

## Chairman's Report- AGM 2022

Covid is still raging but we are almost back to full activity. Steve Perkin's report on athletic performance in 2021 makes excellent reading, highlighting our fantastic performances during this year.

### Financial

Our position is still very healthy despite the loss of income caused by only holding one of our four usual events due to covid-19.

### Subscriptions

We propose to hold these at the present level. They are due by 1<sup>st</sup>. April so would you please ensure you pay the Club Subscription and also any fee due to England Athletics in good time. Our Membership Secretary does an excellent job but she does not need the unnecessary stress of trying to sort out late payers who want to compete in an event but have neglected to pay subs. on time.

### Facilities

We still have to be careful about 'social distancing'. Our seniors were using Chiltern Hills Academy but the building work there is causing huge local parking problems. I have spoken to the Principal and he was quite relieved that we would not be adding to the parking problems by returning there soon. We will review the situation when the building work is finished albeit that will not be much before the end of 2022.

For now we are using the Church Hall at Broadway Baptist Church in Chesham which is a very convenient location. Whilst we have hired the hall, as our numbers are averaging about 50, we actually gather outside to avoid too much close contact. We will remain there until the end of March and then for the summer months use various local parks etc in the Amersham/Chesham/Chalfonts area as well as occasional 'away days'.

We are in discussion about the possibility of investing funds into a local facility which would include the use of a 200 metre running track. We would appreciate help with the legal situation bearing in mind we may be investing funds into land owned by somebody else. If you have legal experience or can help/advise please contact Andy Wiseall our project leader [andy.wiseall@chilternharriers.com](mailto:andy.wiseall@chilternharriers.com) or myself [trevor.davies@chilternharriers.com](mailto:trevor.davies@chilternharriers.com). We will keep members informed of any positive developments.

### Help Needed

I mentioned last year some areas where we would like more help and the situation has not changed.

-Coaching. Thank you to all who came forward and you have helped swell our ranks although as anticipated some have had to retire. This will always be the case as people move away. However we still need more help. If you are interested, please either speak to Nick Hughes our Coaching Secretary or one of our coaches or me. We will gladly pay for your coaching course as soon as you have qualified and are 'coaching' our athletes. In addition you will not have to pay a club subscription even if you are still an active runner. This also applies to any children you have who are also club members.

-Officials. We also need more qualified officials particularly at track meetings for our Young Athletes. Please speak to Fiona Williams if you want information or contact me and I will forward your details.

-Succession Planning. The club functions via a Management Committee and an effective number seems to be about 12 people. Included in this number are a Secretary, Treasurer, Membership

Secretary, Coaching Secretary, a Young Athletes Co-ordinator and of course a Chairman. We have a couple of vacancies on the committee. If you are interested in joining us and would like to see how we operate before committing please contact me and I will arrange for you to attend one of our meetings. We meet six times a year.

-Event Organisation. We normally hold four race events a year. Sadly only our Shardeloes 10K.race has taken place over the last two years. It will need extra effort and resource to restart them but if you would like to be involved we would be delighted to see you. The Junior Triathlon in particular is quite complicated. Each of our events is 'headed' by a Race Director and a small working party and supported by a huge number of volunteers (often up to forty people) acting as marshals etc.

If you are interested in helping the Race Director and/or the working party please let me know. Planning usually starts some six months before the event.

We do have a particular problem with our Herbert's Hole 10K. The route normally runs from Lowndes Park down to Pednor Road. This path is now unsafe and unless repaired will remain so. Here is a challenge. Can we find an alternative route which preferably still starts and finishes in Lowndes Park but must include Herbert's Hole, the name of the race! Any brilliant ideas gratefully received.

## Races

Whilst we have not been able to hold most of our events this has not stopped our competitive athletes from 'raising the bar' even higher. Steve Perkin's report highlights these performances and congratulations to our star performers. Well done to anyone who has achieved a PB in 2021 or just reached a personal goal.

