

## Highbury Summer Series Event 1, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

A joint team of HOC and COBOC members combined to hold the first SSE of the season at Highbury Park, in Birmingham, on Saturday 1st April. As well as the usual 60 minute 'linear score' course, there were White, Yellow and Orange courses for juniors, beginners and families as part of COBOC's park series, which has recently included events at Cannon Hill and Perry Hall.

Despite days of relentless rain, during March, the day dawned dry and there was even a glimpse of sun while I was putting out controls.

A total of 20 runners attempted the linear score, including several HOC 'gazelles, with Rom Stupelis storming round the 5.7km score course in 39 minutes, closely followed by David Williams, Richard Price and Eloise Lee. Due to a misunderstanding at the start, Richard had already run around the Orange course before he started the score but the warm-up didn't seem to have done him too much harm.

There were great junior performances by Ash Burgess of Queensbridge school and Kieran Rose of HOC, who managed to keep ahead of dad, Peter. Tess Burgess also had a great run as the leading junior lady, clearing all but two of the controls.

Many thanks to Rom and Robertas for helping with set up and registration, Adrian for manning download, Ian Gamlen for organising and results, Kerstin, Jenny and Robert for marshalling the large pond, Mick Sadler and Barry McGowan for manning the start.

Thanks also to Rom, Adrian and James Thomas for efficient control collecting. Rom offered to collect all of the controls from the northern part of the park and arrived back at registration festooned in kites and gripples.

John Leeson