

Running event for Ukraine at the Nunnery Wood Sports Complex



By [Joseph Broady](#) @JoebroadyWN Reporter



A running event fundraising for Ukraine is happening today at the Nunnery Wood Sports Complex.

Runners across Worcester and beyond are arriving at the racetrack to run for a combined 1500 laps, representing the distance it takes to get from Worcester to Kyiv.

The event, hosted by the Worcester Athletic Club and Black Pear Joggers, began at 9 am this morning, with runners able to come and join in as they please, leaving a donation that will go towards helping refugees.

Stefan Sternkopf, sports massage therapist and organiser of the event, was overjoyed at how many people came out to support the cause.



Stefan Sternkopf, organiser of the event.

He said: "About three weeks ago when all this started, I started thinking we need to do something practical to allow people the chance to get involved and stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

"We came up with the idea that the distance between Worcester and Kyiv is 1500 miles so we wanted to between us run 1500 laps.

"It has been fantastic, the support I had from everyone is so encouraging, everyone feels so strongly about it.

"The situation is totally unjust, and on a day like this seeing everyone turn out in support is so important."

Ben Jones was one of the many athletes taking part in the run today and could be seen carrying a Ukrainian flag around the track as he ran.

He said: "We are out this morning doing as many laps as possible for an amazing reason.

"The event organised by Stefan is fantastic and it is for a great cause. Running around the track for one and a half hours is nowhere near as bad as what the Ukrainian people are going through."



Ben Jones.

Running enthusiasts Katherine Smith and Ashley Brown also took part in the run today.

Katherine said: "We heard about this yesterday and we thought it would be a really good idea to come out and support the cause, give a bit of money and raise awareness as well."



Ashley Brown and Katherine Smith.

Ashley said: "The cause is so important. It is a lovely day for it and a fantastic occasion."

The event is due to finish today at 5 pm and is free to attend by anyone who wishes to take part.

Donations are being collected at the track, and also via this [JustGiving](#) link, where already over £1200 have been rasied.