Brough Park Running Club weekly event. (10/12/2016)

A very pleasing turnout for our first ever Christmas Eve Couch to 5K event; everyone could have found something else to do, however, the ones at the line up were here to celebrate together and enjoy the morning.

Amongst the mass of Santa’s were a few newbie’s and many who return week after week to take up the challenge of our Brough Park course, and a challenge it is compared to many around the area; after all we have a hill or three to contend with, depending upon the distance one covers; nevertheless, wandering around the route it was easy to notice more than one runner who had previously complained bitterly about the ‘incline’, now taking it on with vigour; one of those was Karl Birch, who was twenty metres adrift of two other runners after the trees in the park basin and was twenty metres ahead as the final incline levelled out.

The progress from the start seemed sedate in comparison to previous weeks, perhaps everyone was full of celebratory drinks and food; Donna Eames led to the first corner, however, that soon changed as Jason Burgess kicked in to gear - despite a larger than normal consumption of ale the previous night - to lead from that point onwards, and despite carrying young Santa, nephew Joshua Eames (5), shoulder height up the hill and escorting him to the finish in a joint 19.35, was only seventy seconds off his best; Joshua completing 2.2K compared to Jason’s full distance.

Tom Stoddard crossed the line seventy four seconds in arrears at his first attempt with Rob Bond returning after a few weeks on a flatter, faster route that seems to have aided this PB of fifty six seconds in 22.40. The plaited wig worn by Dan Knowles didn’t seem to put him off his task of gaining fourth place over the pursuing Steve Massey; finishing just six seconds ahead in 23.08.

Henry (15) and Tony Williamson ran most of the way together before the youth pulled away in a determined attempt to pass Donna Eames, finishing thirty three seconds in front in 23.55 with Donna Eames mid-way between.

Christopher Nelson must have used his previous week’s inaugural run to find his way around, as he knocked over three minutes off his time in 26.03, which was a little over thirty seconds behind ‘post-holiday-blues’, Paul Goldstraw; Karl Birch passed both Christopher and Mark Walton up the last incline and looked in fine form, however, that push may have spurred Christopher on as he claimed back the distance to finish seventeen seconds ahead in 26,03 with Mark only two seconds behind.

The Cumberbatch trio tried their utmost to finish in formation; unfortunately Jacob (12) was unable to overcome the challenge of the last incline and trailed the joint 27.52 of Jonathan and brother Dominic (9) by almost a minute.

Jan Percival and Claire Williamson managed dip under the mile-stone mark with 29.47 and 29.56 times, with Bill Mould maintaining his form with a 29.06 finish; Dawn Brown seems to have acclimatised to the full distance and crossed the line in 36.19.

The 2.2K attracted pairings of Eden (8) and Martin Pigott, Martha (6) and Daisy Williamson (10), Suzie and Toby Noble (8), with respective times of 11.59, 14.45 and 14.48, with Suzie continuing on to a slower 5K finish of 31.24.

The junior event was extended to accommodate a cluster of SMAC runners: Harry Bond (12) heading the 3.6K in 14.13 which was 84 seconds ahead of Nathan Geston (12), Sienna Phillips (9) claimed a PB of thirty one seconds in 17.28 and Theo McDonnell 18.15. The shorter 2.2K was led home by Jordan Ash (12) in 9.33 – only six seconds off his best - with Oliver Bailey (9) almost a minute behind. William Dodd (4) has grown into the event and finished only seventy nine seconds behind brother Edward (7) in a PB of fifty three seconds in 13.44. Following on were two family groups: the Shiers were headed by seven year old Benjamin’s 14.48 with Eddy (4) and parents Debbie and Rob a joint 15.52; five year old Noah Pickford’s 14.50 was only slightly ahead of Harry (7) and parents Maria and Mark.

Thanks to Rachel Massey, Kathryn Smith and Sam Goldstraw for timekeeping, and everyone else for making Christmas Eve such a nice and worthwhile day.

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