

Secretary's AGM Report 2024

It has been another very good year for the club and most things have continued to go well.

The senior training sessions have been well attended, and the junior numbers at sessions have increased massively since the late summer.

Unfortunately there has been no real change with the facilities at the Rugby Club which is down to finance, but we have developed a better overall working relationship with them. We will continue to work towards offering our members a better experience if we can. We have recently tried to survey our members and parents of juniors to find out what people want from us. We are looking at the findings of both these which will be used to look at our development plan going forward.

Our membership currently stands at 243 which is up from 2023. The breakdown is 136 seniors (of which 8 are volunteers) and 107 juniors of which 53 are under 11. This is an increase from 38 which has been achieved without the need to actively recruit. It does of course put pressure on our coaches and on the facilities.

Tom has continued to do a great job as Chair, running 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 with slightly increased numbers. We will have to look at the route for 2025 in view of building developments near the start, but hopefully all will be OK. We staged the ever popular relays again (which also went well). We also put on the 3 Tops Fell Race again with increased numbers. As I said before these events require a lot of help from our members who do a fantastic jobs. 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. I would also like to thank Jayne my long suffering wife who does such a valuable job helping the club and me. We are struggling with just a small band of coaches and it is a major area of concern going forward. Also a huge thank you to Dave Fox for producing more fantastic Harrier magazines. Ken and Sharon have done an excellent job with the kit. We continue to try and keep in contact via Facebook, Twitter, emails and the website. Looking ahead to 2025 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 and train more coaches (particularly junior ones) and volunteers in general. We need to have a succession plan to replace our older volunteers whilst maintaining continuity. This is a particular priority for us.
- Look at the results of the surveys and revisit the club's development plan.

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 2024