

Holme Pierrepont Running Club AGM- Chair's Report 2023-24

2023-4 has been a good year at HPRC, although the weather has thrown us a few challenges. I can't previously remember so many club nights and races being affected by flooding. It really has been incredibly wet with the tarmac around the perimeter of the Lake being damaged on more than one occasion.

We have had an extensive programme of running events (which Matt will write about in his report) including a profitable Grand Prix for the club and a fantastic Pennine Way relay organised by Lauren Johnson and Glyn Sawford. Glyn wrote a great account of that Bank Holiday weekend away in Running Free and we had a lovely evening at the Embankment in July, celebrating those runners' achievements by presenting them with some lovely certificates. It really was a great weekend of running, laughs, camaraderie and club support. Hopefully we will have similar events in the future and I urge you to get involved if you get the opportunity.

HPRC has a reputation for being one of the friendliest and caring running clubs in Nottinghamshire and there was no better example of that, than at the Turkey Trot in December when Craig Jones suffered a cardiac arrest during the race. Several HP members stopped to help Craig and fortunately, despite a trip to intensive care, Craig has lived to fight another day. I was delighted that Craig and his wife were able to join us at the Annual Dinner and his presence was a highlight of the evening for everybody attending.

Obviously HPRC is totally run by volunteers and there are too many people to thank individually for all their efforts in ensuring that the club operates efficiently but thank you to everyone, you all know who you are!

All Committee members stand down at the end of the year so that any member can apply for any position on the Committee. Several of the current Committee have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election this year so thank you, in particular, to **Lauren Johnson, Hannah Matharu, Ann Gould and Emma Cupitt**. Ann and Emma were jointly presented with the Chairperson's Trophy at the Annual Dinner in recognition of the 6 years that they dedicated to HPRC in organising numerous social events for us. They have both done an excellent job for the club for which we are all very grateful.

The Grand Prix is the most important event of the HPRC year and this went well in 2023 under the guidance of Matt Wynn. Matt has now left the area so I am very grateful to **Sue Whitehead** who has taken over the Grand Prix Director

role. Sue is working very hard on the preparation for Grand Prix 2024 and is doing a lot of planning and preparation. It should be a tremendous event!

Our constitution says that “the main purposes of HPRC are to provide facilities for and to promote participation in the amateur sport of athletics in Nottinghamshire” . Similarly our mission statement includes the following “The club’s mission is to provide a social, friendly running community in the Nottingham area for those interested in taking part in, and supporting, running on all types of terrain.”

I really hope that you feel, as a member, that we are achieving these goals. As a committee we are very interested in hearing members’ views and that is why we sent out the survey around events that HPRC host. Disappointingly less than a quarter of our total membership have filled this survey in. It would be very useful if we could get a bigger response to surveys in the future so that we can shape the way we operate at the club, based on members’ feedback. We just want to give the members what they want!

Thank you for supporting the Club this year and I hope you enjoy your membership in 2024-25 whether you are enjoying runs with friends on a Club night, representing the Club at races, volunteering to help at Events or simply gaining a discount on races through being an HPRC member. Whatever your reason is, please enjoy!

Happy running this year!

Steve Tupholme (Chair)