we know 2021 dates we will let you know.

May we meet again in November, and if not then in 2021

Stephen Cooper, CEO Support our Paras