

Holme Pierrepont Running Club AGM- Events Secretary's Report 2024-25

One benefit of being a member of Holme Pierrepont Running Club is the number of events which you can enter free of charge. By taking part, you also experience the camaraderie of competing with friends and helping our club win trophies and medals. Of currently registered running members, 40% competed in at least one of the competitions below during 2024.

- British Masters Cross Country Relays (Oct 2024)
- National Cross Country Relays at Berry Hill Park (Nov 2024)
- County Cross Country Championships at Bulwell Hall Park (Jan 2025)
- Midland Cross Country Championships at Mallory Park (Jan 2025)
- National Cross Country Championships at Parliament Hill (Feb 2025)
- Notts AAA Summer League (Summer 2024)
- North Midlands Cross Country League (Oct 2024 to Jan 2025)
- East Midlands Cross Country League (Jan to Feb 2025)

Notable achievements from these include the Masters women once again winning an overall medal in the highly competitive North Midlands Cross Country league (this time silver). In the British Masters Cross Country Relays, our W55 trio was third overall with the M55 quartet taking a bronze medal in the Midland Masters competition within this event. The Masters men placed 5th in the North Mids league, whilst in the East Midlands Cross Country league Ladies Vets were winners and Men Vets second (with the senior teams 4th and 2nd respectively). In the Notts Summer league, both senior teams placed 6th, whilst the Masters men were 4th and Masters women 3rd.

Our runners this year have also been busy featuring among the County Championship medals on the road, cross country, track, fell and trail. There are too many winners to name individually, but I would like to highlight our excellent performances again in the recent County Fell Championships where the Vet men and women both took Gold and at the inaugural County Trail Championships at Edwinstowe last December, where we won team medals of every colour: Gold (Vet women), Silver (Vet men), Bronze (Open women) and Bronze (mixed team). Highlighting individual achievements is difficult to do here, as we have so many runners competing at a high level and/or who turn out consistently, especially in the competitions above. It is helpful therefore to have sources of statistics produced diligently by club members which others can view: **Janet Atkinson** for the Road Race league, **James Kirkwood** for the Cross Country cup and **Dave Greenwood**, who's running league covers pretty much everything. In fact, Dave's data was the source of the stat in the opening paragraph of this report.

As a club, we serve a significant role for the local running community in terms of the events we host. Our portfolio of events is currently in a slight transition phase as we no longer host the Notts 10-mile road race, and with the East Midlands XC race held within the country park cancelled for a second year running following the consequences of inclement weather, there is uncertainty as to whether we can continue to hold this event going forward. That said, we do an excellent job hosting the final race of the Summer League, where we need to find a large contingent of marshals in a race in which so many of our members are under pressure to run. We also held another extremely successful Christmas Relays this year - thanks to **Gary Cragg** for stepping into the race director role. Our main event is the Grand Prix. Much of this work is described in the accompanying Chair's report but I would like to add my own thanks to **Sue Whitehead** and everyone who helped make the 2024 series another successful one. **Glyn Sawford** and his team are already doing a superb job putting things together and drumming up entries for this year's race, which will come around very quickly. The core organiser roles for both the relays and Grand Prix are supported by the relentless work of **Steve**

Tupholme. Steve will be standing down as club chair this year, so now is a good time to highlight the excellent work he does at club and wider level - but also to encourage people to come forward to help out with some of the core event roles. This includes Steve's role in setting up courses and looking after equipment, as well as the work of **Pete Savage** and **Bryn Stone**, who set up the start and finish areas at all our races. Do let me know if you wish to be part of our contingency planning for these core roles going forward. Similarly, if you just wish to opt in to be informed of all future volunteer opportunities, I will be delighted to hear from you. To do so, please email HPRCVolunteers@hprcrun.co.uk. This email is used to coordinate our volunteer activity and acts independently from the membership list.

It is natural to start my final round of thank yous by mentioning the team captains who I work with closely in my Events Sec role. Janet and **Marc Faulder** deserve special recognition for inspiring people to turn up at races and recognising individual achievements in their comprehensive Running Free reports. Juggling tokens and team sheets in the rain and howling gale at Shipley Park last year in itself deserves an accolade. Also, thanks to:

- James who continues to be the central person for all things track. This includes organising the Tuesday track rota, the Club Track Champs and our entries in the County Track and Field Champs and County Development League.
- **Colin Brearley**, who hosts our club fell championships and for the last couple of years has used this as an opportunity for enjoyable weekends away in the Lake District to experience the slightly tougher Lakeland fells.
- **Scott Smith and Lauren Johnson** for the Parkrun Challenge. This appeals to many club members, and I'm sure there are others like myself who have attended Parkruns we would never have visited otherwise.
- **Dan Pickup**, who currently coordinates the long-standing Lake Handicap
- **Victoria Webster**, who organises the duty rota for club nights
- **Jason Randall**, who this year organised the Cliff's Handicap.

From an events perspective, Jason also organises the Pint & Pork Scratchings Trail Race, which has become an integral part of the summer race calendar in a very short space of time. Please do take the chance to support Jason with this event in future to ensure its continued success, especially if you are able to volunteer on event day.

Thank you to everyone, as your continued support makes my role enjoyable. I shall look forward to seeing many of you participating in and volunteering at events over the next year.

Matt Grainge (Events Secretary)