



Pictured together at the media launch for the **2012 Weekend Witness Maritzburg Marathon**, powered by **Clover**, were, from left to right, Tom Wills of **Clover**, who are the new logistic partners, Race Director, John Hall, Melanie Veness, CEO of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business, and Dave Erasmus of title sponsors, **Weekend Witness**. Wills announced that Clover were ready to put their shoulders to the wheel and help make the event **"Way better"**. The group are displaying the new Mara**Fun** logo.

2012
'MARITZBURG MARATHON
& HALF MARATHON

WILL TAKE PLACE

AT

5am

ON

SUNDAY

26 FEBRUARY 2012

ON LINE ENTRIES

WILL OPEN ON

1 NOVEMBER 2011

AND

CLOSE AT

MIDNIGHT (SOUTH AFRICAN TIME)

ON

SATURDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2012.

The 2012 Weekend Witness Maritzburg marathon, powered by Clover was launched on Thursday afternoon at a gathering sponsored by Hospitality Partners, the Protea Hotel Imperial. The race will take place, starting outside Merchiston School, at 5am on Sunday 26th February 2012. Entries for one of South Africa's most popular standard marathons open on line via the official race web site at www.pmb42.co.za. Race director, John Hall, thanked all those who have helped make this event what it has become in just 15 years. He told the gathering that, despite the entire event being organised by unpaid volunteers, participants had come to expect standards equal to the big budgeted Comrades, Two Oceans and Soweto marathons. Despite the huge disparity between the cost of staging the event, expected to be around R1,2m, and the expected entry income of just over R400000, the race entry fees will be maintained at an affordable R120 for the marathon and R80 for the shorter distance.

Hall took the opportunity to announce the extension of the Marathon weekend to extend the fun runs, traditionally held at the Carbineer's Drill Hall on the Saturday before the main event. The MaraFun series, all based on the 21/42 of the half/marathon will be converted to 2,1km/4,2km, 420m, 210m and wrapping with a 42m toddler trot and 21m "nappy crawl". "The kids all want to take part. They don't worry about the distance. They just want to run." Said Hall. "Children are dependant on mum and dad to get to the event. They may not be inclined or have the means to do this for their children. So we will take the MaraFun to the children." The package of events will be hosted at five different venues around the city on the five consecutive weekends leading up to the event and culminating in the regular pre race Saturday at the Drill Hall.

In closing, Hall told those present to watch the press for exciting developments for the 2012 Maritzburg Marathon. He did not elaborate save to say "We hope to ignite the flame of marathon running".