

Halesowen Athletics Club

Newsround

A very different December this year, with all the usual Christmas events, parties and runs sadly absent from the club schedule.

There was however the final virtual club challenge of the year, a road racing PB for one of our members, plus a festive Houlterior quiz to get the brain boxes whirring once more.

CLUB UPDATE

With the West Midlands moving into Tier 4 on New Year's Eve, there are some important changes to club and training guidelines.

These have been agreed by the club committee and chair Steven Millington following government and Sport England guidelines.

Senior athletes should now only train with ONE other person from outside their household.

For junior athletes aged under 18, coached sessions of up to a maximum of six people remain available to those living in Tier 4 areas ONLY.

Coaches have the right to cancel sessions so please check with your coach that sessions will still be running.

If you are living in Worcestershire or any other Tier 3 area then regrettably, you are NOT allowed to travel to the club to train.

And any runs from the club or otherwise should avoid crossing tier boundaries, i.e. from Tier 3 into Tier 4 and vice versa.

Meanwhile, the English National Cross Country Championships which were set for Parliament Hill in London on 6th March 2021 have been POSTPONED.

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THE 12 K'S OF CHRISTMAS!

In an athletic twist on the popular festive tale involving drummers, turtle doves and leaping lords, the club staged a virtual "12 K's of Christmas" involving runners, Sam Love and "Lord" Peter Dear!

Four teams of twelve runners ran legs over a twelve day period covering all distances from 1k to 12k.

The winners were announced in a virtual presentation at the pre-Christmas gathering at the Jack Price Arms, complete with musical accompaniment from renowned musical star Adam Cross and from breakthrough act Peter Dear, who unfortunately failed to make it through to the Boot Camp stage.



Unfortunately Santa Dave faced race disqualification for not wearing a club vest!

Points were awarded for the fastest leg over each distance and for the best fancy dress outfits.

Both Matt Allen and Dave Lewis wore full Santa suits, and scored highly on both counts!

The overall winners with 36 points were Team Jingly Joggers, captained by Adam Cross.

Simone Jones' Going Elf for Leather, were second on 35 points, with George Allen's Athletic Angels and Peter Dear's The Racing Rein-dears tying for third with 31 points.

The Racing Rein-dears were the fastest team over the full 78 kilometres with a time of 5 hour 36 minutes and 59 seconds, at a pace of 6 minutes 57 seconds per mile!

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The fastest runners for each leg were as follows:

1K	Joe Webster (Rein-dears) 4:03	7K	Alex Morgan (Joggers) 30:18
2K	Jack Payne (Elf) 8:24	8K	Dave Lewis (Elf) 33.05
3K	Charlie Baird (Joggers) 13:36	9K	Adam Thorpe (Rein-dears) 32:54
4K	Cerys Brook (Joggers) 16:41	10K	Abi Saker (Elf) 40:23
5K	Alex Taylor (Elf) 19:14	11K	Tom Kenderdine (Angels) 41:19
6K	Billy Papworth (Rein-dears) 25:26	12K	Peter Dear (Rein-dears) 43:13

The combined times of the fastest runners was 5 hours 8 minutes and 36 seconds which equated to a speedy pace of 6:22 per mile!

Thanks go to Peter Dear for organising the event and to all the team captains and runners who took part.

The 12 K's presentation was followed by a special Christmas edition of the Houltinator quiz in which we were all educated in the intricate details of the Rudolph the Reindeer Christmas movie!!!

Our grateful thanks go to James Hoult for organising such entertaining quizzes over the past few months and look out for more to come in 2021!

NO TIERS 4 GLENN!

Squeezing in a final road race before the south of England was put into Tier 4 restrictions and continuing his tour of famous Berkshire sporting venues, was Glenn Lacey, who ran a 10k at London 2012 rowing venue, Dorney Lake.

Glenn's performance was OAR-some!! (sorry!)

Following up on his impressive run in the Newbury Racecourse Half Marathon earlier in the year, Glenn finished in eighth place with a new PB of 39:27.

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ENGLISH VIRTUAL ROAD RELAYS - YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

The new year means new virtual challenges with the qualifying round of the new England Athletics Virtual Road Relay Competition already underway.

Each leg is five miles long and we are looking for as many runners as possible to enter and submit their time via the OpenTrack website before the closing date of 23:59 on Sunday 10th January.

The competition is open to all England Athletics registered runners aged 15 years and over. All runs must start and finish at the same point and must be run on road or non-track courses – Those wanting to run 23 laps of the Halesowen track will have to wait for another challenge!!

The club's finishing position will be based on the total team time of the four fastest men and four fastest women and the top 50 clubs will then go forward to the National Round in February.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

2021 will see more virtual challenges, regular visits to the Jack Price Arms and the club committee continuing to work hard behind the scenes to get the club open once more when it is safe to do so.

And should any changes to tier 4 restrictions be brought into place, these will be communicated via the club Facebook page and website.

Have a happy and healthy New Year!

JAMIE SIRCOM

jsircom@hotmail.com