



PRESS RELEASE  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Kenyan elite ready to seize for victory at the Birell Prague Grand Prix

**The very best Kenyan long-distance runners, a decent field of European athletes, not to mention the Czech crème de la crème. On 7<sup>th</sup> September, all eyes will turn to the Birell Prague Grand Prix 5&10 km, an IAAF Gold Label race. The race has also earned itself worldwide prestige for its 10K world record in the women's category.**

This year's main draw is Kenyan runner Geoffrey Koech, who boasts the thirteenth best performance of all time. He proved his abilities at this year's Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon with a time of just over one hour, following this up with a 10K delivery four seconds shy of the 28-minute boundary in the Dutch town of Wierden.

Nineteen-year-old Vincent Kiprotich Kibet has a very bright future ahead with an excellent personal best of 27:21 from Berlin 2019. Other hot favourites include twenty-two year old Ethiopian runner Jemal Yimer Mekonnen with the fastest debut time in history in the half marathon as well as Vedic Kipkoech, who took bronze at this year's 10K in Valencia. Not forgetting the wild card Benard Kimeli who's currently on great form.

Number two on the women's historical rankings (30:06), Fancy Chemutai will be keen to break through the thirty minute barrier. She broke a world record here two years ago, however unfortunately for her, it happened just as Joyciline Jepkosgei delivered an even better one of 29:43 making her the world record holder. Her current time is also well within range for successors Gloria Kite and Norah Jeruto. With a fresh personal best under her belt, Dorcas Jepchumba Kimeli is another runner to watch out for.

Leading the men's Czech start field is the current national marathon champion Vít Pavlišta. And not only does he shine on shorter distances, he also loves to train on them around his home city of Liberec. The outstanding athlete who continues to hold down a full-time job, ran his best time of 29:52 five years ago at another race in Prague. While he focuses on long-distance training, he continues to do well on the 10K, delivering times just over the thirty-minute mark, having proven such at five road races over the past year.

He will face competition from his traditional rival at half marathon events David Vaš (from České Budějovice) who is showing great potential. Then there's veteran runner Tomáš Navrátil, who at thirty-one continues to rank among the elite field and specialises in 10K road races. He's looking in great shape ahead of the Grand Prix following a new personal best (31:31) in May of this year.

The Czech women's field is also looking exciting with several contenders thirsty for victory. Thirty-two year old Hana Homolková is in good shape right now, and her most recent time of 36:08 makes her the hot favourite to win.



## ELITE MEN'S FIELD

Name	Nationality	Personal record
Geoffrey Koech	KEN	27:18
Vincent Kiprotich Kibet	KEN	27:21
Jemal Yimer Mekonnen	ETH	27:54
Vedic Kipkoech	KEN	27:26
Amos Kurgat	KEN	27:32
Bravin Kipkogei Kiptoo	KEN	27:31
Kennedy Kimutai	KEN	27:38
Abraham Kipyatich	KEN	27:38
Hicham Amghar	MAR	27:46
Mbuleli Maxwell Mantanga	RSA	27:48
Benard Kimeli	KEN	27:10
Edward Kibet Kiprop	KEN	27:50
Jophat Chumo	KEN	27:58
James Bunuka	KEN	27:45
Hamid Ben Daoud	ESP	28:07
Daniel Kipchumba Chebii	KEN	27:35
Sebastian Hendel	GER	28:27
Nicolae Alexandru Soare	ROM	28:54
Napoleon Solomon	SWE	28:33
Philipp Pflieger	GER	28:40
Eric Rüttimann	SUI	29:34
Arkadiusz Gardzielewski	POL	29:14
Mehdi Frere	FRA	29:27
Jaume Leiva Beato	ESP	29:53
Vít Pavlišta	CZE	29:52
Arne Gabius	GER	28:07



Felix Plinke	GER	30:01
David Vaš	CZE	31:34
Tomáš Navrátil	CZE	31:31
Milan Janoušek	CZE	31:25

## ELITE WOMEN'S FIELD

Name	Nationality	Personal best
Fancy Chemutai	KEN	30:06
Gloria Kite	KEN	30:26
Norah Jeruto	KEN	30:57
Dorcas Jepchumba Kimeli	KEN	31:09
Alemaddis Eyayu	ETH	31:39
Sheila Chepkirui	KEN	30:28
Irine Chepet Cheptai	KEN	31:45
Naumi Vaati Ndolo	KEN	32:13
Darya Mykhailova	UKR	32:27
Monicah Jepkemoi Chirchir	KEN	32:28
Clara Evans	GBR	33:20
Matea Parlov	CRO	35:00
Hana Homolková	CZE	36:08
Petra Kamínková	CZE	32:28

<https://www.runczech.com>



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Should you be interested in further information or print quality photography, please get in touch with:

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