

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO 31ST MARCH 2019

Welcome to my second annual report on club activities.

Membership has steadily improved over the year and we have gone from nearly 90 members up to around 125. This was helped by a very successful Couch to 5k course which resulted in a large percentage of participants going on to join the Club. Attendance on club nights is on the increase and we are improving on the running group organisation front. With the help of Club Coach Fiona Leatham we now offer a much more structured training programme - thank you Fi. As our numbers grow so does our need for people to be trained as Leaders in Running Fitness. Anyone interested in this should contact Fi for further information.

The Alderford Lake Relay was once again a very successful event. In perfect conditions 101 teams took part. This year a new timing system was used and individual runners were not identified, so the fastest Whippets will remain anonymous!. I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who helped make this race the success that it was.

The Don Wilbraham Summer Handicap was run at the same venue and a record number of 42 runners took part in the first race of the series. The series was won by Zara Elson with a tie for second place between Odilia Briceno Plummer and Pam Hamilton. The spirit of the series was summed up in the joyous look on Nikki Shingler's face when crossing the line in first place in race 4! Well done Nikki, Zara, Odilia, Pam and all who took part. Thanks again go to Simon Phillips for doing the handicapping. The Naked Winter Handicap finished off the year with the trophy going to Keith Cotton with Natalie Stevenson in 2nd place and Katie Prince in 3rd. Overall 18 Whippets took part in one or more races Well done Keith and many thanks to James Rainbow for organising.

The Club Championships this year were won by Shaun Burgess and Mimi Owen. In the Men's Championship Simon Phillips finished 2nd and Paul White was 3rd. Mimi retained the Women's trophy with Jo Grandfield runner-up and Leah Leonard 3rd.

On the performance front, Leah Leonard set new Club Records over a Mile and 5k. Age records were set by Mimi Owen over a Mile, 5k/10k and Leah Leonard 10k. No Men's Club Records were broken during the year but Age Records were set by Paul White - Mile/5k and Rob Sharam - Marathon.

The 11th Anniversary Birthday Bash took place at the Rugby Club in November and the highlight of the night was surely Shaun's acceptance speech. Well done Shaun!! This was a great evening and was well attended by members. Thanks to our social sec. Adam Richards for organising. The London Marathon ballot was won by Paul White who for reasons beyond me seemed thrilled at the prospect.

Both our Women's and Men's teams took part in the North Wales Cross Country League. For the third year running the Women's team finished in 7th place and the Men's team finished in 5th place. Thanks to team captains Rachael Foster and Simon Phillips.

I would like to close by thanking all the Committee members for helping me through my second year as Chairman, Neil Spencer for his help on the Relay along with Simon Parsons and finally all the members for making this such a friendly and successful club.

John Dillon  
Chairman  
Whitchurch Whippets