

Race Start Times

A suggestion was made at the last AGM that our races might start in the morning instead of 2pm as at present, and this received some support. The popularity of parkruns, which start at 9am, was quoted as evidence. The idea is that the races are over early enough for competitors have the most of the day to attend to other matters.

My opinion is that parkruns are not relevant as these are strictly local, low key races and that a 9am start is not compatible with any ambitions we might have to encourage participation runners from outside of Surrey and West Kent. We need to give special considerations to the views of clubs like Portsmouth. An early start might also be hard on the host club and the officials.

A race start time close to midday would eat into both the morning and afternoon activities. Other objections might come from runners who would otherwise be driving their offspring to Saturday morning kid's events and sports.

My feeling is that a 2pm start allows time for quite a lot to be done before a race takes place and also allows sufficient time afterwards to socialise after the race or do a little basic shopping. Whatever start time we choose, there are only the same number of hours in a day.

However we do need to seriously consider anything which might increase participation in our races and I would be grateful if you would sound out your members on this matter and let me have your opinions before the matter is discussed at the next AGM, or better still before the next Committee Meeting at the end of April.

I will assume that no reply is a vote for the status quo.

Geoff Newton
General Secretary