

HPRC Memorial Trophies

The Ernie Berry Veterans' Half Marathon Trophy

Ernie Berry (1929-1990) and his wife Dot (Dorothy) were founder members of Holme Pierrepont Running and Jogging Club in 1982. They had taken up running around the start of the decade and had run in the first London Marathon in 1981. Their daughter Julie was also involved in the early days of the club, and she designed our first club logo.

After Ernie died in 1990, Dot donated a trophy in his memory. The Dovedale Dash had been one of Ernie's favourite races and it was a regular fixture on the club calendar. The trophy was awarded to the first veteran runner from the club to finish the race, alternating between men and women. At the time women were classed as veterans at 35 and men at 40. (That has now been changed to 35 for both sexes).

Today the Ernie Berry Veterans' Trophy is no longer awarded for the Dovedale Dash. Instead, it is awarded to the veteran with the best half marathon performance of the year, alternating between men and women.

The John Foden Marathon Trophy

John Foden (1926-2016) was a member of the club from the 1980s. He was soon roped in to organising the Heritage Races in the city centre (the precursor of today's Grand Prix races). He edited the club's newsletter, "not Running", in 1987 and 1988. After stepping down from that role, he sent in many reports of ultra races he had run both in the UK and abroad.

John is perhaps best-known today as the originator of the Spartathlon, a 245km road race from Athens to Sparta which attracts a top-class field. But through his involvement with the Road Runners Club, he also played an important role in the development of ultramarathons in the UK. For example, in 1990 he was Race Director for the first ever UK 100km Championships. The race was held at Holme Pierrepont with many of our members volunteering.

John donated a trophy to the club for the best men's marathon performance of the year. The club provided a separate trophy for the best women's marathon performance. Both trophies were first awarded in 1991 to Noel Fowler (2:45.48) and Lesley Cliff (3:03.50).

John was made an Honorary Life Member of the club.

The Pat Fowler Ladies Captain's Trophy and Lake Handicap Rosebowl

Pat (Patricia) Fowler (1954-1990) was a member of the club along with her husband, Noel Fowler.

After Pat's death in a road traffic accident in 1990, Noel organised the Pat Fowler Memorial Races each August from 1991 to 1993. Her parents donated a trophy which was awarded to the winner. In 1994, Noel informed the club that he was no longer going to organise the races, but that the family would be happy for the club to use the trophy to mark an achievement in women's running within the club. It was decided that the trophy would become the Pat Fowler Memorial Cup Women's Captain's Trophy and at the 1995 annual dinner it was awarded for the first time, to Victoria Moore for improvements in her race times in the previous year.

A rosebowl was also awarded at the races and Noel agreed with the committee that it would be awarded to the winner of the Lake Handicap from 1995.

The Paul Fooks Fell Running Trophy

Paul Fooks (1960-1998) was a very active member of the club in the 1990s. His sister, Mary Mills, also joined the club and is still a member. Paul served as Events Secretary for six years and one year also acted as Senior Men's Captain. His role meant that he organised many races for the club as well as attending county athletics committee meetings.

Paul competed in all types of races and club events: road races, track, fell and cross country racing (including the National Championships), and long-distance footpath relays organised by other clubs and by our club. His obituary in Running Free noted that "he took part in virtually every event the club entered or organised".

In 1998 he was awarded the Chairman's trophy for his steadfast contribution to the smooth running of the club. On New Year's Eve that year, Paul, an experienced hill walker, was tragically killed whilst out in the hills near Ben Nevis.

In 1999, Paul was posthumously awarded both the John Foden Marathon trophy and the Chairman's trophy for a second time.

In April 1998 his family scattered his ashes at Win Hill Pike, which his father described as a "symbolic resting place among the hills" with many club members present. On New Year's Day 2000, the club organised the Paul Fooks Memorial Race, a 5km race and a 2km fun run at Wollaton Park.

The Paul Fooks Fell Running Trophy was donated by his parents in recognition of his love of the fells and hills. This is now the men's trophy with a separate trophy for women.

Richard Durance Ultra Runner of the Year Trophy

Richard Durance (1953-2021) joined the club in 1991.

His first marathon was also his very first race of any distance. It was the inaugural London Marathon in 1981. Over the following years, Richard completed many more marathons. One of his proudest moments in running was becoming a member of the 100 Marathon

Club. To qualify for membership, runners must have completed 100 marathons or ultramarathons. Richard achieved this at the Longhorn Marathon in Nottinghamshire in April 2015 and was presented with a bottle of champagne and a member's medal after the race.

As well as marathons, Richard ran ultras and wrote entertaining reports for Running Free about many of them. In 1995 he competed in the World Trail Running Championships at the 80 mile South Downs Way race. Later he did several well-known ultras in other countries including the multi-day Marathon des Sables in the Sahara Desert in Morocco in 2012 and the Caballo Blanco Ultra in Mexico in 2013. In South Africa, he took part in the Comrades Marathon (54 miles) in 2015 and Two Oceans Marathon (56km) which he ran with Penny in 2017.

After Richard's death from cancer, his family organised a social gathering for club members at the Nottingham Forest FC City Ground, in accordance with his wish that people should enjoy "a bevy and a bit of snap" paid for by him. Peter Savage, a close friend and fellow club member, donated a trophy in his name for the best ultrarunning performance of the year. The Richard Durance Ultra Runner of the Year trophy was first awarded in 2022 to Lauren Johnson.

Steve Shanks Grand Prix Trophy

Steve Shanks (1978-2023) joined the club in the mid-2000s. He soon became one of the club's top runners on the road. Notably, in 2009 he won the Senior club championships in every distance from 5 miles to the marathon. Steve also competed in cross country and ran and walked in the hills. In 2008, he won the club's fell running championship. That year, he also completed the Bob Graham Round, summiting 42 of the highest peaks in the Lake District in under 24 hours. He was supported by several members of the club.

Steve was the county champion in the marathon twice in 2006 and 2013 and finished in the top ten in the Robin Hood Marathon in 2006, 2009 and 2015. He was twice awarded the club's Men's Captain's Trophy (2006 & 2009) and won the John Foden Marathon Trophy five times.

Through the club Steve met Jessica, and they married in 2015. They became each other's greatest supporters in all their running endeavours. Tragically, Steve was taken ill and died after completing the London Marathon in April 2023.

The club's committee decided to award a trophy in memory of Steve. The Steve Shanks Grand Prix Trophy is awarded to the winning team in the Grand Prix races and was first awarded in 2024 to Beeston AC.

Written by Katie Holmes, October 2024