Brough Park Running Club weekly event. (19/11/2016)

The start of the 58th event was delayed by twenty four minutes; not by the wrong type of leaves on the track but, for the first time, a vast amount of black ice lurking upon the shaded parts of the route; that seemed to get worse as the early morning wore on.

It was either wait for the temperature to raise and aid the thawing, along with the application of salted grit at the worst points, or cancel the event for safeties sake. Thanks to the patience of the waiting mass and the hastily altered route, the show went ahead.

Nevertheless, many runners approached the first lap rather tentatively. Very wise!

Those that didn’t, like Nick Hulme, took to the conditions, alterations and the instructions of safety marshals, as though it was a normal event; surging to the front to complete the 5K run in one of his many mid twenty minutes times of 20.35. Second place went once again to Harry Bond (12), despite being over eighty seconds in arrears of his usual blistering pace to record 22.35; followed by SMAC club-mate Jordan Ash (12) who was also off his record to claim a 23.11 time; however, Martin Pigott crossed the line over two minutes faster than his previous outing in 23.54.

For once Donna Eames followed Steve Corden around – both being more wary of the underfoot conditions than many – before getting to grips with the easing problems as the former pulled ahead on the second lap and then being pushed to the line after the last hill to record a second advantage in 24.14.

Ethan Ollier (12) was another who took to the conditions to forge out a PB of seventy four seconds in 24.38, half a minute ahead of Mike Turner’s PB of two seconds. Sandwiched in between, to record a slightly improved time of 24.51, was Paul Goldstraw, despite still trying to shake off a back problem. The next seven finishers shared just over sixty seconds: Rob Bond easing around in 26.36; Jacob Cumberbatch (12) pushed along to equal his PB of 26.55 - set way back in January - pulling father Jonathan along to an improved time since their autumn return; Kevin Holroyd and Karl Birch were way off their progressing times in 27.00 and 27.14; John Lagan was able to improve his record to 27.20, a PB of fifty seconds; the route change didn’t manage to confuse Paul Chauveau, as he cemented his mid twenty seven minute time with a 27.38 finish.

Dan Knowles teetered around over six minutes off his last outings pace in 29.30, with Bill Mould also easing around in a slower 30.41. The Williamson pairs ‘hand-holding’ did nothing for their times, as they returned together over the thirty four minute mark. The trio of: Danielle Latham, Kim Lagan-Walters and Gina Locket, paced around together before the former pushed on to claim the honours with a twenty two second gap in 35.53; with Dawn Brown ensuring there were no miss-haps to clock a slower 36.34.

Martha Williamson took an easy option by completing the 1.5K in 6.44.

Despite the conditions, Eden Pigott (6) was only eighteen seconds off her best at the 2.2K distance in an even twelve minutes, as she staved off the pursuing Daisy Williamson’s 12.08. Mother and son Rebecca Hinton and Laurie (5) did the course together in 17.01, as did cousins James Burgess (6) and Joshua Eames (5), with the latter completing it in 17.32 and the former continuing to the 3.6K line in 26.31 to finish behind Amanda Hampson’s 24.12 and Dominic Cumberbatch’s 19.29. Unfortunately, Louise Hackett (12) pulled up with a unrelated-weather injury and was unable to continue.

Once again Sienna Phillips (10) ran unchallenged to a 9.45 junior 2.2K finish, with Oliver Bailey (9) unable to match his last week’s time to clock 10.16; Lara Smith was also off her previous times with 12.48. Two seven year olds: Jamie Morrison and Leo Dawson were unable to complete the full route.

Thanks to Rachel Massey, Kathryn Smith and Sam Goldstraw

B. (An ear to the ground and an eye on the times)