

VAC AGM: 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

(Held via ZOOM)

2019-2020 Road Running Report

Summary

The restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic prevented all of VAC's planned competitions on the roads in 2019-2020. We did manage one parkrun get-together in February. Many VAC members have actively embraced the virtual competitions which have filled the gap in face-to-face competitions.

1. Battersea Park Series 2020

The first race was scheduled for 7 April with subsequent races in April (28th), June, July and August. None could take place under England Athletics' rules and the whole series of runs and walks was cancelled. A new five-mile course had been set out and measured by the Association of Course Measurers. The course followed Wandsworth Council's approved route and is similar to the 5km race route (the same favoured anti-clockwise direction and the same finish point close to the Millennium Arena). We are looking forward to its inception in 2021. Dates for the 2021 series have been placed in Wandsworth's booking system pending approval nearer the time and subject to incorporating the social distancing and hygiene measures required to gain a runbritain licence.

2. VAC Road Championships in 2020

VAC's scheduled One Mile, 10km and 10 mile road championship races were each cancelled by the promoters because of the COVID pandemic. The events are all scheduled to return in 2021 and VAC plans to use them for our championships next year. The 2021 One Mile Championship would therefore be held within the Vitality Masters Mile at Westminster, the 10km Championship would be within the Ranelagh Richmond 10km and the 10 Mile Championship would be within the Thames Towpath 10. The 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon was also cancelled for non-elite entrants. VAC's London Marathon place had been won in a ballot by Rob Scott who will carry over the place to next year.

3. VAC "mob" parkruns

With parkruns suspended from March, it had only been possible to hold one get-together for VAC members. This was at Canons Park. Parkruns are due to resume in October but social interaction and travel to non-local parkruns is discouraged. VAC does not plan to arrange any "mob" parkruns for the foreseeable future.

4. Virtual Competitions

VAC was well represented in the BMAF 5km Virtual Relays, with 94 members taking part, mostly in teams for their first claim clubs. Members have also placed well in other competitions, including field competitions such as shot put challenges.

Maggie Statham-Berry

VAC Entries Secretary

18 September 2020