

Chairman's Report 2015

This is my first Chairman's Report and I need to thank you the members for endorsing my appointment at last year's AGM. I also need to say a big thank you to the committee for putting up with me.

We have several things to celebrate.

We need to celebrate individual members who continue to compete at a high level giving the younger athletes a run for their money and setting new Age Category records both on the road and on the track.

We need to celebrate and thank Sue Ackroyd for producing such an informative and well laid out newsletter. She initially took on the role of editor for a year but I am hoping to persuade her to carry on a little longer. Any suggestions how would be gratefully received!

We also need to celebrate that given our relative small membership we do continue to put on quality events that impact not only on the local athletic scene but wider afield. The Ramsey Half Marathon was recently placed in the top 50 races by Runners World and quite rightly so and the Marathon has been designated as the BMAF 2016 Marathon Championship. These events don't just happen so we do indeed need to celebrate our small but dedicated team of organisers and helpers.

This brings me on to the several challenges we face.

Firstly we need to build on our success by looking to increase the participation in our events. For this to happen we will need to increase the number of people involved in the organisation of our events and I hope to encourage more members to help in any small way they can to relieve the burden on the few members involved now.

We need to grow as a club, not only in member numbers but in our range of activities. We award an annual Track and Field trophy but aren't active in promoting track and field events. I would like to see the club organise a track and field meeting for members so that we can increase participation. I envisage this as initially a low key, come and try event encouraging friendly competition.

Obviously such a new venture will need careful planning and this brings me on to another challenge for 2016. After a 12 month hiatus it now seems more likely that a new Athletic Development Officer will be appointed during 2016. This will involve the IOMAA becoming the employer and as such will be in a position to dictate the role, job description and hours worked. We, along with all the other clubs, have been asked to go back to the committee in March with proposals of how we would want an ADO to help develop our club. We will discuss this later in the meeting under Any Other Business.

Other developments are challenges I am taking on in that I would like to see a more social atmosphere in the club with members meeting regularly for 'pack runs' as they used to be called. The challenge is finding a time and place for such events but I will hope to circulate members to get suggestions and gauge interest.

I would also like to see our website continue to change and be more 'user friendly' for promoting the club and finding important information. I wonder if we as a club are ready to be dragged into the 21st century and get ourselves a Facebook page? Again I will be asking for opinions over the coming year.

Although not over flushed with money the club does have a healthy bank balance which is supplemented each year by our successful events. This counteracts the subscription fee which is kept to such a minimum that by the time the various associations have been paid their fees we are left with around £1 per member. This success should be shared amongst our members. We already give members free entry into the Spring and Autumn handicap races and perhaps this can be extended into subsidising entry into the Easter Festival of running especially for the 5k relay and ladies race. It has also been suggested that we could look to 'target' a UK race as a club and again subsidise the entry fee for this. More things to consider.

So I hope you will accept this report as a useful beginning with perhaps the rider 'could do better' and I will see what I and the committee can achieve over the coming 12 months.

Thank you

Terry Bates
Chairman