

## **Holme Pierrepont Running Club AGM – Chair’s Report 2016-17**

This year has certainly been packed full of events (as usual) and I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and effort to help with club activities. The contributions from club members is what makes HPRC great and I feel it is important to recognise the significance of this.

In 2015-16 we celebrated the growth of the club as membership topped 300 for the first time ever. This year we are celebrating again as the club continues to be popular with more than 340 members. I would like to welcome all the newcomers to the club and encourage everyone to join in as many of the club activities as possible. I hope those new this year have already recognised that we celebrate achievements at all levels and everyone is welcome to join in the club activities so please continue to get involved (all details are published in Running Free).

As HPRC becomes more popular, this brings the challenge of logistics. It’s great to see club members being considerate to each other. There is no set format to our club nights and it’s good to see people mingling in different groups and actively chatting with newcomers both on club nights and at events. The encouragement and support is second to none. I believe our success evolves from these things and many more.

This year has also seen the number of people using Bingham track on a Tuesday night grow exponentially. In previous years, there has been as few as two people turn up and the committee have questioned the feasibility but this year turnout is consistently high. This popularity has been drawn from track enthusiasts within the club and the HPRC Track Champs which will be continuing in the next year. Many of those using the track, tempo sessions and Selby Road Hills have seen their running times improve.

Another first for the club in 2016-17 is being shortlisted for ‘Club of the Year’ from both England Athletics Regional Awards and Rushcliffe Sports Awards. Although we didn’t win either award, it was great to see the club being recognised for the hard work of volunteers and the encouraging nature of club members.

This year also brought the most successful Grand Prix ever with entries exceeding all expectations allowing the club to raise £3,000 for RDA Nottingham (riding for the Disabled Association). The success of this is due to a small dedicated team of race organisers along with a huge number of club members volunteering to marshal the races. The club has been commended by many of the participants for the support to all runners.

Again, thank you to everyone who has helped the club run successfully this year, it’s great to see HPRC going from strength to strength. The future of the club is looking promising for years to come.

Debbie Smith  
HPRC Chair