

Chairman's Report February 2020

The last year has seen the club build on its purpose; 'To support and encourage every athlete, coach and official in achieving their personal goals whilst contributing to the reputation and development of the club'.

I would like to personally thank all the athletes, coaches and officials, my fellow colleagues on the committee, parents, Basingstoke Council and all our donation partners such as Societe General, Destination Basingstoke for making this another successful year in the history of this great club.

My first memory of the club was running as a 10-year-old on the old grass track and then in the winter on a Tuesday night at the Vyne School being supported by Ian Byett and Mick Keogh. This opportunity gave me a chance to be good at something and we should never underestimate the impact that Athletics and us as mentors can have on young people to help them establish 'purpose' in their young lives.

As a club, we have over 600 members, a strong development plan, but we have struggled to develop our 'vision' and I hope in future years we can balance the delicate balance of still remaining a community club and significantly growing in terms of performance, reputation and facilities.

It was unanimously agreed last year that we have excellent coaches within the club. They give their time voluntarily and we must continue to support and develop our team of coaches. We are aware that we need to develop communication protocols between coaches if we are to optimise the contribution of our coaches' skills and commitment in line with our aspirations as a club.

During the year we lost Reg Eade, our Life President, who passed away in May. I saw Reg just before he passed away and shared some memories with him and thanked him for leaving us with his legacy. Reg was one of the original people who started the club. We also lost Bill Wyeth who sadly passed away in May. Bill was a Road Running coach and long-time supporter of Road Running and Cross Country within the club. The Road Group as well as the wider club were devastated to hear of the tragic loss of Roger Aitken, a popular and funny member of the group. He will be sorely missed.

Our finances are in a strong position. Thank you to those who have helped to boost club funds through organising events including Tim Fowler for organising The Hampshire Hoppit.

The Hampshire Hoppit took place on 9th June. 970 entries were received. On the day there were 363 athletes who ran the Marathon and 488 who ran the half marathon. This represented a drop out of circa 12% which is normal for this type of event. Profit from the Hampshire Hoppit Trail Marathon of £6449.84 was transferred to the Trackside Fund. Well done and many thanks go to Tim Fowler and his team for staging this amazing event - raising the profile of our club and going plastic cup free!

The committee plans to continue to increase investment in club members through training funds, purchase of additional equipment and financial support for those who need it.

Last year we introduced;

- 1) Training fund for athlete development (e.g. part funding of training camps being organised by coaches).
- 2) Fund for athletes in need of financial support (e.g. need for equipment/spikes etc.)

The committee has agreed a process to ensure openness, fairness and equality for how this discretionary spend will be managed and evaluated. I will be personally disappointed if we do not spend this money and we look forward to receiving more applications.

We also invested in new lights as a result of the new hockey pitch, new electric starting equipment, international pole vault uprights, new tent with BMHAC logo. We will continue to make further investments this year to improve our facilities.

Club Kit

A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes led by Ann Henderson who joined the committee this year as General Secretary and got our new Club kit 'over the line'. We have a great new brand which can be purchased from our online Club Shop.

Track & Stand

We continue to work closely with our partner, Basingstoke Council on the plans to update our facilities. The Committee will look at the latest options and consider how we can best secure additional storage space and other facilities suggested by coaches and others. We hope to make some announcement in the next couple of months regarding this.

Performances

We continue to 'punch above our weight' as a club. We had over 20 entries in the national top 50 last year...not taking masters athletes into account. Of those, five were in Decathlon! We had two (Ben Pattison and Thomas Staines) in the 800m. Three women were ranked (Gemma Finch 800m, Mair Edwards 200m and Hannah Reed heptathlon). These were great achievements but it shows that we need to develop our female performance capacity further especially as the club will be competing in the new combined National Athletics League (Division 2) this year.

There have been so many outstanding performances this year and so please don't be offended if I don't mention you!

Here are some of the highlights;

Basingstoke & Deane Sports Awards

- Rafer Joseph – winner: Volunteer Coach Award
- Felicity Edwards – winner: Official Award
- Caius Joseph – Winner: Senior Sportsman Award

England Indoors

- Ayomide Cole, bronze in the 200m

Disability

- The Disability Group won a team (Bronze TBC) medal at the SE Special Olympics Sports Hall at Portsmouth.

English Schools

- 11 athletes took part with Rebecca Bullock winning the 400m, Izzy Pinder part of the winning 4x1 team and Reece Sharman-Newell a bronze medallist in the 800m

South of England U20 & Seniors

- Rebecca Bullock, 800m U20W 1st SB 2.12.24

Hampshire Vets League - Down Grange

A wonderful all round team performance saw the men halt Southampton's 23 match unbeaten sequence that stretched back 6 years

European U20 Championships

Ben Pattison ran 1.46.71 at the U20/U23 England Championships to qualify for the British team at the Europeans. This is also a new record for BMHAC Junior men. He then took silver at the Championship in a British 1,2,3.

Hampshire XC Champs

One of our most successful champs: With one individual gold (Alex Hamilton) and silver (Daisy Alford) and 4 team medals including 1st AND 3rd U17 men and the first team medals for our senior ladies for at least 10 years.

Hampshire XC League

After the final round at Popham we had some outstanding season results including:

Senior men: Dave Ragan and Alex Hamilton both 2nd overall in their categories

Under 17 men: Reece Sharman-Newell 1st overall; team in second spot

Under 13 boys: Team silver

Under 20 women: Maddie Deadman: 3rd

Under 13 girls: Team silver

Southern XC League

BMHAC won both the Male and Female races at Polecat Valley, Haslemere. Not only winning the match but also wrapping up the overall league title having missed out the past two seasons.

