

## Chairman's Report for 2016

Before I start on the formal presentation of my second Chairman's Report can we please wish our President, Dursley Stott, a very happy 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Dursley sends his apologies as he is celebrating with his family but we wish him many happy, healthy years to come.

Other individual celebrations must go to Marie Jackson for her 2 Gold Medals in the BMAF 20K Championships and to Kevin Deakes who came back from Perth with a GB Team silver medal in the World Masters Half Marathon. Two members secured a place in history by achieving IOM record times. George Henthorn Over 75 10k in 69.11 and Peter Cooper Over 65 10k in 44.37. There are numerous other local individual performances to celebrate and anyone who made it to a race start line and more importantly a finishing tape needs to be congratulated.

On a club level I am pleased to see that the Facebook page is being used, viewed and is hopefully becoming a useful way of communicating club news. Also our Website continues to be updated and kept fresh thanks to the continuing hard work of Adrian Cowin and Jacqui Cooper. It would be very remiss of me not to mention the brilliant work of Sue Ackroyd on her production of the club's Newsletter. She is still insisting that she has rested her quill but I am still hoping to persuade her otherwise unless there is anyone out there to take over the job.

The events we put on continue to be of a high standard and Walter Hill of the BMAF continually praises our marathon as one of the best in the UK and we can be equally proud of the E2E and Syd Quirk races.

A start on establishing a social aspect to the club was made in October when two teams entered the Pub Quiz at The Prospect. A very enjoyable evening ensued and the winning team was only decided on the music round where The Old Codgers bemoaned the lack of 1950's music!!! It is hoped to repeat the event in the not too distant future. If anyone has other suggestion for social gatherings then please let us know.

Along with the celebrations come the challenges and they remain much the same as last year with a desire to increase our activity in Track and Field and more importantly and urgent is a desire to get more people involved in helping the club. We need committee members, especially a Race Secretary. The first two races, the Open 20 Mile Road race and Spring Handicap are well on their way to be sorted by Mo and myself but someone to take on the role for the Autumn Handicap and Syd Quirk Half marathon would be most welcome. We can only continue to put on quality events with assistance from willing volunteers. So please Your Club Needs You!!

Moving on to a wider Island challenge the IOMAA is trying to establish a new structure to share the load of overseeing Athletics in the Island and they are actively pursuing the appointment of an ADO and it is most likely, and desirable, to have one in place by the summer. Again by volunteering to help within the IOMAA and to participate in the Officials Courses to be held in March is a way of giving back to the sport we have enjoyed for so long and ensure that it still exist for future generations. Remember every Under 7 who runs their first 50m on the track is potentially a future member of our club and we need them to maintain our existence.

Other developments begin with us considering the updated Constitution. This is not a rewrite but simply a bringing together the changes voted on in the past and to incorporate the ways of working that exist today.

Your views on establishing a 'welcome pack' for new members would be appreciated. This would perhaps help make new members proactive and assist in helping the club to grow.

There is also a case to perhaps re-think the Road Running Shield competition. The loss of races in the 12.5 to 17.49 miles category means that unless you compete in the 20 mile race you cannot complete the series without going 'off Island' to compete. This may be a good thing to encourage members to race 'off island' and if this was coupled with financial support then perhaps the competition can remain as it is and continue to be a test of members fitness and running ability over a variety of distances.

I cannot finish without thanking the committee and all those members of the various sub committees for their continuing support and hard work. Remember we do need you to help so please see what time you have to give back to supporting the club. With your help and support we can look forward to a very rewarding 12 months.

Thank You

Terry Bates

Chairman

13 February 2017