



**ECCA 'National' Championships  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020  
Notice to Competing Clubs**

This notice has been sent to all club contacts who submitted entries to the 'National' and we would appreciate your help in ensuring that your club colleagues who were in Wollaton Park for the 'National' are aware of the content below.

We are indebted to Notts AC for the immense amount of hard work that they put in to ensure a fabulous day of Cross Country running at our National Championships.

We have been very disappointed to hear that marshals on the course and in parking areas were abused by runners and spectators at our Championships, this is unacceptable behaviour.

There were over 300 volunteers working on Championship day and they deserve our gratitude, and not vitriolic criticism from some who feel they can be as rude and unkind as they like, both personally at the event and on social media, without knowing the facts and appreciating the problems that needed to be surmounted to get the event on. In particular, the assumption that the course can be crossed, irrespective of other competing runners is disrespectful to competitors.

Sunday saw many Notts AC volunteers not only clearing the course, but picking up an enormous amount of rubbish, which included broken chairs and tents, not to mention wet wipes, socks and discarded muddy kit.

In recent weeks we, as a country, have been suffering from two major storms. Nottingham was not exempt from this rainfall and the state of the ground where parking had been planned, was deemed too dangerous, especially with very strong winds of over 40mph forecast. It would have been an easy option on Wednesday for the City Council to cancel the event. To their credit they did not take the easy option and the local volunteers turned out in force to ensure that the event was held.

Venues for the National are very difficult to find, not least because of the need for a volunteer army; we very much hope that both Notts AC and Nottingham City Council will allow us to return to one of the best cross country courses in England.

English Cross Country Association  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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