

HONORARY SECRETARIES REPORT

What a season this has been!! All three divisions having to cope with last minute venue changes. This has involved several folks with a lot of extra work in a short period of time but it has meant all Divisions had four races put on for them. My thanks to all involved in making the fixtures viable.

As usual I visited all divisions. Starting with the November fixture –unfortunately, I was not informed immediately about the problem & it was only on the Thursday prior that I realised what was happening. For future reference I put a plea to host clubs that they notify me immediately there is a problem. Having said that Ray Morgan & Tony French did an excellent job. Likewise all the clubs who offered to help. Plus the officials who were all willing to change the time & venue. I walked the course while Division One were racing & it was extremely muddy in places. It must have been very hard for the Women & then Division Three, but there were no complaints!

Unfortunately, there was a broken ankle at Division Two's race. As a result of this incident all host clubs were asked if they were booking First Aid that they should have 2 qualified First Aiders plus an off road vehicle.

The weather conditions did not abate & yet again we had to do a last minute change of venue for Division Three. All clubs were warned on the Monday that it was possible there would be a change & after an inspection on the Wednesday by Terry Alcock & Martin Smith. Fortunately, in the end Stoke kindly allowed the Midland Ladies & Division Three to run at Betley Court. Due to my private arrangements I only had time to go to Stratford to see Division Two. Regretfully, I did not venture round the course due to recent dental treatment. This did give time to see the marshals at the finish plus marshals on the lower parts of the course, which was very boggy. Daniel Connelly had set up a camera (at his own expense) plus sat towards the end of the funnel with a computer tapping the race numbers in. For the first time ever abandoning the discs. Unfortunately, there was one disqualification where a runner was wearing a number not issued by the League.

Immediately after the December fixture Daniel Connelly visited Coundon Park to check what state it was in & found it was necessary to get into action before Christmas to rearrange Division Two's January fixture. As a result I felt it was important to check Division One & Three venues would be in a fit state. Fortunately, both confirmed they would be fine. I decided to visit Division Three which proved to be quite a trek with added problems of large sections of the motorway down to 50mph. Facilities for the Race Secretary were non existent, fortunately Dave had brought a small table / chair to work from & found a shelter spot to do the registering. A good job it was not raining! I walked the course backwards enabling me to thank all the marshals & to see the course the runners had. Mainly on firm, stony footpaths that had plenty of ups & downs, through a sheltered woodland. Halfway round Daniel Jordan & several runners informed me that a chap had collapsed. By the time I

got to the place the athlete was walking back to the tented area but I managed to phone Noel Butler to let the 1st Aid folks know to check him out. The firm were excellent they had 3 medics, a tent & a 4x4 bike which a chap moved around the course on even escorting the last runner in.

Steve Millington again was brilliant getting the plaques ready for the final race though this year I had to ask for Daniel Connelly to arrange for them to be delivered to his school & Dave Long kindly collected them, while Steve brought them to Leamington. On arrival at Leamington Noel McKakley informed me that it had taken him over an hour to walk the course so I ended up going to the start & helping to remove stakes which were then used in the finishing funnel. I was then able to see the runners as they came past the finishing area before they set out on their second lap. It did mean I was not able to thank the marshals but could to those on the finishing funnel. After the race Ray had arranged for the presentation to be made in a hall at the swimming pool. Ray had put the shield out on display for all to see. I then took it up to the pool area ready for presentation with all the other plaques. All three teams & individuals made it but such a pity that others do not stay to congratulate these folks.

Carolyn Franks

Hon Secretary

17th February 2020