

Hampshire County Cross Country Championships 2020

The 2020 Championships, held at Fairthorne Manor on January 4th were once again a success. The weather was kind to us, and the course held up reasonably well for the runners. For the first time in my memory, runners were sent in the wrong direction in the first race of the day, U11Boys. They ended up running in the wrong direction around the course before being sent, or finding their way, onto the Finish run-in! Once Richard had checked on the course map, it was determined that the boys only ran about 200m short. Needless to say, the marshals who had made the error were desolated, the lady was in tears. They were experienced marshals who had been at that point in the course for the last 5 years.

My thanks as ever go to Richard, Colin, Jon and Malcolm, the team at Fairthorne Manor, our superb County officials and the marshals from Eastleigh RC for their efforts before, on the day and afterwards. Without their efforts, the County would not be able to stage such a successful event.

Richard will have prepared the statistics and a balance sheet. Once again we have made some income over expenditure.

A bit of light relief came at the end of the day, when the four-wheel drive Ambulance that the driver assured Liz and I 'could go anywhere', clearly couldn't! It got stuck making its way from the Finish area back up to the tarmac. After some pushing by officials, spreading of twigs and bark chips, it still couldn't move. The PA system man kindly offered to pull the Ambulance out with his Land Rover, but sadly he got stuck too! Colin eventually 'phoned Pinkmead Farm, that we have an arrangement with for parking off-site, and a tractor came to pull the Land Rover and Ambulance out of the mud. That is the last time I listen to Paramedics!

The Community Manager at Fairthorne, Jo Pike has been in touch with Colin and I asking if we felt that all went well, and apart from a few considerations for next year, timing of First Aid arrival, parking gates being closed, we are cautiously optimistic that we can go back in 2021.

Pam Rogers- Championship Secretary