Inter Counties 20 mile Championships

As part of a 4 man team, BMH athlete Alex Hamilton helped Hampshire to a team silver medal in the inter-counties 20 mile match.

Road Runners

- Mark Slaney MV55 Marathon at Manchester with 2:56:31
- BMH had good representation at the Tadley 10k which was won by Andy Goddard, Tony Watkins first V50.
- The three race Yateley series also came to a close, with Mark Slaney winning the V50 series title, Dave Hope the V70 series and Russell Burton 2nd in the V60 category.

Club Championship

The road group's club Championships came to a close with the Basingstoke Half Marathon & 10k races.

- Almost 50 representatives from the club took part in the half, with another 15 or so in the 10k. When the overall points stretching back over 12 months and up to 16 races were totted up, the final placings are as follows:
 - Men - 1st Alex Hamilton,
 - Ladies - 1st Gemma Bigg,
 - Age Graded Winners:
 - Men - 1st Alex Hamilton,
 - Ladies - 1st Jenny Froud

South Downs Relay

The club had three teams in the 100 mile, 18 stage relays from Beachy Head to Winchester. Our Vets team retained their title with another fine win, so well done Alastair Bridgman, Marc Soane, Steve Jeffery, Andy Goddard, Karl Westhead and skipper Chris Burghes.

Masters & Vets

Our masters athletes have also had a great year with 7 medals at the British Masters' Champs (3 Gold: Deborah Montgomery, Neil Barton, Andy McCrum and Margaret Moody). At the European Champs we had one silver and a bronze and another bronze at the World Masters' Indoors.

Basingstoke Half

Basingstoke Half produced podium finishes for the following: Alex Hamilton 3rd overall, 1st MV40, Tony Watkins 1st MV50, Dave Hope 1st MV70, 3rd MV60. A double win in the 10k with Dave Ragan and Mitch Lloyd first home

SEAA Inter Counties

11 club athletes represented the county
 Maddie Deadman 3rd U20, team Gold
 Senior Women Bronze (Charlotte Chalwin 7th)

Senior Indoor Multi Events National Championships, Sheffield

Caius Joseph 1st U23, Nicolas Gerome, 3rd U23

Hampshire Schools Championship – Portsmouth

- Becca Bullock won the SG 400m in 58.5
- Jordan Ford won the IB 100m in 11.1
- Stefan O'Loughnane won the IB 800m in with 2.5.2
- Ellen Townsend won in IG 300mh in 50.0.
- Nathan Lane won the JB 1500m recording 4.32.7.

South of England AA U13/U15/U17 Championships

Ayomide Cole U17, 200m Gold. Lizzy Pinder, U17 400m Bronze.

Junior XC League, race 1 at Lord Wandsworth

74 young athletes took part with plenty of good performances. Great to see many of our youngest members making their first appearance in a club vest!

Wins for Macy Connolly (U13G), Nicholas Thomas (U13B), Sienna Richardson (U15G) all running as guests, and so non scoring, as holders of county vests.

Charlie Coveney took 1st place in the U13 boys and Nathan Lane held off Sam Kemp to take the U15B race

BMH were 1st in all boys age groups

Club Records

- Ayomide Cole U15 300m 41.3s, equalled the 100m with 12.2
- Iona Irvine 7.90s 60m (i) at Sheffield
- Club Record; Macy Connolly - U13G 1200m, 3:58.9
Club Record; Dave Hope - MV70 HalfM, 1:44:33

Club Positions/Committee Vacancies

I encourage members to contribute to the work of the club in any way they can. Members are being invited (and encouraged) to attend committee meeting in an informal capacity to gain insights into the running of the club and to support committee members and post holders.

Feedback

AH has analysed the feedback forms that were completed by athletes/parents at the Club Championship. Further forms were completed at the Junior & Senior Awards nights. This additional feedback to be added to the analysis. The feedback will be used to highlight priority areas of focus (matters of interest to our members) as part of our Club Development strategy.

Agreed that feedback surveys will be undertaken twice a year – after Cross Country season and after Track season

Festival of sport

Appreciation and thanks extended to Jo Breeds and all other helpers for their support of the German Exchange and Festival of Sport. JBd reported that the weekend went well and all seemed to have a great time. The additional money donated by club supported a trip to Thorpe Park which all enjoyed. BMHAC won the athletics competition as part of the Festival of Sport against Eurskirchen.

Club Championship & Awards Nights

Evening went well. Feedback forms were available for completion on the night.

Thumbs up: Disco, videos, Food, Awards, Seeing achievements, Recognition of all, dancing, Support

Thumbs down: The end! Disco not long enough.

Coaching Coordinators Report

Rod Finch has completed coach course.

Andy Goddard has completed LiRF course and is now on the rota for coaching sessions.

Training of Officials

We are looking to run an officials 'Taster' event during an evening training session.

Olympic Year

2020 is an Olympic year so we may have a further influx of members. It was agreed to support further 'taster' sessions like the one organised last summer.

New Team Managers

Gareth Wilson and Emma Amos QuadKids (thanks to Liz Flitcroft)

Julie Bullock for NAL with support from Rod Finch

Donna Mulholland for Wessex Girls

Finally, I hope that you agree we have achieved a lot in the last year. The next two years are going to stretch us even more and so it is vital that we continue to support each other, have open conversations and build on the solid foundation that we have. I am always open to hearing more about what you think we are doing well and what we can do better, more or different.

Best Regards
Paul Sandford