

Chairman's report
17th Oct 2024

Again, this year, I will leave the accolades of our members achievements to the relevant section leaders, and I will concentrate on what the committee has been doing over the past year.

Firstly, we have been through another safeguarding issue with a member of the club. This took some time to resolve and necessitated calling in a few favours from suitably qualified professionals that were acquaintances of the chair. We have closed this case off as the athlete has left the club, but it may reappear in the future.

In March this year, we found ourselves without a secretary, as the incumbent of the post decided to move away from the area. This resulted in the secretarial duties having to be shared out among the rest of the committee. My thanks especially to Paul Dellar and Dave Smith who have taken it in turns to produce the minutes of the committee meetings.

It took us three months to recover the secretary's email account, which resulted in us missing important payments to England Athletics and the south of England. We have now made these payments and are up to date.

One large piece of committee work was to look to see if our payment model for subscriptions and training fees meets the modern lifestyle. Thanks to James Plant who put together a survey, and collated the responses from members about how they would like to pay our fees. More about this later when we get to changes to the constitution.

We have also added a social media policy to our policies and procedures. Thanks to Justine Sheekey who has researched and written this policy.

We realised that our lower age requirement for membership was stopping us from increasing the numbers of our junior section. Most of the other clubs around us have embraced a lower age for members and are using a system called Funetics to run this junior section. This again will be covered in the constitution changes.

Finally, I call on all of you to get behind your new committee and give them all the support they need.

This year, personally, has been very difficult with all the things happening that I have mentioned above. Sometimes, as chairman, you must make difficult decisions that not all committee members agree with. I hope you will respect the reasons for these decisions, and act accordingly. That appears not to have been happening recently.