

THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (A Personal View by John Crummett)

From a few e-mails I have received recently there seems to be feeling in the club that the present club championships appear moribund and that we need a change in format to attract more participation. I do not propose wholesale change, just a slight tweaking.

After attending the 2007 race selection meeting I realised that because of the way we chose the races for the 'Grand Prix' this had a detrimental effect on the composition of the Fell & Road Champs. I consider the two latter competitions to be the ones to measure a runner's prowess in each of the disciplines and should take pride of place over any other. It is possible to qualify for the GP by running only 8 short races. Hardly compares with say the Wasdale or Coniston 14 road race ?

FACT (a) It was decided at an earlier meeting that there will be two separate selection panels (Fell & Road) who will choose races for the appropriate championships and if there is a conflict of dates between a fell and a road race these will not be changed and members will have to decide which race to do.

FACT (b) All English Fell Championship races, if appropriate, will be included in the Todmorden Harriers Championship (this was approved by committee two years ago).

There are those among us (myself included) who think there is, at times, not enough commitment to compete as a team. Let's face it not many members would win individual medals, but if we pulled together we have a good chance of a team prize ! Open, Vet(40) and Ladies are all in with a shout. But if we are not committed enough it has been hinted we could lose members.

My proposal is minor, namely, to reduce both the Premier Championships (i.e. Fell and Road) from 12 races to 9.

The Fell championship to include ALL 6 English races + 3 other 'A Class' races (1 AS, 1 AM, 1AL)

The Road championship to consist of 9 quality races (3 short, 3 medium and 3 long).

In order to qualify for the Tod. Champs you would need to complete 6 out of the 9 races. (as is the case at present namely, 1 from each category + 3 others).

This would ensure that you would have to do some 'English' races and therefore you would be helping **YOUR CLUB - TODMORDEN HARRIERS**. Let's make a commitment.

The 'Grand Prix' to include the 18 Fell & Road races as mentioned above plus 6 other (i.e. 1 short, medium & long **road** and 1 short, medium & long **fell**). These extra races to be local & low key to, I hope, attract new and novice runners to take part. This is the same number (i.e. 24) of races as now. You would have to run 8 out of the 24 to count. There is no change here.

These comments and proposal are solely my own and have not been discussed at any committee meeting.

THERE WILL BE A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION ON THE FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING (QUEENS HOTEL , MONDAY NOVEMBER 5th at 7pm).

Be there and have your say as a decision to change to another format or remain as status quo will be made. If unable to attend please send a proxy or send your contributions the Secretary (Derek Dohohue) or Chairperson (Mandy Goth) before the meeting.