

Charnwood AC – Annual General Meeting 2018 – Chairperson’s report

This is my final report as Charnwood AC Chairperson. I am sad that due to changes in my work commitments I am unable to continue as Chair for another year, and it has been a privilege to serve as your Chairperson for the last two years.

The last year has seen club success in very many areas. Our athletes, coaches, team managers and volunteers have delivered time and again. They have achieved everything from World Records; World, Commonwealth, European, National, County Titles and many Personal Bests. We celebrate all their achievements.

We also have a good membership, fantastic facilities, positive bank balance, amazing open meetings and in many ways the club is in rude health. We are a very successful club, but I have found myself worrying about our future more than I should have been.

A modern watchword for any organisation is sustainability. On the face of it we are in a great place – members, money, facilities etc – but one crucial part has always been a struggle and is the biggest of my worries. Everything that happens at Charnwood AC is made possible by volunteers – the tea bar, officials, coaches, team managers and more are achieved by people giving their most precious gift – TIME! As I step down it’s not clear how many committee roles will be filled at our AGM. These are not the most exciting aspects of any athletics club – the committee rarely gets medals at the finishing line but without their work neither would ANY of our athletes. They wouldn’t be registered to compete, there wouldn’t be open events without officials, teams and leagues without managers and in general the success of the athlete is heavily supported by the commitment of the coaches.

Charnwood AC relies on a very small number of people doing an awful lot. They have been doing it for a long time and due to their own personal circumstances, this can’t go on forever.

My report this year has one simple message – it’s a call to action for every single member of the club, their parents and families – please ask yourselves how can you contribute to the future of the club?

In support of this, the committee is bringing forward a proposal to adjust the constitution and define a new membership category. The Contributing Member category will be available for people that get involved in the club. It will see a discounted membership fee, open entries and free hot drinks in our clubhouse. We want to recognise the value of volunteering by giving back. We know it’s not just the athlete that can volunteer so we have also proposed that Contributing Members can nominate a beneficiary athlete to receive the discounted membership and entry fees.

The rewards, success and satisfaction of Charnwood AC are open to all and if you are accepting all these benefits and not currently contributing, please think carefully about what would happen in the future if everyone received but didn’t give.

Thank you for all the support I have had as club Chairperson. Charnwood AC is a wonderful club and I’m honoured to have contributed.

Andrew Gostelow, September 2018