

BANBURY HARRIERS ATHLETIC CLUB For AGM 25th.February 2020 - 8.15pm

CHAIRS REPORT FEBRUARY 2020

Firstly, if you are reading this prior to attending the AGM, thank you for taking the time to read it. I have taken the unusual step of issuing the report in advance as I hope it will give you a greater insight into the activities of the club and explain why we are continually seeking further non- monetary support to continue the current level of activity.

The club is run entirely by unpaid volunteers for the benefit of its athlete (track and field, x-country and road running) members from the age of 8 upwards. The aim being to increase their enjoyment and expertise in the sport by means of coaching, training and ultimately involvement in competition to challenge individuals to improve their own event performance. We provide league competition for all ages and areas of the sport and whilst some of these fixtures require an element of travelling I'm afraid that this is a necessary consequence of seeking a higher standard of competition. In addition to this we provide a regular weekly training facility throughout the year which varies according to age and discipline. Given this we believe it is reasonable that we ask all members to represent the club on a minimum of three occasions throughout the year in whatever athletic discipline they enjoy.

The membership / training fee is deliberately kept to the absolute minimum necessary to cover the cost of track hire, indoor training facilities and equipment needed to participate in the sport. The track is hired from Cherwell District Council at the going rate and we are fortunate that they are one of few councils still willing to support the provision of athletic facilities. My thanks to James for his tireless work with CDC to ensure the track facilities continue to meet the ever-increasing regulations necessary for competitions to be held.

To enable us to continue to achieve the above we are continually looking for people to step up to the plate and help support the club in any way they possibly can but particularly, coaching officiating at fixtures, taking on a committee role to assist with organization, communication, media contact and many other areas. Indeed, over the last 18 months we have been without a club secretary with the responsibility and tasks shared between other officers. All of the existing officers and committee members, many of whom who have continued despite their offspring moving on in the world, commit a huge number of voluntary hours to the club and in a number of cases are reaching or past retirement age and would welcome the opportunity to reduce their time commitment, which can only be possible if other are willing to get involved and share the load. Therefore, on behalf of the club can I plead for parents, or indeed senior athletes to come forward and take a more prominent role in the club. Please can I ask that you speak with either James, Ian or myself to discuss individual ways you can help and if you would like to become involved as a club officer or committee member please let me know asap.

In another change this year we have decided not to dwell at the AGM on the many great individual and team performances but to inform you that we will concentrate on this at our Presentation and Awards evening which takes place on Friday 20th. March, 7-30pm to 10pm at

Banbury Rugby Club where you can join with others to discuss achievements and learn from others. Food will not be provided, but a self pay bar is provided enabling tickets prices to be kept to an absolute minimum. A quiz, including questions which our younger members are more likely to be able to answer, will make this an ideal event for families and all age groups. You never know you might even receive an award!

I wish to thank my fellow club officers, committee members, coaches, team managers and officials for their enormous time commitment, skill and expertise from which athletes have benefitted.

In addition, I would like to thank Andy Bartlett and his team for organizing our two main fund raising events, the Banbury 15 and Banbury 5 races which both remain popular partly due to the organization, marshalling and general friendly atmosphere created. Andy is also the leading coach and organizer of the Couch to 5k training sessions which commenced in early January and are very well attended. The Oxford Mail League and County X-Country Championships run jointly by ourselves and Bicester were a huge success and many thanks to Ian and his team of volunteers.

We continue to play an active part in the Oxfordshire Athletics Association and my thanks to James Charles who leads in this respect and will play a key part in organizing the forthcoming 2020 County Championships at the end of May.

I would also like to thank parents for their commitment in taking their offspring and indeed other athletes to both training and competitive meeting. Athletics is unfortunately a parent heavy sport in the junior age group and regrettably for away fixtures the cost of hiring transport to events is just not viable.

Finally, I would like to thank the most important people, the athletes who show tremendous commitment to the sport and I hope they get both enjoyment and satisfaction from their considerable achievements.

I look forward to seeing a good turnout at the AGM and once again would appeal for you to come forward and take a lead in helping in whatever area you feel able.

DAS
February 2019