



Walton Athletic Club Annual General Meeting

21 February 2022

Annual Report of Activities

1. Message from the Chair:

- 1.1 This year the committee has worked very hard on your behalf – having met for ten committee meetings and making arrangements to do so virtually when necessary to ensure the continuity of the club.
- 1.2 Throughout athletics in the UK, partly as a result of the pandemic, and partly due to how busy people are, the number of volunteers willing to support club activities has dropped significantly, and Walton Athletic Club is no exception. My wholehearted thanks to all the stalwarts who still come forward and those new volunteers who we have found, but we do need much more help. We particularly need Team Managers and Assistants, if we are going to participate in a full league competition programme, which is the Club's principal objective.
- 1.3 The Club is holding a workshop event – together with Elmbridge Borough Council - on 07 March 2022 (at the Hub) to look at ways we can grow the club. You may recall this was planned for December last year, but had to be postponed. A significant part of that will be looking at how we can encourage people to support the club and, if necessary, whether that needs to be on a financial footing. We really would welcome input from as wide a range of people as possible. If you are interested in attending, or have ideas to share, please do let me know (you can email me at: chair@waltonac.co.uk)

Best wishes,
Malcolm

2. Coaching and Athletics Achievements:

2.1 Club Records:

The Club records were reviewed and categorised at the beginning of the season to reflect every age group from U13 through to Masters 75. In 2021, 66 Club records were set across a spectrum of events and age groups, an amazing achievement considering the challenges of the pandemic. Noteworthy achievements in 2021 records are: **Sam Mace (U23)** now currently holds Club records in every age group for U13 Boys through to Senior Men. **Robin Roach (M75)** set the Club's first records (SP, DT & JT) from an M75 performer. **Robin** still currently holds the Club U20 Junior Men's triple jump record which he set in 1964 Surrey Schools Championships.

2.2 Championships Performances:

County Championships: Over 50 athletes covered 60+ events in the Surrey Championships. 11 Gold, 8 Silver and 9 Bronze medals were won by WAC athletes with 6 Gold coming from field events and 5 Golds coming from Track events. In addition, 13 athletes entering the Surrey Masters Championships covering 36 events. 25 Gold and 5 Silver medals were won by WAC athletes. Notable performances were **Hayley Cargill (W35)** winning double gold in the 400m/800m setting a CBP in the 800m and **Louise Wood (2C)** winning double gold in the **W50** Long & Triple Jump setting CBP's in both events. A further 4 athletes competed at the Middlesex Championships covering 6 events. 3 Silver medals were won.

Three bronze medals were won at the South of England Championships: **Alex Kilby (U20M)** 5000m; **Olivia Mensah (U17G)** 300HW; **Amy-Lee Van de Westhuizen (U17G)** Hammer.

British Masters Championships: WAC athletes won 8 Gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze medals. Notable performances from **Susie McLoughlin (W40)** triple gold in W40 100m, 200m & 400m.

2.3 League Competitions:

Due to the pandemic all Leagues were organised and run under different formats, localising competition and restricting events. The club committed to entering all the Leagues to give our athletes every opportunity to compete but was not able to turn out full teams or a full complement of officials for each match - which are required as part of the Club's commitment to the Leagues. Southern Athletics League: Well supported in some events, gaps in others. YDL (Lower): good turnout in all matches. YDL (Upper): mixed turnout in matches. Rosenheim: mixed turnout in matches. SCVAC League: good turnout in all matches. Lily B: mixed turnout in matches. Ebbisham League: no dedicated Team Manager. The club's commitment to 7 Track & Field Leagues is clearly stretching our resources in respect of competing athletes, Volunteer Officials and Team Managers. This will need to be reviewed and adjusted for 2022.

Detailed competition and match reports can be found on the Club Website in the News Section.

3. Satellite Club and WAC Academy

- 3.1 In 2021 Academy and Satellite groups were able to resume from the month of April without any further interruption through to the year end.
- 3.2 Over the course of the last 12 months the Academy and Satellite groups were supported by 29 coaching staff (6 Licensed UKA coaches, 15 Licensed UKA Assistant Coaches, 5 Athletics Leaders and 3 helpers), 17 of which regularly deliver the coaching.
- 3.3 The aim of the WAC Academy and Satellite is to provide WAC with a stream of future athletes building the annual membership base, whilst raising club standards and participation levels in a fun and welcoming environment. Of the 29 coaches and leaders who were involved in delivering athletics within the Academy and Satellite, 27 are current coaches/athletes/volunteers within the WAC annual membership who the Club are supporting in their coach educational journey.

4 Holiday Clubs

4.1 Unfortunately, we were unable to run any holiday clubs during 2021 as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

5 Investments:

5.1 As a committee, we successfully bid for funding from Elmbridge Borough Council on two major additions to our facilities:

- A track perimeter fence (at a cost of circa £36k). The fence is due to be installed during February and will significantly improve safety elements by preventing unauthorised access. It will also improve the spectator experience as family and friends will be able to utilise all the green areas behind the perimeter fence to support competing athletes.
- Permanent sand pit covers (at a cost of circa £15k). These will improve the condition of the sand within the pits.

6 Membership:

6.1 At the end of 2021 the club had 198 annual members (at the end of 2020 there were 187). These are in addition to the Academy and Satellite members, who are termly members.