My own highlight has been our results in the Chiltern Cross Country League. When I was competing we were straining to gain promotion from Division 2 which we finally achieved in 1997. It was always a challenge to field a team of 10 senior male athletes. Now we are heading Division 1 and turning out in excess of 100 athletes of all ages for each meeting. Wonderful!

## Track and Field

Our Young Athletes have for many seasons been training and competing in these events and very successfully. Our seniors have tended to prefer endurance events but in the last couple of years have embraced and enjoyed training on a track principally at Merchant Taylors School.

For some time the seniors have tried to produce a team for track competition but have not been very effective. We have the opportunity this year in partnership with Wycombe Phoenix to take part in a joint team in the Southern Athletics League so anyone interested in competing please contact Doug Smith [douglasjsmith1@outlook.com](mailto:douglasjsmith1@outlook.com) about your availability. The league should provide good quality competition for seniors/ under 20's and under 17's and also show a pathway into adult competition for our young athletes.

## Club Standards

As part of our affiliation to England Athletics we have to show that we have the following in place:

A Club Constitution, an Active Management Committee, a Grievance and Disciplinary Policy, General Data Protection Regulations. Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Club Safeguarding Code of Conduct and Health and Safety Standards.

As you would expect we do have all the above in place but continual tweaking and updating is always required.

## AGM

This is to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March. All members including parents are very welcome to attend. There will be drinks provided by the club available to all attendees.

## Social

Despite the restrictions caused by Covid we were able in September to hold a club social event at Amersham and Chiltern Rugby Club. A very enjoyable event took place with food and drink in plentiful supply. The 'bouncy castle' was a highlight for the very young and also some of the nimble seniors.

Spirit of Harriers awards were presented to many members who had made a major contribution during the difficulties caused by the pandemic. A big thank you to our social committee for all their efforts and it was good to see a real mix of ages with Young Athletes and Seniors equally represented.

## Club Heroes

Steve Field. He has already passed the baton of Membership Secretary to Tamsin Finch. He is also relinquishing his role as Vice Chairman and Committee Member after 22 years of enthusiastic support. For several years he had also been Race Director for our Junior Triathlon.

He will continue as a coach and equipment quartermaster as well as organising the seniors Xmas social and our coach trip to the London Marathon. He is still coaching a growing group who meet every Wednesday morning in Lowndes Park, Chesham as part of the 'welcome to running scheme'. The participants are not club members but the initiative has a place in our sport and may provide new members in the future.

I was delighted on behalf of our members to make a presentation to Steve and to thank him and his wife Ann for all their outstanding help over many years.

-Tony Molesworth. Tony is Club Secretary and he is for many the first point of contact at the club. He is likely to receive a huge quantity of official documents and emails some very relevant but some not.

He organises monthly 'Trailblazer' runs which are aimed at endurance athletes wanting to run serious distances off road. He arranges the routes from a multitude of venues and locations but always with the benefit of wonderful views of our Chiltern countryside.

He volunteered to be the Race Director for our Herbert's Hole 10K race 15 years ago and our Pednor 5 event 10 years ago and thinks it is time to hand over the reins. Any takers! Speak to Tony or myself.

-Steve Perkin. Steve has been coaching our Young Athletes for some 15 years and much of the clubs success is down to his skill and dedication.

Recently we have seen athletes returning from university as senior athletes but they still want to be coached by Steve and with the younger athletes. This is a real compliment to his ability and enthusiasm and is also helping to make the transition from young athlete to senior athlete seamless.

## Volunteers

Thank you to all the people who have kept this club thriving during the pandemic. This includes all our coaches, our social media team, parents, our Management Committee and many others and of course the athletes who have shown great team spirit and togetherness during a difficult year.

I hope you achieve all your targets in 2022.

Trevor Davies- Chairman

## **- Chiltern Harriers 2021 - Athlete Performance Report**

Although a strict lockdown was in place in early 2021, restrictions eased through the year and by December Chiltern Harriers were in a good place, after some very good summer track results and autumn cross country performances.

Most events in the early part of the year were cancelled due to covid restrictions but by May training and racing had resumed and the summer track season, although not as complete as a normal year, had a reasonably full programme.

