

Stroud & District AC 2020 AGM – Officers’ Reports

Comms and Website Report (Ian Cutler)

Club website is up to date and has a group of club members actively posting and sharing information through to our private Facebook site. With no active races or activities since Mid-March, news for the website has dropped significantly. This has had an expected hit on our website visitors which is down by about 50% since the beginning of the year. If any club member would like to get involved with publishing news and information, please get in touch.

Newsletter – has been moved to being published mid-month which has improved the response levels with nearly 70% of readers opening the newsletter. Again, if any club member would like to learn how to create newsletters or publish information via our website do please get in touch.

Social Club Report (Russell Simpson)

Unfortunately, the COVID crisis has completely curtailed any social activity so far this year and in the light of recent news, this looks unlikely to change for the good until the New Year at the earliest. When things hopefully start to improve and the options for getting together in any kind of social gathering are opened up, the social sub-committee will get together and do our best to get things moving.

As always, feel free to contact myself if you have any ideas for social events you’d like to be involved with and we’ll see what we can do. We’ve gone without being able to get together other than running in small groups for months and months now so when things get back to “normal” I’m sure there’ll be plenty of enthusiasm for that chance to sit down with maybe a drink (or 2!!) and catch up properly with everyone. That day will come!!!

Club Kit Report (Helen Hurn)

Due to an order being received in March 2020 the club kit remains well stocked due to the circumstances over the last few months. The kit has a net value of £2605.50 and the retail price to all members will still hold at £20 per garment until another order is placed. It will then be reviewed.

Now that a few events are going ahead I have resumed supply to any club members that require it. I am contactable via the kit link on the website or a DM from the SADAC Facebook page. Due the club still not being able to meet at Archway we will organize payment and an agreement for a mutual time and place for collection.

I have had a few enquiries about long sleeve tops. This is something that may happen once club resumes and the demand is high enough.

SADAC Tri Team (Mike Stevenson)

The end of 2019 brought a lot of hope and excitement for the 2020 season with a successful junior program being rolled out by Penny and her qualifying as a level 1 coach providing the club with a platform to build and develop its members. In addition, 5 members had qualified for various European and World Championships.

The Government response to Coronavirus of course caused all events and club sponsored activities to be cancelled as of March 2020 but, as our club structure is based on friendship groups could still meet and enjoy our 3 disciplines – cycling on deserted roads, trail running the Cotswold Way and

swimming Lake 86 in Cirencester, where long distance open water swimming became the norm until September.

The 47 members of the team now face reduced pool training opportunities as our previous use of Archway pool is restricted.

The 2021 season is now very full with rescheduled races which should provide a more exciting year and Penny has now secured funding to help to open up the junior section again when facilities allow.

Junior Tri Section (Penny Howard)

Everyone was looking forward to a summer of training with our younger triathletes. A series of sessions were planned from March until the summer to take into account local triathlon events for the juniors; these details were circulated to families. Four coaches were ready to help with training and the first session went very well. Then, unfortunately, lockdown happened, and we haven't been able to resume sessions yet. Hopefully, we will be able to restart next spring.

Welfare Report (Ryan Major)

This year has been a quiet year for the welfare team which is positive for the club. Going forward, we will be completing the England Athletics Framework for Club Welfare. Through this process we will review policies and procedures, check DBS checks are in place and do on. This will provide an action plan for us to work on over the next year.

Mental Health Champion (Lewis Saunders)

The role of the MHC is to support people to access the mental wellbeing benefits of running, remove stigma and get people talking about mental health. At times like these this is more important than ever. I work with the Committee to proactively support the mental wellbeing of Club members, provide crisis contacts and share guidance and information provided by England Athletics. We were planning our first #RunAndTalk event to coincide with World Mental Health Day on 10 October. Sadly, current restrictions mean this has had to be postponed but please look out for news of future events on the website.

Race Committee Report (Chris Bourne)

What a difference 12 months has made. This time last year excitement was building as we neared the 38th running of the Stroud Half Marathon which I will return to shortly.

Whilst preparations had been made for all of the Races in 2020 and entries opened and received we were overtaken by events of the last 7 months which unfortunately led us at quite an early stage to take the difficult decision to cancel all of the Stroud Club Races.

As time elapsed and events unfolded the decisions the Race Committee made were the correct ones in the circumstances.

Whilst it is still at this stage difficult to be confident over how the future will unfold, we are following guidance from our affiliated body UK Athletics and remain hopeful that the series of races will resume in 2021.

Entrants to our 2020 Races were all given the option of either a full refund of their entry fee or to carry forward the entry to 2021. In most cases the latter option was taken.

On the entry front Frampton proved as popular as ever and all places for the 2020 Race were taken up very quickly.

Returning to the 2019 Stroud Half this was the 5th year the Race had been run in partnership with Immortal Sport. Over 2100 runners entered the race which was pleasing. It is great to see so much Club support when it comes to our part in putting the race on and supplying refreshments on the day. Clive's financial report will have shown the importance of the ongoing monies from the half when looking at the Club finances for the year.

Whilst it has been extremely disappointing not to have been able to put any races on in 2020 due to COVID 19 the initiative shown in running virtual events has been great to see and hear about.

I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of the Race Committee during the year. They include Jim, Dermot, Ian Cutler, Phil Manning, Norman Long, Geoff Trueman, Clive Rogers and Terry Hefferman.

As I mentioned last year the Race Committee makes a positive contribution to the Club and new blood is essential for its continuity and always welcome. If you are interested in making a positive contribution to the Race Committee or just want to make some suggestions, please do let us know and come and get involved hopefully in 2021!