

Brough Park Running Club weekly event. (17/06/2017)

An almost perfect morning for running greeted the mass of entrants who toed the line at the start of the 83rd Brough Park couch to 5K.

The numbers were at an all time high, due mainly to the conditions and an influx of numerous, entire family members.

Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletic Club member, Gareth Briggs, got a good start alongside of the many, eager youngsters. He seems to have returned to form after his knee operation two months ago, as he burst around the 5K route to set a new PB of nineteen minutes and eighteen seconds. Pacing around in the leader's wake was a previous winner, Matthew Statham, who crossed the line almost a minute in arrears.

Martin Pigott was drawn along by the pace of the two athletes ahead to set his own PB of 21.54; knocking over half a minute off his previous best time.

The hare became the hound for a change, as Donna Eames hunted down Jack Hancock and almost caught him on the line; the former's mind may well have been on the later-in-the-day flight to Spain as he recorded a slower than usual time, which enabled the latter to clock a faster than average time of 23.22 as she edged closer on the last lap.

After taking to the task a week earlier, Jamie Carney paced Paul Goldstraw for a while before pulling ahead, and managed to chop three minutes of that inaugural time to cross the line in 23.29 and a minute ahead; whereas, Paul and Tony Williamson were only able to consolidate their previous efforts with mid-twenty four minute times; Matthew Hales was a further minute behind but chipped eleven seconds off his four week old best to set a new challenge of 25.49. The sterling effort of John Lagan saw him just behind the aforementioned throughout, that effort fell just four seconds short of his best, and just ten seconds in arrears, before Karl Birch recorded another mid-twenty six minute time.

Both Helen Finney and Charlotte Statham seem to glide around; the former clipped eight seconds off her best to 27.49, and the latter recorded a slower 28.43 - following her mid-week effort in the Buxton leg of the summer series.

Jan Percival complained of being led astray by Jo Higgins and consumed one too many in their early-doors, Friday session. However, Jan completed the full distance in 28.48, a slightly faster time than last week and Jo's 29.19 a tad slower. Their placing was split by a slower than usual Bill Mould and the stuttering gait of thirteen year old Ethan Ollier.

Despite giving her all for the lady vets mid-week relay team, Dawn Brown, managed to clip over a minute off her last return, along with a two minute reduction for Claire Williamson; their times being 35.44 and 29.33 respectively.

In the 2.2K, Martin Day and David Hinton chatted away as they covered the early part of the route; the former eventually finishing over two minutes ahead in 19.22 as the latter dropped Laurie (5) off to complete his shorter distance in 14.26 and a two minute reduction on last week; Bryan Vigrass recorded 19.29 and Elaine Hargreaves crossed the line only a handful or so seconds off a new best time in 24.58.

The Dodd family were spread out and doing different tasks: Edward was having an off day and wheeled here and there on his scooter; mother, Rebecca, seems to be waiting for her new trainers to be broken in before unleashing a determined effort in the 1.5K; unlike William (5) who was free from trailing his father, Richard, to complete the 2.2K with a PB of half a minute and the same time ahead in 11.55; father had dropped down a distance and recorded his own PB, a reduction of forty four seconds in 12.26.

The Smith family all completed the 2.2K; Lewis (9) racing round to finish half a minute behind Nick Hulme, with a regular 9.03 Saturday time; mother Julie still nursing a sore knee managed to reduce her time to 12.18; Martin seemed unable to match the blistering pace of daughter Lara (7) in the early stage; at the line they both saw their PB's reduced by twenty five seconds to 10.34; Harrison (14) recording a slightly faster than usual 11.06.

The Bartram newbie's all intended to complete an inaugural 1.5K, however, mixed fortunes beset them; five year old Marlie failed to complete her task; mother Dan, crossed the line just under twelve minutes, with father Gary going on to the next distance in 12.31.

Also in the 2.2K, Joshua (13) and Molly Williams (10) both clocked PB's of sixty six and fourteen seconds with times of 9.09 and 9.54; their placing being split by Jordan Ash's 9.28. With dad, Nick, easing around with a sore back, it was left to nine year old Thomas Hulme to set the pace with a PB of fourteen seconds in 10.54; sister Emily (8), clocked a faster than last week time of 13.07, but not at her peak.

The Goulding trio returned after a few weeks absence; mother Angela reduced her first outing time by fifty seconds to 14.06; seven year old Lena-May's 12.35 was a hundred and forty seconds faster and brother Tommy (9) reduced his by fifty eight seconds to 12.47, which was ten seconds behind seven year old Emily Jones.

Daisy Williamson, Imogen Phillips and Eden Pigott were bunched together; the latter gaining from the efforts ahead to claim a slightly faster 11.54, and the former two recording PB's of thirty three and twenty nine seconds in 11.12 and 11.47.

Seven year old Martha Williamson and running pal, Connie Statham (6), meandered around in far slower than usual times of 16.38 and 16.46; followed by mother and son, Noah (6) and Joanne Phillips' 17.19; over three minutes slower than Joanne's solo time; due to the youngster tumbling just after the off – a few tears and a bandage then the star trundled on; with Joshua Eames (6) playing about en-route to his wayward 19.19 finish.

There were numerous other PB's: Joel Day (6) chopped seventy seven seconds off in 12.17; Kerrie Nixon reduced hers by only seventeen but a reduction of over two minutes from the first foray; and this was the first time she'd overcome the hill.

Vet 65, Mary-Jane Searles' post-holiday blues saw her drop back to the 1.5K where she finished just three seconds ahead of four year old Isaac Williams and mother; with another pair, Elodie (4) and Zoe Kenealy dropping back by a minute to 13.23.

Thanks to recorders: Rachel Massey and Sam Goldstraw.

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