



Meeting: Walton Athletic Club Annual General Meeting

Date: 12 February 2020

Subject: Report of Activities for the year

Author: Marie Marks

Position: Chair

1. Background:

Our constitution requires us to provide a report of our activities for the year to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is being held on 12 February 2020 and this paper constitutes the report of activities for 2019.

2. Coaching and Athletics Achievements:

i. In 2019 WAC competed in the following:

- Youth Development League (YDL) Upper and Lower Age Groups
- Southern Athletics League (SAL)
- Lily B (Girls) League
- Ebbisham (Boys) League
- Rosenheim and Masters Leagues and
- Surrey Cross Country Leagues

2019 was another year of outstanding performances across all age groups and disciplines, not just at club level, but regional and national level too. Below are some of the highlights – with apologies for any errors or omissions:

ii. Cross country:

- Walton U17 Boys Surrey XC League Winners
- Walton U15 Boys Surrey XC League Winners

iii. Indoors:

- Susie McLoughlin World Indoor Masters W40 200m silver
- Jo Flowers World Indoor Master W50 400m silver

iv. Track and field:

- Sam Mace – represented England U20 in the hammer
- Philip Kastner – represented England U20 in the Decathlon
- Cedelle Agyei-Kyem – represented England Schools U17 in the 300m

v. Awards:

- Jack Gemmell – Elmbridge Junior Sports Personality 2019 winner
- Susie McLoughlin – Elmbridge Senior Sports Personality 2019 winner
- Nicola Bell – Elmbridge Junior Sports Personality 2019 – third place

vi. New records:

- Sam Mace set a new Surrey U20 men's hammer record
- Too many club records across all age groups to list them here – but well done to all those who achieved them!

vii. Coaching:

- On the coaching side, WAC continues to provide coaching in all disciplines, whilst ensuring that it is provided in a safe and appropriate environment and in accordance with UKA guidelines.
- Going forward, we do need more volunteer coaches. So if you, or someone you know, is interested in getting involved in this hugely satisfying role, please contact Jamie McLoughlin (coachrep@waltonac.co.uk)

3. Satellite Club and WAC Academy

The Satellite and Academy clubs have proved to be incredibly popular. They are well run and have provided some of our young athletes with a great opportunity to help and to coach young children. A very positive outcome all round.

a. Satellite

Our Satellite Club had 56 members during the autumn term. A few members of the Satellite Club competed for WAC this year and we hope to encourage more to do so next year.

b. WAC Academy:

During February 2019 the Chair, Treasurer and Policies Officer of the club met with Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) to finalise the Key User Agreement (KUA) in respect of the club's use of the Council-owned Xcel Sports hub, further to the club's move from Stompond Lane in September 2017. It was agreed that there had to be finality over any arrangement with Walton Juniors that remained consistent with the terms of the KUA whereby only Walton AC have use of the track during the core hours set out in the agreement.

In spite of the club's best efforts, acting in good faith to ensure continuity, Hilary Jones declined the invitation to cooperate with fully integrating Walton Juniors as the primary school section of the club and tendered her immediate resignation as coach and committee member to the club on 24 February 2019. Unfortunately, the club was left in a position where it had an obligation to report itself to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for breach of General Data Protection Regulations. They considered the matter and, based on measures taken by the club, decided that no further action by the ICO was necessary.

Through the efforts of many of the club's volunteers it was possible to ensure continuity in coaching sessions for the children that attend. The Academy was overhauled for the start

of the new year in September 2019 and catered for 186 young athletes who attended on a weekly basis last term, made possible by the greater number of coaches, assistant coaches and helpers that ensure a fun time is had by all.

4. Holiday Clubs:

At relatively short notice, and led by Andrew Kennard, we were able to host a summer holiday club over six days that 72 younger children attended. It proved very popular and we hope to host a similar holiday club this year.

5. Membership:

At the end of 2019 the club had 186 annual members. These are in addition to the Academy and Satellite members.

6. Committee:

This year the committee has worked very hard on your behalf – having met for eleven committee meetings and many other sub-committee meetings. We are pleased to say that we have achieved the following:

- After several meetings with Elmbridge Borough Council to finalise the Key User Agreement, this has now been signed-off.
- Set up the new WAC Academy
- Hosted summer clubs
- Reviewed and, where necessary, clarified all existing policies, codes, fitness room rules etc
- Arranged the first all-club celebration of achievements at the new facilities – from which we received very positive feedback from those attending (and not so positive from some who didn't). We'll look at what we can do to improve next year.
- Organised whole club photos which are now displayed downstairs near the changing facilities.
- Agreed membership fee structure for 2020
- Agreed three bursaries for 2020
- Made arrangements to store all committee documents on a secure, central, electronic system.
- Trialled (with great success) electronic timing and electronic distance measuring. We plan to use this again in the future.
- Painted the equipment room
- Liaised with PfP and the Council to improve ground maintenance, establish lockable perimeter gates and ensure match day preparations went smoothly.
- Got up and running with the new discus cage. This allows training for discus separately to hammer when numbers preclude one group using the main hammer cage. It has also allowed us to host two Masters Throws Pentathlon events which no other club in Surrey was able to do as they do not have two cages.
- Followed up on the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) recommendations and have put in place a number of additional measures in relation to our handling of membership data.

7. Equipment purchased:

The committee approved the following purchases:

- Two laptops were bought to facilitate match day administration.
- Complete re-fit of the fitness room with up-to-date equipment.
- Some new trophies for awards night.
- Replaced competition equipment as needed.

8. Fundraising:

In terms of fundraising, we raised £316 at the raffle at the celebration of achievements night. This will be put towards the new gazebo – which we hope to order fairly soon.

9. Volunteering:

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those who already do an enormous amount for the club.

However, we do desperately need more volunteers. We need a team manager for YDL Lower Age Group– without one we cannot enter these leagues. We also always need more coaches and officials and we would very much like to find a female welfare officer.

Unfortunately, in 2019 we had to make the decision not to enter the YDL Upper Age Group in 2020 as we simply did not have enough athletes entering and we did not have enough officials at the competitions so we lost lots of points. We would have been demoted and had to travel vast distances to compete in 2020. We are exploring a partnership with a local club to enable some of our junior athletes in U17 and U20 age groups to compete in the YDL in throws and hurdles as second claim athletes until such time as the club is in a position to put out full teams. This is because the U17s and U20s throw different weights and have different heights for hurdles. This was to provide an opportunity for a limited number of athletes. Athletes will be encouraged to also enter the SALs and Rosenheims.

So, if you think you can help with any of these roles, please do get in touch (info@waltonac.co.uk).

10. Bursaries:

In November 2019 the committee considered a paper looking at the pros and cons of offering some sort of bursary. We agreed that it was appropriate to offer a bursary (of free 1st claim membership for 2020) to three developing athletes in 2020 who had all achieved international representation. On that basis, these were awarded to Sam Mace, Philip Kastner and Cedelle Agyei-Kyem.

11. Rent:

During the year EBC approached us to review a reduction in the existing rent subsidy. We agreed, based on affordability, to increase our rent by £8k to £11k per annum. However, EBC is pushing to reduce the rent subsidy further and to agree a position for the next three years.

12. Recommendation:

Members are asked to **NOTE** the content of this report.