

VAC AGM 23 SEPTEMBER 2019

VAC TRACK AND FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT

The first item to report is the sad and early death of our track and field secretary, Mike May. He was forced to resign because of ill health in the summer, but until then had worked hard in setting up this year's various track and field championships. We are now looking to fill his post.

Once again VAC members have competed indoors and outdoors in regional, national and international events.

This year's events started with the indoor championships at Lee Valley in February, (held jointly with EVAC). We held our outdoor championships alone, at Kingsmeadow in July. A one club championships means fewer athletes and a harder job to get enough officials. The date was a change from usual as the BMAF championships were on our usual August bank holiday weekend. Despite this the day went well.

Last year some members complained that there were no 5000m races, so we decided to hold a separate evening of 5000m races. This was a great success with 76 runners competing in 4 races. We also held the annual 10,000m championships for walking and running. The 10,000m running races were very popular. The 60 places were filled 7 weeks before the event. In the end we were able to offer 20 reserves a place. We used photo finish for these races to help with providing results.

All of our track and field events have only been able to take place because so many members, qualified and unqualified have undertaken official duties. It has been a continual struggle to find enough officials and it is VAC policy to encourage members to attend relevant courses and we have welcomed help from those members who are gaining the required experience in order to qualify.

VAC members are eligible to enter any masters events, and members from other masters' clubs can enter ours. This is easy through the Open track entry system and has led to increased entries to all masters events.

We sent VAC teams to the interarea matches both indoor and outdoor. The teams were organised by Nick Lauder who generated a good team atmosphere. Nick lauder has now stepped down from his position as team manager.

International masters' events are open to members of all abilities, who usually compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They enjoy hard competition in a variety of places, meeting up with old rivals, and finding new ones. In 2019 we had members competing at the World Indoor Masters' Championships in Torun in March, and the European Masters' Outdoor Championships in Jesolo in Italy in September. Many of our members were medalists at both events. In fact the most successful individual masters athlete in 2019, Clare Elms, is a VAC member.

Results are posted promptly on the VAC and BMAF websites and then later in the VAC newsletter.

As stated above the post of Track and Field secretary is now vacant. The post involves organising VAC championships (indoor and outdoor), plus stand-alone 10,000m and 5,000m championship evenings. It would also include selecting and organising VAC teams for the interarea indoor and outdoor competitions. We realise that this is a huge task, and it would probably be a good idea to have different people for different parts of the role.

Ros Tabor