

TRC AGM 2020 – Acting Captain's Report

This has been a very unusual year in the Club's 35 year history with the Club having to stop meeting for about 4 months. As the AGM had to be moved from its normal place in the diary from April to October, this report just covers 2020 to date.

The first item must be Pete Mainstone who stepped down as Captain early in the year to focus on his health. Pete has invested a huge amount of his time and energy into the club and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Pete has continued to be involved in the committee meetings to date and will continue to contribute. Since Pete stepped down, I became Acting Captain. As a large club, with a strong group of lady runners, I asked Natalie Bennett to become Vice Captain.

Because of the commitment of our group of Leaders we are able to run each week and offer a range of pace groups. I would like thank all the Leaders who make themselves available each week and who are willing to support all groups for an enjoyable, friendly and safe run.

We always seem to need more Leaders to cover for family commitments, work, holiday and injury and so this year we have introduced the idea of Assistant Leaders. We currently have four Assistant Leaders - Jerry Clothier, Jo Plumbley, Mark Williams and Natalie Bennett. We will be looking for more Leaders and Assistant Leaders in the coming months so, if you are interested to know more, please contact me.

From late March to August we were unable to meet due to lockdown. During the lockdown period running was important for everyone's physical and mental health. Four virtual events were organised which appealed to Members from all the groups. These events ranged from an individual event and virtual team event to a run or walk quiz. The club meetings were replaced by Zoom calls to announce results and the winners.

Working with Arthur Renshaw and Mike Bennewitz we were able to resume the Club in a COVID-secure environment in August. A big thank you is in order to those who made, and continue to make, meeting possible. The number of attendees is growing each Thursday and we are nearly back up to pre-COVID numbers. Since resuming the club in August we have had 10 new people joining, further emphasising the importance of running in the area.

When we did the detailed survey of the Club in 2017 we identified the importance of attracting and retaining younger members. We now have a much wider age range within the Club which is important for the health and longevity of the Club. We also passed a landmark in October with the 1,000th member joining the Club since it started 1985. We actually have about 30 members who were not born when the club was set up!

Sadly, we have had to postpone or cancel all of our events this year. This is a shame as they are hugely popular with local runners and are always a sell-out. This is outside of our control but they will be back. This also meant that the Captain's Challenge has not happened this year.

Trying to predict what comes next is simply impossible. As a club we need to continue meeting whilst we can, keep running for our physical and mental health, and staying safe.

Kevin Wood October 2020

