

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee members coaches and all the volunteers who without we would not have a club. I must single out Fiona Webb who has been membership secretary for many years and has decided to stand down from her role she has been an outstanding member of the committee in a very demanding role. Chris Taylor and Mark West have also left the committee and they go with my thanks and appreciation of their contribution.

My vision for the club going forward is to establish SAC as one of the premier athletic clubs in the UK by providing athletes of all abilities with the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Our youth policy is central to our vision as is our determination to maintain a strong presence in the various leagues which we compete in.

It has been a mixed season result wise maintaining our position in the first division of the BAL(3rd) whilst being relegated from the Premier League of the UKWL. I think it fair to say that we have more or less found our level in these divisions but I think we do stand a good chance of regaining Premier League status next season. If we were a football club they would probably say we were a Yo Yo club. Thank you to all the athletes who competed in these leagues.

We also maintained our position in division one of the Southern League after a bit of a scramble at the last home match.

Perhaps the most disappointing result over the season was our failure to stay in the Premier Division of the YDL lower age group. We have a host of very promising athletes but we seem to have difficulties at times in getting them to compete in this league. We are very proud of our GB athletes Mahamed Mahamed Alex Teuten and Dave Henson and we hope that their success will provide inspiration to all our athletes.

I would like to thank all team managers for everything they have done this year, being a team manager can be a difficult role and I am very appreciative of all their efforts. Our officials have been outstanding this year as well and we have managed to recruit some new members this year but we are always looking out for more volunteers.

One of the most frustrating events this year has been the slow progress with the redevelopment of the Sports Centre including our track. Plans have been produced, surveys undertaken, and consultations taken place but to little avail. Funding seems to me to still be a major problem. We are now looking at purchasing a replacement for our main cabin at the track as we cannot continue with the present unit. We hope to have something in place for the next track season.

We are developing a stronger relationship with Southampton Solent University and I think by working together we can bring about mutual benefits. Talks are continuing.

May I wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year

Richie Pearson Chairman Southampton Athletic Club

