

AGM - Chair's Report

Welcome to the 2018 AGM.

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has worked hard to make the club great for another year. Many thanks to the club officers, coaches, officials and other volunteers who give their time for free to support our athletes. To the athletes a special thanks. You have had another outstanding year. The greatness of the club in the eyes of the outside world is because of your achievements.

The year has been dominated by our move into the new stadium at Stratford, the London Marathon Community Track (LMCT). This happened fully at the beginning of April and as we anticipated there have been some issues which we are now working our way through. Mainly these are because of late delivery of parts of the facility (which was built as the warm-up track for the 2017 World and IPC Championships).

We also have had to cope with the fact that our track is used to support major events in the stadium, which means it is not available for us sometimes in the Summer. In 2018 there were three Summer concerts and two sets of major athletics meetings promoted by UKA. Thanks go to UKA for being flexible and letting us onto the track after their athlete sessions.

This year there look like being two concerts and the stadium welcomes US Major League Baseball (MLB) when the New York Yankees play the World Champion Boston Red Sox at the end of June. The UKA schedule has not been announced yet. So we will have to be flexible again and the club will try to arrange alternative training venues.

We are close to agreeing a new contract with our valued partner London Borough of Newham regarding track hire. For the coming year we intend to use the LMCT Monday and Wednesday evenings 6-9pm and Sunday morning 10-1pm. Additionally we have booked the Indoor Hub at Terence McMillan Stadium for Weds evenings 6-9pm between 1st October and 31st March.

Athletically our athletes have had another standout year with success at the European and Commonwealth Championships, Indoor and Outdoor National Championships, English Schools and England Age Group Championships. Our individual achievements are listed separately and the club congratulates all of them. Mo Farah had the best individual performance when he set a new British Record in the Marathon in October – well done yet again MO.

We are also known for our teams and the individual team managers have prepared their own reports which can be found on the website. We are very lucky to have a strong set of team managers currently with Rowan Griffiths leading the main men's British League team to 4th place overall in the country (and beating the champion club Birchfield for the only time in the last two years in the last match) and Tim Mundle's UK Women's League team coming 3rd in Division Two.

Our Youth Development League (YDL) teams had mixed fortunes with the Upper Age Group joint team (with Basildon) finishing 2nd in their division after pressing the eventual winners Havering close for half of the season. But the Lower Age Group team was relegated,

suffering from a lack of distance runners and field eventers. Thanks to Elyzabeth and Sarah for managing these teams.

The Winter team achieved some good results in the senior men but needs more people to run in the women's and age group teams. Thanks to Wayne Bell for organising the runners for the men. We achieved top 10 finishes in a number of national and regional team races. Unfortunately we could not manage to achieve promotion in the Met Cross Country League (though the team is currently well placed for 2018/19).

This season also saw the retirement of a number of our best ever athletes. We will return to Christine presently. But the club would also like to thank Chris Tomlinson the former British Long Jump record holder (and 6th in London Olympics) who technically retired at the end of last year (but he did not tell anyone) and Robbie Grabarz. Robbie is the British Record Holder in the High Jump and finished 3rd in the London Olympics. Chris and Robbie (and Steve Lewis our British Pole Vault Record Holder) represent a golden age of jumping for British Men's athletics and we have been so lucky to have them as club members – thank you.

During the Winter we promoted three indoor 60m sprint meetings and in May one outdoor sprint meeting. We have booked four indoor sprint meeting dates this winter and hope to hold two outdoor opens at the LMCT in the Summer.

We do a lot of Community work. Rhian Horlock has managed to obtain funding to allow this to happen. We worked with the GLA on a couple of projects to activate local athletes and work with disabled schools athletes. This latter culminated with a Disability Schools Sports Day at McMillan Stadium and our thanks go to Simone Laidlaw for organising that.

We currently have 8 School Satellite Clubs running with England Athletics backing (thank you EA and John Harris). We hope to be working more closely with the Bobby Moore Academy which is next to the track at LMCT.

The Academy has been running on Sunday mornings throughout 2018 set up for children from Years 1 -8. This is already beginning to give us some good young athletes who have started training with the club on Mon/Weds nights (in Tim's Foundation Group).

So it is all going pretty well generally. But there are some big weaknesses still and we need to make some progress in these areas. We need more qualified coaches. Coaching Secretary George Choat is making progress and hopefully more will be qualified going forward. We need more athletes in our weak areas. Coach Steve Peaty has had an excellent year bringing his lateral jumpers through but we still do not have enough throwers, vertical jumpers and home-grown distance runners.

At an admin level we need to increase our level of response to outside requests from parents/athletes. More people are needed to answer e-mails etc. We have been unsuccessful in getting outside people to join our Executive Management Committee so far. We will be looking to improve our kit supply situation.

To conclude I would like to say two extra-special Thanks for the club. Firstly I thank Club Secretary Nina Hepburn, whose effort has been remarkable and without whom the club would really struggle (small presentation to NH).

Finally new Club President Christine Ohuruogu retired in 2018 to pursue a career in the Law. Christine won multiple international championships, most notably the World Championships twice in 2007 and 2013 and the Olympic Games 400m in Beijing in 2008. She is one of Britain's greatest ever athletes and she ran for the Beagles throughout her career which ended with a weekend away at Sheffield.

(Team Manager Tim Mundle who witnessed Christine's first ever and last ever races then gave an appreciation of her career and personal contribution and a presentation was made.)

Tony Shiret

Chair, Newham & Essex Beagles

Athletes Referenced AGM 2018 (If you have been missed off this list of medallists and senior ranking athletes please let us know and we will add you – the list was compiled from Power of 10 and we may have missed a few - not on purpose!)

Mo Farah - British Record Marathon Chicago 2.05.11

Karl Johnson - British Record U18 400H, 3rd European U18 Champs, 1st England Schools

Nathaneel Mitchell-Blake - 1st UK Trials, 2nd European Champs 200m

Asha Philip - 4th Commonwealth Games 100m, 1st Indoor Trials 60m

Finette Agyapong - 1st Indoor Trials 200m, 5th UK Trials 200m

Rabah Yousif - 2nd UK Trials 400m

Lee Merrien - 8th Commonwealth Games Marathon

Katie Head - 1st England U23 Champs HT

Aaron Ashmead-Shoye - 1st England Schools TJ

Damope Akinyemi - 3rd England Schools TJ

Mayowa Osunsami - 3rd England Schools 110H

Sariyah Shoyelu-Armstrong 5th H 100 England Schools

Rankings (in addition to athletes above)

Robbie Grabarz - 1st HJ

Michael Puplampu -3rd TJ

George Armstrong - 4th DT

Greg Beard - 6th SP

Emma Nwofor - 1st Hept/Pent U23, various other

Theo Fadayiro - 9th U20 TJ

William Adeyeye - 3rd U18 110H