



# ON THE START LINE

A Month Of Meltham AC Racing

January 2021



## It's Not The Waiting...

...it's the metaphors...

There it is...the light on the horizon, the new dawn, the warm glow of optimism...whatever you fancy, there is a change coming with vaccines being rolled out and talk of lockdown measures being eased over the coming weeks/months.

As it stands, we know as much as you; once we do find out we'll start to plan and, in time, club will return. Until then the gears keep turning; committee has met and a Virtual AGM will happen on the 9th of March (more details in this issue). We all missed the Tough 10k (although Marshalling would have been as much of a challenge as the race itself!) and the return of racing still feels a long way away...but as I type these words I have live cricket on in the background, looking warm and inviting...let's look forward to our annual running of the Wes with the sun on our backs — I think we're due a nice Summer.

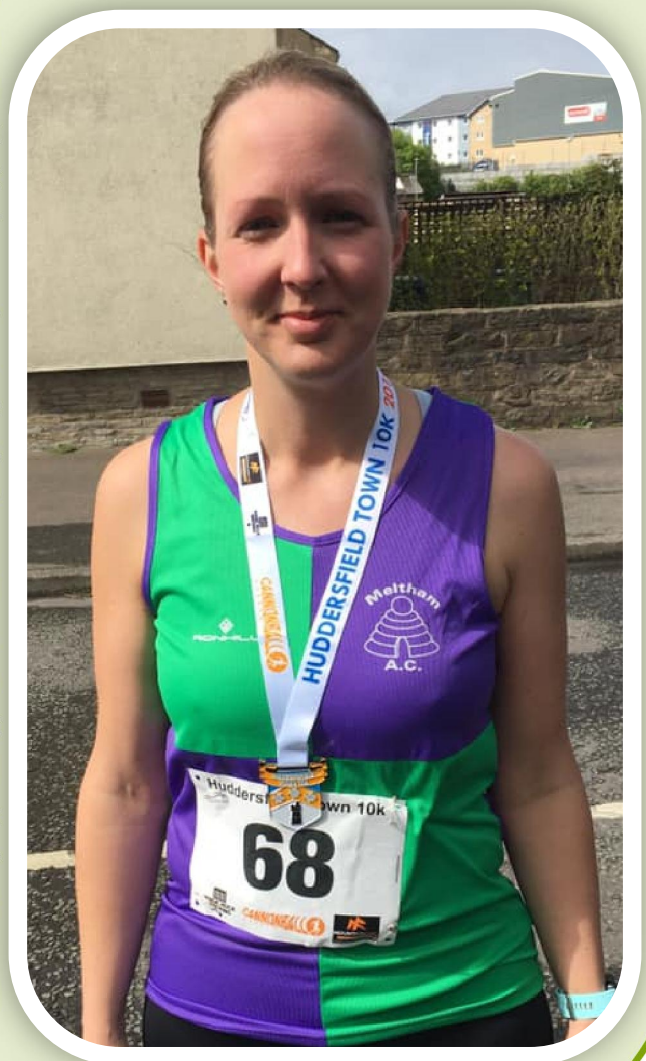
# Winter Virtual Handicaps

Runner	Actual Finish Time	Plus Handicap	Total	Estimated Handicap Finish Time	Difference
Anna Hazelton	37.03	6.00	43.03	45.00	-1.57
Martin Bayliss	33.25	11.00	44.25	45.00	-0.35
Pete Dukes	32.37	12.00	44.37	45.00	-0.23
Tony Daniels	32.17	12.30	44.47	45.00	-0.13
Steve Whalley	35.1	10.00	45.10	45.00	0.10
Sara Lewis	35.02	10.30	45.32	45.00	0.32
Brian Hutson	34.1	11.30	45.40	45.00	0.40
Mark Cope	36.59	9.00	45.59	45.00	0.59
Paul Gandy	40.46	6.00	46.46	45.00	1.46
Jeff Miller	41.32	7.00	48.32	45.00	3.32
Allie Lamb	48.46	0.00	48.46	45.00	3.46
Gilly Markham	42.53	6.00	48.53	45.00	3.53

After the success of our Summer Virtual Handicap Race, we decided to double up for the winter and run it twice! Kicking off in December was the rarely run Road route, which proved very popular and may not have to wait another 5 years or so before we run it again (by which time there will probably be another ten housing estates on the route...)!

The question was—how would the handicapper cope with such unusual circumstances? A formula was set, times applied, and it came down to waiting for some results to come in to put it to the test. First up was Tony Daniels, who not only set a blistering pace (which would remain unbeaten as the clock time), but he came in 13 seconds off the predicted and when Pete Dukes recorded a time 23 seconds faster, a sigh of relief, as confidence flowed that the formula was somewhere close. And then it started to get tight...Martin Bayliss, Steve Whalley, Sara Lewis all set times that would keep them in contention...but right at the end Anna Hazelton went out again, after having already posted a sub-handicap time, and absolutely smashed it...

Well done to the 12 runners who posted times and round one was done...



<b>ACTUAL TIMES</b>	<b>Actual Finish Time</b>	<b>Plus Handicap</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Estimated Handicap Finish Time</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Gilly Markham	29.12	3.30	32.42	33.00	-0.18
Steve Whalley	22.20	10.30	32.50	33.00	-0.10
Anna Hazelton	26.50	6.30	33.20	33.00	0.20
John Gray	23.35	10.00	33.35	33.00	0.35
Pete Dukes	20.46	13.00	33.46	33.00	0.46
Paul Gandy	29.31	4.30	34.01	33.00	1.01
Allie Lamb	36.29	0.00	36.29	33.00	3.29

Round 2 was back on the old favourite off-road course, with handicaps based on previous running, but trouble was ahead...early in the month a new lockdown meant that people living outside the area were effectively banned from competing - our sympathies went out to them, but the race had already begun. Next issue was the weather...no-one really took advantage of the early conditions, and once the wind, rain and snow came down, then times were all over the place...even the ever reliable Pete Dukes was off target, with a Strava comment of 'Slowest Handicap Ever' (although technically not—January 2018 was 1 second slower...!), although he did still set the overall fastest course time. Gilly Markham said she 'trotted' round...but the ground was frozen and her footing was steady enough to take the win!



Congratulations Gilly; just for fun here's a mini-league for those who ran both: Anna's December run puts her clearly at the top, but Steve Whalley is now the Handicappers favourite, finishing both races in exactly the 78 minute par!

<b>ACTUAL TIMES</b>	<b>Actual Finish Time</b>	<b>Plus Handicap</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Estimated Handicap Finish Time</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Anna Hazelton	63.53	12.30	76.23	78.00	-1.37
Steve Whalley	57.3	20.30	78	78.00	0
Pete Dukes	53.23	25.00	78.23	78.00	0.23
Paul Gandy	70.17	10.30	80.47	78.00	2.47
Gilly Markham	72.05	9.30	81.35	78.00	3.35
Allie Lamb	85.15	0.00	85.15	78.00	7.15