**Road/Trail runners report February 2021**
For obvious reasons, the 2021 Road report is going to be a brief one!
Competitions have been few and far between, broadly limited to virtual races and time trials.
As a result the club championship for 2019-20 was declared void and the 2020-21 version will be somewhat limited too.

Training has been limited and subjected to covid safe guidelines on both distancing and numbers permitted. Many thanks must go to the coaching team for arranging different time slots and a variety of different venues to spread the numbers out and minimize large groupings.
Regrettably, with the move into tier 5 at the start of 2021, training has again been suspended but hopefully group training can resume again when the restrictions begin to ease.

The club’s annual marathon, the “Hoppit” also succumbed to the covid restrictions, although under the guidance of race Director Tim Fowler, a virtual race did go ahead over both the half and full distances with almost 700 runners taking part.
Plans are in place for the 2021 version on June 20th.

More competitions hit by the pandemic were the cross country leagues with both the Hampshire Championships and the Southern XC league cancelled for the 2020-21 season.
Fortunately, a number of our members were able to get their XC “fix” when the club staged a member only race over 3km at Popham on December 12th.

In the absence of training, weekly sessions have been posted for the road group so that members can continue with what our sessions would have been if required. The coaches have also offered to train on a one-to-one basis with any members if they need some guidance.
In addition Don Powell had been instrumental in creating monthly challenges for members to compete, including loops at Cliddesden (the mob match route), War Memorial Park and Old Basing Common. These have proved popular and acted as an incentive for our members to put their “race head” on!

Hopefully as we go into the spring, we can start to resume training and competitions will once again be possible.
Until then, stay safe, keep running and have a healthy and injury free 2021.

Terry Wegg
20/02/21