

## Chairman's Report May 2021

In my first report as Chairman in 2020 we had entered lock down two months before and most were feeling down and it felt like we had had a rubbish year in fact, we had a brilliantly successful year achieving many trophies and fantastic achievements with the last month fogging out the overall view on the previous year.

As this year's report has come round, we have not been able to run in any mass participation events therefore races, parkruns, summer league, cross country have all passed us by. We are fortunate that in our sport we can still easily train and thanks to the work of many people be able to complete in virtual events and limited club sessions.

Without a doubt there have been lots of people creating chances to train with the club and participate in virtual running events. We all know we improve our fitness when we train as a group and then test that fitness in races. The club when the government's guidelines have allowed plus alignment to advice of UK Athletics, organising these club nights called upon a lot of work. Following the requirements of various changing covid guidelines then producing risk assessments, organising systems to ensure runners are led by the rules and creating a preregistering system has been made possible due to the hard work carried out by a specially formed covid committee. The Committee has been led by Anna Gray utilising the additional skills of Hannah Sampson and Lauren Johnson. Anna has always claimed it has been a team effort and each member of the covid committee has brought their skills from their workplace to make it possible for club members to participate in training sessions

Earlier this year I had the honour of awarding the Chairman's Trophy to the Covid Committee. The brilliant job carrying out the hard effort making it possible for club members to participate in club night activities. Anna Gray, Hannah Sampson and Lauren Johnson, under these difficult times are very worthy to receive this award. Thank you again for your hard work Ladies.

We have been able to participate in many virtual events offered by the club and this has given us all an opportunity to test our level of fitness and how well we can motivate ourselves to complete them without the opportunity of pitting ourselves against other runners in racing conditions. As usual the efforts of many people organising these events have made them possible and I thank all the organisers and helpers for their efforts giving us events to test where we are in our running and giving club members the motivation to participate and compete. I would like to give special thanks to Tom Davies for organising the Virtual Lake Side Handicap an annual event enjoyed by many club members and still successful held virtually. Special thanks also go out to Lisa Chan whose efforts in many virtual events she has organised to keep people running including to massive long relays were you had the opportunity to run 5k and then secondly 21minutes.

It was with sadness that Christine Oldfield passed away in December 2020. She had contributed so much to our club and Nottinghamshire Athletics alongside being one the clubs successful Super Veterans. Along with her Husband John she organised our very popular and successful Club Track Championships. Just before her death Christine took over the administration of club records. She had already altered the format to make the results easier to understand. For the first time in the clubs history set a rule that clarified qualification for the club records and championships making records only count if you are representing Holme Pierrepont Running Club. Her contribution to Athletics and advice to many athletes will be greatly missed.

It is fantastic that despite the restrictions on club training, the total lack of races and not being able to hold the many great social events, that club membership has not dropped. We still have a healthy 360 members. I thank you all for your continued support. Thanks to Steve Eatherington for all his hard work sorting out membership and the high administration require by English Athletics. We have offered members activities as much as the restrictions allow but look forward to becoming a fully

functioning club again offering club competitions such as; The Lake Side Handicap, entering the local races in the Summer League and Cross Country. Hopefully soon we will be enjoying the social scene attending The Annual Dinner and Squares Night etc. Not being able to hold such events has frustrated our social secretaries Emma Cupitt and Ann Gould. Despite not having our Squares Night (Our Annual Christmas Party) Emma and Ann organised a Charity Just Giving fund to raise money for our usual Annual Squares Night Charity. They raised a Fantastic £1716 for the very worthy Charity, 'Bloomin Dementia'. Thank you, Emma and Ann,

This Year sadly we will not be holding our Annual Grand Prix Event. Gary Cragg and his organising committee under current covid conditions very wisely decided to cancel the event. It is sad we have had to cancel this event for a second year but we are not alone and I am sure this popular great event will be back up and running in 2022. The Grand Prix committee have not given up on 2021 and will be organising a 10k race on August 5<sup>th</sup> which I am sure it will be a great success.

Steve Tupholme is now Notts AAA President Elect for 2021. This is a prestigious position which comes with a chain of office, Wow! He is the first person from our club to be awarded this honour. Steve is also Chairman and secretary of the Notts AAA Summer League having to take on both roles due to lack of other people in Nottingham Clubs willing to take a role on to keep this great series of races continuing. Although the League was cancelled last year Steve has worked on several plans to hopefully have some form of the event this year. The event attracts over 50 members of the club to each race and we also do well in the winning of medals. Steve also works tirelessly for the club, organising events, and attending lots of meetings regarding Athletics in the county. Well done to Steve and thanks for all you do for the club

Thanks for committee members who are not standing this year. Aimee Palace will not be re-joining the committee this year as she is about to become a mother (or may already be as the baby is due imminently). Aimee has been a brilliant secretary, she deals with many issues encountered by the club quietly and efficiently. I am always amazed how fast she types into her iPad at committee meeting then produces detailed accurate recorded minutes. I wish Aimee and her Husband all the best with her new family.

Thanks also go out to Tom Davies who I previously mentioned is Club Vice Chairman who also organises a lot of popular club events such as: The Lakeside Handicap and the Dream Mile. Tom has a very demanding job that means he works away from home a lot and his job will now be based in the South of England so will be away from Nottingham most of the time. We will still see him as he is remaining a member of the club.

John Partridge has decided not to stand on the committee again this year, he has a very busy job and has had to miss quite a few committee meetings to sort urgent issues at his school. John has been Publicity Officer for a few years. He has been the person behind the club emails which have been probably the most effective communication for all members in the club. Thank you for your work John.

I thank all the members of committee for all their work and support this year. It is sad to lose members but always good to have new members that bring new ideas and energy to the committee. I hope that many members who feel they can bring to the club and committee some form of skill and or commitment will come forward to stand on the committee or take a role which is not a committee position. To remind you all positions are up for re-election at the AGM if you fancy a go put your name forward.

Chairperson Jogger