

*Jamie Sircom's*

# Newsround

## *Review of the Year 2018*

In order to avoid doing any actual work over the Christmas and New Year period, it is not uncommon to see television schedules full of "Review of the Year" style programming. And here at the Halesowen Newsround newsdesk, we are no different! So here's a look back at the last 12 months whilst I scoff yet another mince pie ...

### **JANUARY - MARCH**

The year started with a plethora of cross-country action - Lily Higgins finished second in the U20 Women's Race at a seriously muddy Midland Championships at Wollaton Park, which tested Keith Perry's van driving skills to the max!



*Men's captain Peter Dear with a special presentation to Andy Nock on his 150th Birmingham League cross country race*

The Birmingham League meeting at Cofton Park marked Andy Nock's 150th Birmingham League Cross Country appearance. Andy's first race was in Bedworth in November 1974 and nearly all his races have been completed in his infamous well-worn Old Gold vest!

27 Halesowen athletes lined up at Parliament Hill in London for the English National Cross Country Championship in the one of the rare races over the winter which wasn't disrupted by snow.

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But it is credit to our club that so many athletes of all ages still managed to compete despite the one of the worst winters in recent years.

In the Birmingham Cross Country League, Kristian Bayley finished second and Peter Dear fourth in the junior men's series and the men's senior team just missed out on promotion in finishing fourth in Division Two.

The ladies team also finished fourth in Division Two of the Midland Women's League, and our junior athletes were sixth in the West Midlands Young Athletes Cross Country League.

And the indoor season saw impressive performances from Iris Oliarnyk in the Triple Jump and from sister Josie Oliarnyk, who finished third for Great Britain in the Long Jump at the Elan International meeting in Bratislava.

### **APRIL - JUNE**

Five Halesowen athletes took part in the London Marathon. Russell Cadwallader led the club home in 3:00:19 in the fastest club marathon time of the year.

Russ was followed by David Lewis (3:06:23), Simon Duck (4:14:49), Sally Spencer (4:26:32) and Emma Higgins (5:36:32).

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Lily Higgins took gold in the English Fell Running Championships at Blacko Hill and Jackie Bradshaw recorded the fastest female club marathon time of the year in finishing the Manchester Marathon in 3:18:06.

A large contingent of supporters from the club were at the Alexander Stadium for an enjoyable weekend at the British Championships in which Josie Oliarnyk finished seventh in the long jump with a PB of 6.38 metres.



*The Hagg Farm crew post-Saturday morning run*

But the highlight of the year for many was the summer training weekend which this year was held at Hagg Farm in the Derbyshire Peak District.

In glorious weather, it was 48 hours summed up by explosive porridge making, hawaiian partying, disturbing libo dancing and motorcycle rescuing!

And a little bit of running, walking and cycling to boot!

If you want to join the fun in 2019, then the summer training weekend is booked in for the weekend of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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**JULY - SEPTEMBER**

The Worcestershire Midweek Series saw Kristian Bayley claim the overall series title with the club once again hosting the Hagley 10k and the Clent 8k race.



*England in World Cup semi-final action, HA&CC style!*

However, the Droitwich 10k race was admittedly a little light on numbers with many potential runners packed into the clubhouse for the England v Croatia World Cup semi-final!

Our senior teams battled it out on the track in the Midland League and Heart of England League.

Both teams fought well but lack of numbers was an issue and both teams were relegated to Division 3 for the 2019 season.

In the UKYDL, our Lower Age Group athletes finished fifth and our Upper Age Group athletes seventh and in the Midland Vets League, both our men's and women's teams finished in fourth place.

And Peter Dear took the notable scalp of GB international Jess Judd in the 800 metres in the BMC meeting at Tipton.

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Kristian Bayley and Sam Morton won the club 5k championship and Sam Mannings and Falan Malone-Priest won the Under 17 3000m race.

