

VAC Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19 September 2024

Chair/Secretary's Report

2023 - 2024

VAC has continued to improve on the previous year's activities. Membership has increased and our races remain popular. The races are open to all masters athletes and many non VAC members enjoy competing in our friendly high quality events.

There have been some changes in committee membership and roles. We have been lucky to recruit Stuart Matthews who has replaced Peter Kennedy as Membership Secretary, and has also agreed to replace Angela Kikugawa as Newsletter Editor. I must give special thanks to Angela who edited the newsletter for the past 10 years and consistently produced two high quality editions each year. The printed newsletter is now unique among the British Masters associations. It is greatly appreciated by members.

Dennis Williams became President and has attended all VAC championship events to award trophies and medals. Anna Garnier remained on the committee as a member without portfolio.

As usual the committee has met regularly to plan events throughout the year on track and field, road and cross country. The disciplines will be reported on separately.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work. We also have a group of volunteers who help at VAC events throughout the year. We would be unable to deliver these events without such support. We would welcome members to come forward to volunteer for both official committee roles, and to help out at events. We offer to pay fees for training courses for members to become qualified officials.

We have continued our relationship with Ben Noad, the event manager, which means we can offer competitions with a high level of organisation. He has helped with both road and track and field events.

We have delegates to national Masters' bodies, BMAF and EMAA. They have attended both Zoom and face to face meetings and reported back to the committee regularly. For another year, a major issue has been BMAF incorporation which is still ongoing. VAC is going through a similar process which will be discussed later.

The Les Brown Trophy is awarded each year to a member who supports the most VAC events by competing, officiating and/or organising. The 2023 award went to Helen Davies who is the team manager for VAC's women's team in the Surrey Cross Country League and a regular official at VAC's Battersea Park races.

We communicate to our members regularly by email. There is also a continually updated website with information, results and photographs. The photographs are provided by Cliff Hide who attends most events through the year. We have found two members to moderate the VAC Facebook page and keep it topical. This all means that members are kept up to date with current events.

Early in 2024, we were contacted by a masters athlete, Kenneth Mukasa, from Uganda who wanted to gain experience of coaching, officiating and photo finish. He became a First Claim member of VAC. We were able to put him in touch with qualified coaches and officials and he gained useful experience. Kenneth asked members to donate unwanted kit to be used by athletes in his home club in Uganda. Members responded magnificently , giving over 40 kilograms of clothing and shoes, and also paying for the shipping. Kenneth ran in one of the Battersea races and is planning to return to the UK to complete his officials training and maybe race some more. We are looking forward to seeing him again.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this year a success.

Ros Tabor

VAC Chairman and Secretary

15 September 2024