

WSFRL and Horsham Joggers

By Mary Klanczkowski

In 2022, I returned to running after a few years break due to injury and COVID. I decided to start by running in some of the WSFRL races that I knew from the past. Looking around, I realised that, during my missing years of running, the club had moved on, new kit and new faces, the only one I recognised being Dave Dawson! A post on Facebook made me realise that the new era wasn't aware of some of the history of Horsham Joggers within the WSFRL, so the following is an account of what I remember.

Back in the late 1980's our entries to WSFRL events had been dwindling until it was quite often just me, Jon K (my husband) and Nina K (my sister-in-law) entering these races with a few others that we managed to drag along. I was asked if I could take over from Clare Weyman to become the WSFRL representative for Horsham Joggers, which I agreed to do. At the time the scoring system for the races was in great debate. When I took over, the clubs with faster runners, e.g Arena 80, were more likely to win but after a lot of discussion it was decided that the League was about encouraging running not just speed and so a new scoring system was devised where participation in the event took a greater role. This would work in Horsham Joggers' favour, if only members would participate. With the HJ Committee's permission, I offered prizes for those that completed most events and persuaded as many runners as possible to take part. 25 was the magic number and if we had more than 25 the slower runners were the ones that scored the participation points with our faster runners scoring the position points, well that's the spin I put on it. Gradually, over the coming years, our numbers improved, and we worked our way up the table until in 1990 we won the League.

The winning teams from 1986 – 2007 are shown below. For several years in the 1990s we were in the top 4 clubs. When the WSFRL introduced the Junior League we had great success. Again, the point system was awarded on a mixture of participation and position and HJ's had a large number of fast juniors to help out. We dominated this League for several years and this continued beyond my tenure as the HJ Rep.

The WSFRL races were just £1 for member clubs and any profit made was donated to a local charity. Spot prizes were expected to be given out at all races and at the HJ Valentines Fun Run we often gave out chocolate hearts and red roses in keeping with the name. Fancy dress was encouraged at our race and we have had groups dressed as the HJ Winter Olympic Squad, complete with a makeshift toboggan, with skaters Orvill and Jean, carrying their skates and others carrying skis running around the 3 mile course. Other costumes have been a group of HJ Morris Men, complete with music and routine, a set of babies and some brides and grooms. These might not have won the race but they raised a laugh and completed the course.

Horsham Joggers had several venues over the years for the Valentines Fun Run, Horsham Park, Christs Hospital and a couple of different venues at Southwater. None of these could have happened without the help of volunteers and that is something that we have always done well with.

Young children, full time teaching and living in Littlehampton took its toll and I passed the role on in the early 2000s to Cliff Hall.

Senior Results 1986 – 2006 (rest on WSFRL website)

| Year | Club | Pts | No. of Races | No. of Clubs |
|------|------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| 2006 | Steyning AC | 1,360 | 16 | 17 |
| 2005 | Worthing & District Harriers | 1,265 | 15 | 17 |
| 2004 | Worthing & District Harriers | 1,357 | 16 | 17 |
| 2003 | Worthing & District Harriers | 1,359 | 16 | 17 |
| 2002 | Worthing & District Harriers | 1,424 | 17 | 17 |
| 2001 | Burgess Hill Runners | ★1,064 | 13 | 17 |
| 2000 | Burgess Hill Runners | 1,302 | 16 | 18 |
| 1999 | Fittleworth Flyers | 1,319 | 16 | 17 |
| 1998 | Fittleworth Flyers | 1,243 | 15 | 16 |
| 1997 | Fittleworth Flyers | 1,282 | 16 | 16 |
| 1996 | Horsham Joggers | #1,108 | 15 | 17 |
| 1995 | Southwick Strollers | 1,158 | 15 | 18 |
| 1994 | Horsham Joggers | 1,112 | 14 | 17 |
| 1993 | Horsham Joggers | 1,148 | 14 | 18 |
| 1992 | Portslade Hedgehoppers | 1,169 | 14 | 16 |

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|------|-------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| 1991 | Portslade Hedgehoppers | 995 | 12 | 15 |
| 1990 | Horsham Joggers | 1,054 | 13 | 13 |
| 1989 | Arunners | *142 | 11 | 14 |
| 1988 | Holmwood Hounds & Cranleigh Runners | *96 | 12 | 13 |
| 1987 | Arena 80 AC | *109 | 10 | 13 |
| 1986 | Arena 80 AC | *65 | 10 | 14 |

★ curtailed due to foot and mouth

* superseded scoring system

after deducting lowest score

Junior Results 1998 – 2006 (rest on WSFRL website)

| Year | Club | Pts | No. of Races | No. of Clubs |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2006 | Worthing & District Harriers | 696 | 10 | 17 |
| 2005 | Horsham Joggers | 740 | 12 | 17 |
| 2004 | Horsham Joggers | 541 | 11 | 17 |
| 2003 | Horsham Joggers | 666 | 11 | 17 |
| 2002 | Horsham Joggers | 723 | 12 | 17 |
| 2001 | Horsham Joggers | 629 | 9 | 17 |
| 2000 | Horsham Joggers | 608 | 11 | 18 |
| 1999 | Horsham Joggers | 342 | 10 | 17 |
| 1998 | Henfield Joggers | 345 | 9 | 16 |