

Comrades 2020 Bill Rowan Program by Lindsey Parry – Official coach of the Comrades Marathon Association:

Part 2 of your Comrades Journey starts now. Most of you **SHOULD** have been ready to run a Marathon in November or December 2019, while some of you are still needing to qualify. The principles of this programme remain the same, to finish Comrades in under 9hrs you must be consistent and remain healthy/injury free. You will be expected to do a lot more work than the bronze programme but you should not be broken/exhausted all the time

The eccentric load (pounding) on your legs is extremely high, to help prepare for this, strength training is highly recommended for the down run. Strength training is important for both directions, but I feel non-negotiable for the down run.

The earlier you start with your strength programme, the better your adaptation and lower the impact on how tired you feel when running. My suggestion is to do your strength training on 1 of your 2 rest days in the week, and on a shorter day, leaving at least 1 full day between each gym session. **If you have not yet started strength training and have 30min 1-2 times per week, then start NOW**

Who should follow this programme?

- Comrades finishers who have run sub 9hr30
- Comrades Novices who can run a half Marathon in sub 1hr45
- Comrades Novices who have come close to/or have broken 3hrs40 for a Marathon

If you do not fall into these categories, then read through the introduction to the Bronze programme to select the appropriate programme. **DO NOT** follow this programme thinking that the extra mileage will guarantee a finish. The biggest single threat to you finishing Comrades is getting injured and/or sick, place a premium on recovery and ensuring this through following the appropriately designed programme for you.

This programme is time based so people of more experience and greater running ability will get relatively more out of the programme and progress faster. Time based programs also prevent you from settling on a route that you need to run faster every time you do it. It is easier to maintain discipline and run easy on the easy days. I must again emphasise here that being injury free and consistent in your training is the key to a successful race, easy days are there to ensure full recovery, so you can get the most out of every days training.

The aim is to be **capable** of running a sub 3:30 marathon before Comrades. However if you **DID NOT** achieve that last year, we will not attempt to do so this year as this will affect your training in the closing and most important months.

There are recovery weeks built into the programme every 4 weeks, do not be tempted to do more as this will only compromise you later in the programme, leading to injury, illness and under performance in goal races.

Training days are interchangeable, if your club has Time Trials (TT) on a Tuesday or Wednesday you can swap Thursday with one of these days.

You will be required to run 2 Marathons and an Ultra Marathon **AS TRAINING RUNS**, note that a minimum of 3 weeks should pass between marathons or between marathons and ultras.

For the dates of races in your area you can go to www.runnersguide.co.za for a full fixture list.

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Training Paces:

Easy (E):	5:10-5:40/km
Long (L):	5:20-5:50/km
Recovery (rec):	5:50-6:10/km
Firm:	4:40-4:50/km
Hills:	4:40-4:45/km
1km:	4:10-4:15/km
400m:	3:55-4:00/km

These paces are a guide for someone who is training for a 3hr30 Marathon, aim to run at or around these paces taking note of how easily you recover.

Enjoy the training!

January 2020:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Jan			45min E	1hr E	REST	1hr15 E	1hr30 L
6 Jan	REST	45min E	1hr E	45min rec	REST	1hr E	1hr15 E
13 Jan	REST	E 15min; 6x2min hill repeats; E 10min	1hr E	45min rec	REST	1hr30 L	2hrs L
20 Jan	REST	E 15min; 7x2min hill repeats; E 10min	1hr10 E	45min rec	REST	1hr45 L	2hr15 L
27 Jan	REST	E 15min; 8x2min hill repeats; E 10min	1hr20 E	45min rec	REST		

February 2020:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Feb						2hr L	2hrs45 L
3 Feb	REST	1hr E	45min rec	15min E; 8km TT; 10min E	REST	1hr30 L	2hrs L
10 Feb	REST	E 15min; 8x2min hill repeats; E 10min	1hr20 E	45min rec	REST	2hr L	1hr30 L
17 Feb	REST	E 15min; 6x2min hill repeats; E 10min	1hr20 E	45min rec	REST	1hrs E	Marathon as training run
24 Feb	REST	REST	45min rec	E 15min; 4x2min hill repeats; E 10min	REST	1hr45 L	

March 2020:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 March							2hrs L
2 March	REST	1hr E	45min rec	15min E; 8km TT; 10min E	REST	1hr30 L	2hrs L
9 March	REST	E 15min; 6x1km, 1min rec; E 15min	1hr30 L	45min rec	REST	Om die Dam or Similar	REST
16 March	REST	REST	30min E	45min rec	REST	1hr E	1hr30 E
23 March	REST	E 15min; 7x1km, 1min rec; E 15min	1hr30 L	45min rec	REST	2hrs L	2hrs30 L
30 March	REST	E 15min; 8x1km, 1min rec; E 15min					

April 2020:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 April			1hr40 L	45min rec	REST	2hrs L	3hrs L
6 April	REST	E 15min; 8x1km, 1min rec; E 15min	1hr40 L	45min rec	REST	Two Oceans or Similar	REST
13 April	REST	REST	30min E	45min rec	REST	1hr E	1hr30 E
20 April	REST	E 15min; 8x1km, 1min rec; E 15min	1hr40 L	45min rec	REST	2hrs L	3hrs30 L
27 April	REST	E 20min; 8x2min hill repeats; E 15min	1hr40 L	45min rec			

May 2020:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 May					REST	2hrs L	2hrs30 L
4 May	REST	E 20min; 8x2min hill repeats; E 15min	1hr40 L	45min rec	REST	15min E	55-60km Long Run
11 May	REST	30min E	45min rec	1hr E	REST	2hrs L	3hrs E
18 May	REST	E 20min; 8x2min hill repeats; E 15min	1hr40 L	45min rec	REST	2hrs L	2hr30 E
25 May	REST	E 15min; 10x400m, 1min REST; E 10min	1hr30 L	45min rec	REST	1hr30 L	2hrs L

