

Hampshire Athletics Cross Country Championships 2016

Once again, I have to report a successful Championships. Lots of muddy finishers, some minor injuries and two athletes who needed hospital visits, but were released after treatment. Again, thanks are necessary and credit given to the many volunteers- Colin, Jon, Malcolm, Richard and Colin from Fairthorne Manor, working endlessly on the course, measuring, clearing (both below and above head height), setting out the course and organising marshals. The Fairthorne Manor Management and staff who were so accommodating of our requests, providing refreshments for the public and the officials' packed lunches, the marquee with electricity and the luxury of permanent toilets and showers! Once again too, our officials- words cannot express my thanks to these people whose hard work and expertise make me look good! Eileen and Terry's mailout for help resulted in non-Endurance officials volunteering. They seemed to enjoy the day, and two at least have said that they wish to attend the next Level 2 course that I am running. Result! Richard needs to be thanked for everything he does- entry forms, entries, banking, programme production, results and keeping me in check, ably assisted on the day by Dave Yetton.

I think the Executive Committee and colleagues here need to be aware that our officials go beyond their brief when it comes to our Championships. John Hoare, John Walker, Ken Littlejohns and Paul Ingrouille from Guernsey (who had flown over a day early especially to help) set up the Start and Finish areas on Friday, leaving Colin, Jon and the chaps from Eastleigh RC to concentrate on the course. We were lucky with the weather that day, but I could not manage good weather on Race Day and it was foul at times. For those of you who attended, you would have seen some good performances- leading to Regional and National success for some since. Such is our strength in Hampshire.

Although our entries were down this year by over 120, we still had reasonable numbers in each race apart from the U17 and U20 age groups. I don't think it is appropriate to discuss it here, but I have some suggestions that I will be making to the Executive Committee concerning my thoughts on those age group races for the future.

With the passing of time, and many other fixtures attended, the problems are beginning to recede and what remains is the memory of a successful Championships. Just don't say the words 'Car Parking' in Colin's or my hearing!

Pam Rogers- Championship Secretary