

Secretary's AGM Report 2023

Overall it has been a very good year for the club and we were pleased to celebrate the 40th Anniversary with the celebration event in September. It was really good to see some old members who all fondly remembered their time with the club and wished us well for the future. We are now looking forward to the 50th in 2033.

The senior training sessions have been well attended, and the junior numbers at sessions have increased steadily. We have continued with using the Rugby Club as our training base which has been largely successful although the use of changing room is still an issue. There are no immediate plans to develop the clubhouse despite our continual discussions with them. We hope there can be some resolution to this in 2024.

Our membership currently stands at 223 which is up from 2022. The breakdown is 135 seniors (of which 8 are volunteers) and 88 juniors of which 38 are under 11. The lack of primary school athletics is a factor in the recruitment of new juniors as well as the diverse range of other sports on offer for juniors.

Tom has continued to do a great job as Chair, taking on the Handicap as well which has gone well. Chris Prall has continued as treasurer keeping us on a sound financial footing, which he will share with us at the AGM.

The 10K went very well although numbers have still not returned to pre COVID levels. There were a few challenges with the route but hopefully they are now overcome and we look forward to another good race when it returns to its more traditional date in 2024. We also staged the ever popular relays again (in the rain) which also went well. We also put on the 3 Tops Fell Race again with slightly increased numbers. As I said before these events require a lot of help from our members who do a fantastic job. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a great bunch of experienced volunteers. I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work again in this year. Particular thanks to Sharon for all she does for the club. I would also like to thank the coaches who have again done a great job. We have lost a few but also gained two. Also a huge thank you to Dave Fox for producing more fantastic Harrier magazines including the 40th Anniversary edition. Ken has also done an excellent job with the kit. We continue to try and keep in contact via Facebook, Twitter, emails and the website as well as meeting up face to face on a more regular basis.

Looking ahead to 2024 we face challenges as always but I'm sure if we all work together we can overcome. The main ones are as follows:-

- Facilities as both the Rugby Club and Ivybridge College are not ideal and we do need a plan going forward. We need to offer our members a good experience in every way.
- Encouraging the juniors to take part in club competitions particularly track and field. Improve communication and understanding of parents.
- Recruit new juniors, re-establish relationship with primary schools and ICC.
- Recruit and train more coaches and volunteers in general. We need to have a succession plan to replace our older volunteers whilst maintaining continuity.

I hope you all enjoy the AGM and that you gain a lot of understanding of how the club works. It is an opportunity for you to put your views forward. The club will continue to go forward in a safe, sustainable way in line with the requirements of the governing bodies and our members.

Keith Reed November 2023