

Holme Pierrepont Running Club AGM- Events Secretary's Report 2023-24

As a club we enter three league competitions as well as a number of relays and cross country championship events. These races are paid for by the club and a great way to enter into friendly competition with runners from other clubs. Over the last 12 months we entered teams into the following competitions.

- Midland 6 (men) and 4 (ladies) stage Autumn Relays at Sutton Park (Sept 2023)
- National Cross Country Relays at Berry Hill Park (Nov 2023)
- County Cross Country Championships at Bulwell Hall Park (Jan 2024)
- Midland Cross Country Championships at Leamington Spa (Jan 2024)
- Notts AAA Summer League (Summer 2023)
- North Midlands Cross Country League (Oct 2023 to Jan 2024)
- East Midlands Cross Country League (Jan to Feb 2024)

In the Notts Summer League senior and vets men's teams both placed 4th, senior women were an excellent 2nd just 33 points behind Mansfield, whilst vets women were 3rd. In the North Midlands Cross Country League where the standard is very high due both to the prestigious history of the event and the large geographical area covered, our vet's ladies won gold for the third year running. Senior ladies were 10th, whilst senior and vet men's teams were 7th and 4th respectively. Finally in a truncated East Midlands Cross Country League, the senior and vet men were both 2nd, senior ladies 4th and vet ladies 3rd. However, these 'A' team positions disguise an impressive strength in depth with men's vets 'B' through to 'F' teams winning gold. In other events, our vet men picked up a bronze medal in the County Cross Championships. Whilst at the recent County Fell Champs at Wolf's Pitt we cleaned up with almost all runners who turned out winning a county individual and/or team medal of some colour.

On the negative side some inclement weather including severe storms has caused an unusually high number of race cancellations over the last 12 months. Both the British Masters Cross Relays in October and National Cross Country Champs in February were called off, whilst in January we were forced to cancel our East Mids XC league event, reducing the series to 3 races. The Nationals have been rescheduled to take place on Saturday 14th September Weston Park, Telford. We hope that some of our regular XC runners can make this revised date, even though I appreciate this may clash with Autumn Marathon/Half Marathon plans. The effects of the storms have unfortunately been lasting with damage to the River Trent path near Beeston and our own Regatta Lake path disrupting sporting activity, including Parkrun. We are optimistic that forthcoming repair of the lake perimeter will enable all scheduled Spring/Summer events organised both by us and other parties to go ahead.

As well as the competitions we enter as runners, our club hosts a number of events for the running community. We have hosted the HP Grand Prix and races in the Summer and East Mids XC leagues for a long time, whilst in the last 5 years we have taken on organisation of both the Christmas Relays and Notts 10, the latter in collaboration with Beeston AC. We need volunteers for all these events, but as has been recognised across our sport as a whole, finding the necessary number of people to support events is becoming more of a challenge. Last year we had 6 club members help out at 6 or more of the 8 races we host. So we do not become over reliant on a small number of individuals we would like to encourage all active members to volunteer to help out for at least one event a year. At the time of writing, I am looking for marshals for the 50th running of the Notts 10 mile Road Race in just a few weeks' time and this will be followed by our 4 Grand Prix races in late June/early July. As well as the volunteers I would like to hail the efforts of those who take on the organisation of these events. **Matt Wynn** did a superb job of organising the GP last year, including having to put together

an emergency event management plan at the last moment following tragic events which occurred in Nottingham last June. Thanks also to **Sue Whitehead** who was in charge of timing for the series and has stepped up to take over from Matt as the GP director this time around. **Steve Tupholme** is currently race director of the Christmas Relays and co-leads the organisation of the Notts 10. As many of you are aware, Steve also plays a crucial role in our sport at County level as Chair of the Notts AAA Road Running Committee, organiser of the Summer League and as the currently serving president of Notts AAA. Thanks Steve for all you do.

I would like to end by thanking several club members who co-ordinate some of the internal activities which make being a member of our club fun. **Colin Brearley** who organises the Fell Running Champs. **James Kirkwood** who organises the Tuesday track nights as well as our entry in the County track and field champs and County Development League. **Lauren Johnson** and **Scott Smith** who organise the popular Parkrun challenge, **Dan Pickup** who currently organises our long standing Lake Handicap series and **Victoria Webster** who organises the duty rota for cub nights. Finally, I wish to thank team captains **Janet Atkinson** and **Will Meredith**. They do an amazing job in both putting together teams and drumming up enthusiasm for the events listed above. They also go above and beyond in helping out our club. Janet runs our club's Road Running League which encourages club members to support some of our local races whilst Will organises the Cliff's handicap on top of several other bits and pieces.

Thanks as always for your support it is greatly appreciated. A reminder to email HPRCVolunteers@hprcrun.co.uk to offer help at specific events or be notified of future volunteer opportunities. I shall look forward to seeing many of you participating in and volunteering at events over the next year.

Matt Grainge (Events Secretary)