

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on another very successful year for the club. We have enjoyed success across all the various age groups at local, regional and national level. I don't like to single out any individuals but my personal highlights are:

The great performance by our UKWL ladies in getting promotion to the premier division and the improvement across all disciplines by our ladies.

Dave Henson's performance in the World Para Athletics Championships by winning a bronze medal in the T42 200m class.

Our young athletes again reaching the YDL finals and finishing a very close 3rd following their victory last year.

Mahamed Mahamed winning a bronze medal at the European Junior Cross Country Championships.

At the other end of the spectrum our president Mary Axtell winning three medals at the European Masters Championships.

It is an exciting time for the club and I am proud to see the red and white stripes continue to mix with the finest clubs in the country. I have seen for myself the fantastic young talent we have who are now beginning to push our established star athletes.

None of this is possible without the help of our volunteers. Whether you are a coach, an official, a statistician, an administrator, a marshal, a team manager, or work in the cabin we cannot THANK YOU enough for your continued time and effort in making this the great club that it is. I also wish to thank the committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the club develops and progresses, to ensure we can sustain a club that can operate for everyone at all levels. The committee has been working on the following during 2017 amongst many other issues:

- Plans for a new track-side pavilion to be financed by the club
- Investigating our online services and social media platforms
- Extending our relationships between SAC and the Universities
- Looking at obtaining a club sponsor
- Exploring the possibility of another club race
- Possible purchase of Photo finish and EDM equipment
- Engagement in the plans for the development of the sports centre

I must say a special thank you to Andy Fisher who has now stepped down from the committee to focus on multi event coaching but has been instrumental in developing the foundations of our very successful junior academy.

Inevitably, perhaps, as we grow as a club, we also face difficulties and 2017 has been a particularly challenging year for the committee. We have had a number of personnel changes and it is a constant battle to find volunteers. Our plans for the new pavilion (to replace the main cabin at the track) have been stalled by the council and for the first time in many years the club finances show a significant deficit which cannot continue. To remedy this we have no option but to increase our membership fees for 2018 across all categories. We have seen increased costs in track fees, training venues, travel and accommodation, EA fees, etc. Quite simply our current membership fees do not support the increasing financial demands of the club. It's one of the penalties of success. It is not a decision we have taken lightly but by increasing the fees we hope to maintain and better support our members in future. No one likes paying more but I ask you to support your committee as you have always done in the past.

I would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and look forward to some great competition next year.

Richie