

# WORCESTER ATHLETIC CLUB

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013

This year we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Beacon Race with a dinner at the County Cricket Club to which a number of past winners were invited as guests.

In the main this has been a successful year for Worcester AC, the only disappointment was the relegation of the men's team from the first division of the Birmingham Cross Country League, but I know that the team members all enjoyed the experience of competing in the top division.

For the second year we won all four under-11 and under-13 team sections in the Hereford & Worcester Sportshall League and contributed several of the members of the County team in the regional competitions.

We hosted the County Cross Country Championships at Malvern where we won the under-13 and under-17 male individual trophies and the under-15 Girls and Boys team titles. There were also two silver and four bronze individual medals and two silver and one bronze team medals.

The Gloucester League produced two individual winners, two seconds and four thirds.

Declan McManus produced four notable cross country performances by finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the U17 Men's Midland Championship, 12<sup>th</sup> in the National Championships, 6<sup>th</sup> in the McCain Cross Challenge and 6<sup>th</sup> in the English Schools National Championships, the latter performance earning him selection for the England team in the Schools Home international competition.

Indoors we have three silver and three bronze Midland champions, one National multi-event silver medal, and seven Welsh Masters Champions. Nine members competed in the National championships.

During the outdoor track & field season we hosted the County Championships at Nunnery Wood and came out of them with 32 County Champions, including all the high jump champions, a tribute to the great work Deirdre Elmhirst is doing. We also hosted matches in the Midland, Heart of England, UKYDL(LAG) and Vets Leagues and put on three Open Meetings.

The Men's and Women's Vets Teams went one better than last year by each winning the Midland Vet's League South Division and then both finishing second in the Vet's 'A' Cup Final.

The Senior athletes had another fine season in the Midland T&F League to emulate last season by finishing second in division 4 and gaining promotion for the third consecutive year.

In the inaugural season of the UK Youth Development League we provided a number of athletes for a combined team with Cannock & Stafford team in the Upper Age group and in the lower age group the U13 and U15 members did very well to finish second.

Finally we finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall position in the Heart of England League.

The best performance of the season must be Ella Gibbons' win in the Senior Girls High Jump at the English Schools Championships, a performance which earned her an invite to the GB trials, where she finished 4<sup>th</sup>, along with the County Founder's Award for the best performance of the season and the Senior Sportswomen of the Year in the Worcester City Sports Awards.

Away from the track we promoted our usual road races - the Acorns Triple run, the Pitchcroft 10K and Fun Run and the Beacon Race and we need to thank Chris Crosswell, Mark Hill and Gary Bailey for the work they put into organising these races, which between them provide a large proportion of the club's income. As I told you last year this was the last time for Mark and Gary in their respective roles as race directors for the Pitchcroft and Beacon respectively and their places will be taken by Geoff Aston and Dave Waldron.

During the year we increased our squad of officials with Tristram Elmhirst (timekeeper), Andy Turner and Claire White (Field) qualifying in time for the summer season and Bob Osborne (field) who qualified in September. We also gained Iris Holder (field) following her move from the south of England to Worcester.

Having appealed for people to become officials for the past three or four years I am going to change my tune this year as we desperately need help with coaching the young athletes. Initially we just need bodies to help but we would also be happy to fund anyone who would be willing to attend the Coaching Assistant course so that they could become more than just a "babysitter".

This has been a very busy and mainly successful year for the club, and as I do every year, I would like to thank all those who contributed - the athletes, the coaches and helpers, the event organisers, the officials and all those other members who helped out by marshalling and "skivvying" (e.g. raking and retrieving).

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee for their time and effort over the past year.

Finally I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a great 2014.