

Results of "Committee Structure" Questionnaire

10th June 2014

The committee would like to thank everyone who completed and returned the questionnaire about the structure of the committee.

A total of 71 completed questionnaires were returned, 30 by female members and 41 by male.

There were 24 replies from young athletes (U17 and below), 19 from U20s & Seniors and 29 from Vets. All event groups were represented with 43 "endurance" athletes (road and cross-country), 43 track runners (sprint and middle distance), 20 field athletes (jumps and throws), 13 multi-eventers, 4 sports-hallers and one race walker. From this it can be seen that many respondents participate in more than one discipline.

Nine respondents had been members for less than a year, 29 for 1-5 years, 7 for 6-10, 9 for 11-20 and 17 for more than 20 years.

Of the 57 replies that included the way they had heard about the club, it is not surprising that the majority (47) had discovered us by word of mouth from family, friends, school, work etc. Nine had found out through media (leaflets, newspapers and the internet).

The main purpose of the questionnaire was to find out what members knew and felt about the make-up of the committee through the responses to five questions. The responses to each of them were as follows...

56 respondents knew some or all of the roles of the various committee members, 61 knew some or all of the people on the committee, 49 felt that their events were represented on the committee and 53 felt that their issues were understood by the committee.

To the final question, whether they were happy with the current structure of the committee, 39 said YES, 20 had no opinion and only 9 said NO.

However the bare numbers don't tell the whole story. The last three questions invited comments and analysis of these comments raised some valid points.

Of the 16 comments made against the question regarding representation on the committee, 3 felt that Vets weren't represented, 3 felt the same about multi-events and one about jumping. The committee felt that the first of these was not really valid as The Young Athletes Co-ordinator, the Ladies Road and Cross Country Team Manager and the Men's team managers for Track & Field and Road & Cross Country were all active Vet competitors and if vet members had an issue that needed committee action they could raise it through one of these members. There were 2 comments about the lack of younger members on the committee, which were probably made without knowing that the Ladies' Team Manager, the Ladies' and the Men's captains are all in their twenties.

There are almost as many comments as respondents on the other two questions. These included a number saying that the Vets weren't represented and that there needs to be younger members on the committee.

After considering all the answers and comments it was felt that there wasn't a need to change the committee but that there were a number of things that could be done to improve communication between members and the committee. One suggestion that was thought to be useful was to have a list of committee members and their role along with their photograph displayed on the noticeboard. This would be implemented in the next few weeks.

Derek Cowdrey
Chairman.