

Popplewell Trophy 2026

This year's recipient of the Popplewell Trophy is Simon Saunders of Bournemouth AC. The nomination for Simon reads thus

'For many years Simon Saunders has been involved in the Hampshire XC League but in recent years he has stepped up to be the Race Director for the fixture hosted by Bournemouth AC, following in the great footsteps of Ian Graham. The fixture is always a popular and requires precise coordination of the council, AFC Bournemouth and also the League. In addition to becoming the Race Director, Simon creatively redesigned the course, which went on to be well received by the athletes & spectators (who could now see much more of the race without moving far).

Simon is also an active part of the wider League community, and is very passionate about securing its continued success. For the upcoming season, Simon is stretching his commitment even more by hosting two Hampshire League fixtures in Bournemouth. Simon has a busy day job, but also finds the time to be a very active and enthusiastic coach as well as being both Vice Chair and Coaching Coordinator for Bournemouth AC. On top of that he officiates at Track meets in the summer. Nonetheless, Simon still has the commitment and drive to help ensure the success of the Hampshire XC League.'

A well-deserved recipient, congratulations