Lily Higgins won team gold for England in the Junior Fell Running International in Wicklow in Ireland and David Lewis finished in the top 2,000 runners in the Berlin Marathon in a time of 3 hours 5 minutes 10 seconds.

Julie Bellfield won two golds and Lynn Bellfield a gold and a silver in the 3000m and 5000m race walks in the British Masters Championships. Julie went on to compete in the World Masters Championships in Malaga along with James Robinson who took part in the Pole Vault.



But all of the above was overshadowed by arguably the most prestigious competition of the whole year, namely the Beer Mile Relay which was held on a wet Saturday afternoon at the start of September.

Twelve teams in all took part, there were two, er, post-race disqualifications (!) but Dave Turvey and Marc Turner combined their years of experience in the fields of running and drinking to triumph in a record time of 10 minutes 53 seconds.

*Turvey and Turner - doing what they do best!*

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**OCTOBER - DECEMBER**

Jonathan Lewis was first home for the club in the rain-sodden Great Birmingham Run Half Marathon in 128<sup>th</sup> place in 1:25:12.

Four other Halesowen athletes finished in the top 1,000 runners – David Lewis was 166<sup>th</sup> in 1:26:30, James Parker was 534<sup>th</sup> in 1:34:14, Alex Morgan 631<sup>st</sup> in 1:35:39 and Jamie Sircom 904<sup>th</sup> in 1:39.04.

The white isle of Ibiza was the venue for the European Duathlon Championships. Despite being accompanied by Steph Adams, both our competitors safely made it to the start line of the 45-49 age group races.

Tom Kenderdine finished ninth in 58:40 and Kerri James was 14<sup>th</sup> in 1:16:26.

Simone Jones was first female and sixth overall in the tough Trail Betws 5k race and Andy Yapp ran an impressive 3:07:58 in the Chicago Marathon.

The winter training weekend saw a return to the Brecon Beacons and Ty Carreg.

The normally relaxed Saturday morning run proved to be the most eventful. Both Paul Allen (injured) and Jamie Sircom (lost) had to be rescued by friendly locals, whilst the rest of the group had to flee for their lives after being chased away by a distinctly UN-friendly and swearsy Welsh farmer!

If you are brave enough, and want to renew acquaintances with the angriest person known to man, then next year's winter training weekend is on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November.

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## **PARKRUN**

Over 60 Halesowen athletes took part in parkrun in 2018 with amongst the highlights numerous first finishes for Kristian Bayley at Arrow Valley and the dominance of the new Stevens Park junior event by Cerys Brook.

The summer holidays saw our runners visit events in France, Germany and Ireland and even the United States. Top tourist billing went to Nigel Crompton, who just a couple of weeks before Christmas ran at Hamilton Island parkrun in Australia!

## **SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

There were plenty of social events throughout the year to distract from all that highly competitive running action.

There was Andy Nock's Whisky night, a snowy celebration for Sam Morton's birthday and the 90s night featuring Adam Cross and the Urban Players.

Not to mention go-karting, quizzes, a club reunion and another successful fireworks display and Christmas party.

And in association with mental health charity MIND, we held a Run and Talk event which was well received by all those who attended.

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Thanks go to all those at the club who help to organise such events with special thanks going to Matt Allen for the training weekends, Baz Thompson and team for the fireworks and to Marion Bailey for arranging the Christmas party night.

**2019!**

The new year starts with important cross country League meetings, with the men's team well placed to clinch promotion back to Division 1 of the Birmingham League.

And there's plenty of opportunities throughout the year to run for the club, including cross-country, the Spring and Autumn Road Relays and the various junior, senior and vets track and field league meetings in the summer months.

Newsround will keep you across the latest news throughout the year, and be sure to keep an eye across club e-mails, WhatsApp groups, Facebook, Twitter and the club website for all the latest news.

And as always, everyone is welcome at the monthly team meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.45 pm.

Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year!

Up Owen!

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