

## Chairmans report for the year January 2011 to January 2012.

This year I am pleased to tell you that club membership has kept up the past trend of steady increase. We now have close to 150 full members plus 8 social and 5 life members. 109 of the full members are first claim.

Our main events this year were a great success thanks to hard work from all the committee and many members who turned out to assist as marshals, tent erectors or water station attendants etc...a splendid effort as usual. The full marathon was sponsored once again by Salclear through club member Dave Salter. It was a very good close contest with club member Rob Sellors coming through steadily to secure his first marathon victory and the Manx Championship. A total of 103 took part in the marathon and a record 298 in the half where Gail Griffiths took the ladies title while knocking six minutes off the ladies over 45 record for the course and outsprinting Preston's Gemma Adams by just 2 seconds. Our Spring and Autumn handicap runs and walks could have been much better supported but, as usual, as the handicaps unfolded the excitement rose and the finishes usually very close. It costs the club a substantial sum to hire the NSC for these events and the trophies well worth winning so come on you members and support the spring one due fairly soon. The Syd Quirk was run a bit later this year to avoid any problem with the trains at Ballasalla crossing. Haldane Fisher was again the sponsors and it was so appropriate that, at the 9<sup>th</sup> attempt, victory came in the run for Mike Garrett. This first came after a 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2009 and a second in 2010. 84 runners completed the run and 49 walkers completed their event which was a great battle between Michael George and Jock Waddington with Michael edging ahead to win by 47 seconds. Last but by no means least the September Ramsey Bakery sponsored End-to-End walk was all set for a record number of starters with an entry of 454 but on the day there were more non starters than usual. Club member, Richard Gerrard was the fifth different winner in 5 years. Our grateful thanks to those club members and non-club members who worked so well together to make it such a great event. Entries open on 1<sup>st</sup> February for the 2012 End-to-End so plenty of time to train.

The club was as usual very well represented in the Parish Walk. There were some fine performances and none better than Jock Waddington who claimed his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive victory. He was pushed all the way by a much improved Vinny Lynch for a club one two. There were many fine performances and efforts worthy of mention. While we have many performing well at the younger end of our members it was good to see a few of our long time members keeping themselves fit and active. Robbie Lambie broke the old over 55 800m record with a run of 2.25.9. Juan Callow turned out and completed the Mountain Marathon, as well as a fine walk in the End-to-End, where there were 68 finishing behind him.

Michael George won the IOM 20K race walking championship but for my money one of the very best results was when 5 times parish walk winner and 5 times marathon winner Robbie Callister became the first foreigner for 20 years to win South Africa's oldest and Cape Town's biggest annual sporting event. He completed the 80K course in a new record time of 8Hrs 54Mins. He said afterwards that the heavy rain and strong winds made him feel at home. Perhaps that's why half the GB cycling squad is made up of racers that the island has trained to perfection with its green hills by the sea and climate that breeds them as hard as nails. It makes you think when today we have a track, lots of machines and help with diet but twenty to thirty years ago the island had four or five runners who were turning out to run marathons between 2hrs 23mins and 2hrs 35mins consistency. One of our earlier club members won the London-Brighton race as well as the army championship.

Turning now as I must to the business side. The committee decided to take out insurance cover which is better cover, for our marshals and helpers at events which are run by the club, than that provided by UK athletics through our affiliation. Steps were also taken to protect the personal assets of committee members through another smaller policy. This is I believe in line with other clubs but as with all things there is a price to pay but it's in the best interest of all that we provide this protection.

This past year I have found all the committee members a pleasure to work with and I couldn't fault any one of them for their efforts on your behalf. I am sorry to lose Marie and Lisa this year but they have both done more than their share and I will wish Lisa good luck with her business interests and Marie with her training to get back to peak fitness for competition at the highest veteran level where we all know she is capable of yet more medals. Thanks also to all club members and partners who have helped out as marshals or in other ways during the past year.

Every club has its problems and we have done our best to deal with ours. I close with this thought about a problem: a clever person solves it, a wise person avoids it and a stupid person makes it!