League athletics resumed and the YDL Lower Age Group featured two matches against local opposition, the Upper Age Group three matches and the Southern Athletics League four. Chiltern were second in their LAG division behind Reading but ahead of Bracknell, Wycombe, Bedford and Aylesbury. The South Bucks UAG team were third behind Windsor and Reading but ahead of Oxford and Aylesbury. Next year the South Bucks composite team of Chiltern and Wycombe will add the SAL to the YDL UAG, a good opportunity for senior track athletes to continue league athletics.

The Bucks Track Championships were very different in 2021. The normal two county match in early May at Oxford was not possible, so Bucks did their own thing at Milton Keynes on two dates, late July and mid August. The July meeting saw track medals for Ellie Danner, Mila Luker, Felix Danielli, Kayla Best, John Nickless, Holly Henderson, Isaac Jessop-Tranter, Daniel Munn, Sarah Cross, Lily Holt, William Adey, Max Roughton, Rufaro Chikwanda and Thomas Askey. In the field silverware went to Frankie Baxter, Austin Tinsley, Leila Pollard, William Adey, Sofia Lomas, Lucy Wilkinson, Max Roughton and Johnny Tunstall.

In the August meeting medals came from Louis Peterson, Lily Holt, Alden Collier, Isaac Jessop-Tranter, Charlotte Docwra, Jess Cook, Lesedi Nkoane, Jo Snelling and Rufaro Chkwanda. Medals in the Herts track championships came from Archie Pinder, Euan Pinder, Tom Ford and Emily Ford.

After strong performances in early season, several Chiltern athletes were selected to compete for Buckinghamshire in the English Schools Track and Field Championships. At that meeting in Manchester in July there was a great win for Alden Collier in Junior Boys 1500m, and an excellent bronze for Isaac Jessop-Tranter in Junior Boys 800m. Chisom Nwafor was fourth in Inter Girls Long Jump and Holly Henderson fourth in Inter Girls steeplechase. Other great Chiltern performances came from Archie Pinder (JB 1500m), Euan Pinder (JB 1500m), Maddie Hughes (IG 3000m), and Lily Holt (SG 100m hurdles).

Other top level track success came from Alden Collier (an U15 EA 1500m win), Chisom Nwafor (third in U17 EA Heptathlon), and Oakley Denson (a win in SEAA U17 800m).

Covid restrictions and other factors meant that only the Shardeloes 10k was possible from the Chiltern Harriers hosted events in 2021. Chiltern runners packed well to win both male and female team prizes – the men's team comprising Alex Paul, James Palmer, Tom Dixon and Adam Shute, whilst the women's win came courtesy of Maddie Hughes, Ellie Bates and Sarah Quantrill.

There were some great runs in the autumn relays. At Milton Keynes in September at the MK SOAR Road Relays the U15 boys team of Archie Pinder, Isaac Jessop-Tranter and Alden Collier won the U15 boys race. U13 Boys were 5<sup>th</sup>, U13 Girls 7<sup>th</sup>, U17 Women 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Senior Men 26<sup>th</sup>. At Sutton Park in the National Road Relays the U15 Boys were the best placed team in 10<sup>th</sup>. The Southern Cross Country Relays at Wormwood Scrubs saw another win for the U15 Boys with the B team fifth. The U17 Men were fifth, U17 Women fifth, U20 Women fifth, U20 Men seventh, and the Senior Men had a good run to be eighth. At Mansfield in the National Cross Country Relays, the U15 Boys trio of Archie Pinder, Ethan McCall and Euan Pinder took a remarkable win; our best ever performance at this prestigious event.

By October the normal cross country programme was back and Chiltern had three superb wins in the first three Chiltern League matches to go into match 4 in the lead at this point for the first time. The juniors and senior women continue to score highly but a much-improved Senior Men's team (lying second in their league) has made the overall team very competitive.

At the Southern Inter Counties Championships at Croydon in December twenty-seven Chiltern athletes ran for Bucks or Herts at the high level Southern Inter Counties Championships and there are several medal hopes at the Bucks County Champs on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Perkin

05.02.2022