

## **Holme Pierrepont Running Club AGM -Events Secretary's Report 2019-20**

This will be a slightly different report this year as I normally use this forum to:

- 1) Thank those who have assisted with event organisation.
- 2) Review the running year.
- 3) Encourage participation in the events we have coming up over the next few months.

Due to the current situation with the Corona Virus, I can't do number 3 as there is still no clarity on when we will be able to organise races or events. People's health is the most important thing so we will continue to follow Government advice and to be guided by England Athletics. As I said in the May edition of Running Free, when we get the green light to proceed, we will be ready to put some events on, for either just our club members or for the wider running community (depending on what we are allowed to do). We have lots of ideas!

So I shall concentrate on points 1 and 2:

### **Some Thank You's**

The HPRC year is always packed with team events and we are very lucky to have 2 committed, encouraging and supportive Captains in **Jean Inglis** and **Will Meredith**. Both Jean and Will spend a lot of time emailing runners to arrange teams and then put many more hours in on race days collecting finisher discs, submitting results and leading the cheers!

They then capture the fantastic individual and team performances in their entertaining monthly Running Free articles. Thank you Captains, exceptional job!

**Tom Davies** has organised the Lake Handicap, Park Run Challenge, Dream Mile and put a lot of time into planning the very popular Christmas Relays.

We are also very lucky to have **Ruth Brandon** looking after fell running and **James Kirkwood** taking charge of our track events. Thank you to both of you.

Finally thank you to everyone who has supported the Club by coming down to HP to help with event set up or with marshalling. I have really appreciated all the support. Special thanks to **Bryn Stone, Glyn Sawford** and **Pete Savage** who have consistently helped with setting up the start/finish areas whilst I have set out the courses.

### **The Running Year 2019-20**

My over-riding memories of 2019-20 will be ones of extreme weather and of incredible HPRC performances.

It was **Gary Cragg's** first year as Director of the famous HP Grand Prix series and he was certainly thrown in at the deep end when we had to cope with torrential rain at the first race in Rushcliffe and then had to find an "emergency course" at Colwick to ensure that we could offer runners the complete 4 race series. Gary did a great job ensuring everything ran smoothly. It's a shame that we have had to cancel this year's event but we should be back in 2021!

Gary had a preview of the June weather on the way for the Grand Prix when we hosted our Summer League race at HP. We had such bad flooding that we considered cancelling the race and had to dig channels on the track near the fishing lakes to get rid of excessive water. It even rained throughout the race but we were well supported with lots of marshals and loads of runners who produced strong performances on our 5 mile course.

The Summer League series really showcased our HP spirit with massive turnouts at all races and some brilliant running. In fact, the running was so superb that in Will's first year as captain, we won both the Men's Senior and Veterans titles. The Ladies nearly matched the Men with a win in the Senior event and the runner's up position in the Veterans title race. It's an outstanding achievement but what is really fantastic is the depth of the squads we have. We could have won the F Team title if such a thing existed!

At the British Masters Cross Country Relays at Long Eaton in November, the extreme weather was back again. This time it was high winds and pouring rain with runners taking on a waist deep stream crossing as part of the course!

We hosted the Christmas Relays in December and Tom's idea of reinstating the event in the running calendar was very well received earning the Club praise from the Notts AAA. The weather had to play a part again with yet more flooding meaning some course changes on the day!

It was a first for HPRC at Wollaton in January with the Men winning outright the last race of the North Midlands League season in front of the League President, our very own Chairman, **Jogger!** This lifted the Men to 5<sup>th</sup> overall in a very competitive league.

Storms in February meant that the East Midland Cross Country League had to be cut short sadly but throughout the series HPRC members were out in force which was great to see.

We have competed this season in the following events - thank you to everyone who has got involved.

- The Long Eaton Relay
- The Bramley Apple Challenge – a friendly race against several local clubs
- The Summer League
- National Cross Country Relays
- Cross Country County Championships
- Cross Country Midlands Championships
- National Cross Country Championships
- East Midlands Cross Country League
- North Midlands Cross Country League
- The Midlands Road Relays
- The National Road Relays
- The Midlands 5/7
- Indoor Track Championships
- Ed Prickett Relays

## **Final Thoughts**

As Events Secretary, my main aims are for HP members to enjoy running together and to have the opportunity to participate in club events irrespective of their ability.

Hopefully I will be allowed to do this soon for you!

Very best wishes for your running over the next 12 months (whatever format that might be in).

Steve Tupholme (Events Secretary)