

Halesowen Athletics Club

Newsround

The final month of another challenging year saw the second round of cross country League races as well as the happy return of Christmas parties, runs and other social occasions.

We also held the final Boxing Day run in the first century of the club's existence with celebrations for the Halesowen Athletics Club centenary year about to begin!

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE XC

The fight for promotion to Division One was boosted by another strong performance in the men's Birmingham League race at Stratford.

Our scoring six of Sam Mannings, Peter Dear, Joe Donkin, Andy Butler, Mateusz Sliwinski and James Houlton helped secure the team third place on the day.

Halesowen moved to second in the League standings at the halfway point of the season with the next meeting on Saturday 15th January at Burton Dassett Hills Country Park.

MIDLAND LEAGUE XC

Stratford was also the venue for the Midland Women's League Division 1 race.

Lily Higgins was first back for the club in 17th followed by Sarah Thompson in 33rd.

Sarah also placed fifth in the women's vets race.

The next Women's League fixture is also at Burton Dassett on Saturday 15th January.

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WMYACCL XC

At the WMYACCL meeting at Wolverhampton, Ffion Collins was second and Olive Thomas third in the Under 13 Girls race.

Amelia Hartshorn was 10th in the Under 17 Women's event.

Ffion is second in the U13G series standings after three races, just one point behind the leader with Olive lying fourth.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Barry Gardner in action at the Telford 10k
PHOTO: Gareth Bellamy

In early season indoor competition over 60 metres, Maddy Down was second in 8.54 seconds in Manchester and Ethan Hall was third in 7.70 seconds in Sheffield.

Ethan also had indoor bests of 1.70m in the High Jump in Manchester and 5.55m in the Long Jump in Sheffield.

Barry Gardner was 467th in the Telford 10k in an impressive time of 40:13 and Glenn Lacey was 544th in 42:00.

Jamie Sircom was 119th in the Sneyd Striders 10 mile Christmas Pudding Run in 1:24:15.

And our racewalkers were happily sent to Coventry for the latest Midland Winter League 5k event at Warwick University,

Julie Bellfield was eighth in 32.09, Lynn Bellfield thirteenth in 34:38 and Isabel Knowles fifteenth in 37:04.

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PARKRUN

Shaking off the hangovers from the previous night's club Christmas party, Halesowen athletes dominated the top spots at Woodgate Valley Country Park parkrun #18!



The super speedy Halesowen crew at Woodgate Valley parkrun!

Peter Dear was first finisher with Billy Papworth second in 18:56.

George Allen sped to his first sub-20 5k in finishing sixth in 19:34 and was closely followed by Simone Jones who was first female in seventh place in 19:47.

Michelle Dale was second lady in eleventh place in 21:21.

Michelle was first female the previous week at Woodgate Valley Country Park parkrun #17 in 21:43

Ashleigh Kennedy was first female at Bromsgrove junior parkrun #301 in 8:52.

The parkrun year was rounded off by five Halesowen athletes starting the 25th December with a Christmas Day parkrun.

Most deserving of a post-run Christmas dinner was Nick Hazelwood who was fourth at Walsall Arboretum in 17:51.

A reminder that the club are holding a volunteer takeover of Woodgate Valley parkrun on Saturday January 22nd.

A big thanks to all those who have responded so far but we still need more volunteers to ensure the event runs smoothly.

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If you'd like to help, then please get in touch with Jamie Sircom through WhatsApp or via the email address below.

CHRISTMAS RUNS and FESTIVE FUN!

December was magic again as there was a full programme of Christmas social events back at the club.



The club Christmas run at Tardebigge Locks

There were Christmas drinks at the Waggon & Horses, Sam Morton's memorable party games at the club Christmas party, an appearance from Santa at the children's Christmas party and Steve Horton taking over quiz master duties at the Christmas quiz.

The main club Christmas run was a big success

with over 30 runners and walkers of all ages gathering to tackle the fields, lanes and canal towpaths around Stoke Prior, near Bromsgrove.

And of course, it wouldn't be a Halesowen Christmas run without mid-run refreshments which Andy Nock duly provided!

The last Tuesday night efforts session before Christmas had the extra bonus of post-run mulled wine thanks to Bettina Wolf, and there were also runs on Christmas Eve around Uffmoor Woods and on New Year's Eve centred in and around The Lock Inn at Wolverley.

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BOXING DAY RUN!

The HACC “racing” year came to its traditional end with the Boxing Day handicap run.

In challenging conditions, there were still a number of impressive times over the three lap course around the club grounds.

Club power couple of Peter Dear and Lily Higgins ran the fastest times on the day but finding favour with Andy Nock’s handicap book were Roger Mallard, who won the event and Ryley Malone-Priest, who was first female.

The junior race was won by Kian Hazlewood who finished just one second ahead of Adam Scarr.

Thanks go to Andy and Bill Nock and Roger Mallard who helped to organise the event.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

2022 starts with a feast of cross country, with League and schools races plus county and regional championships.

There’s also the Woodgate Valley parkrun takeover on Saturday January 22nd.

Be sure to keep an eye on Facebook, Twitter, the HACCentral WhatsApp group and the club website for all the latest news for you ... in 2022!

Up Owen!

JAMIE SIRCOM

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