Chairs Report AGM 2024

As I review 2023, I felt it really continued with the momentum we gained in the previous year

If I look at the club across the board it feels pretty balanced. Now I don’t see everything, but what is apparent is that there are lots of different groups doing different runs on different days at different levels. And if you’d have asked me when I took on the role of Chair 4 years ago, how would I like to see the Malvern Joggers continuing from its great past, I think this would pretty much be it

Through all of the groups I see a lot of enjoyment you clearly get from running, which is both healthy and also keeps the club growing and moving forward. I believe the committee’s role is to manage the club and to provide an environment for members to get the most enjoyment from their running whatever stage or level they are at. We can of course always do more and the committee and I often discuss this, but in reality there’s rarely enough days in the week.

We currently have over 200 members including a number of new people which is always great to see; welcome newbies. Wednesday Club nights are regularly well attended with runs on both roads & trails in the summer, & back to the Rugby Club or pub for a social and the obligitary chips (arguably better for you than cake?); but this social aspect continues to be just as important as the running for many of us

We’ve had parkruns all over the place, loads of 10K races, Half Marathons, Marathons & Ultra Marathons. We saw Manchester, Seville, Edinburgh, Berlin, Lakeland, Chester, Worcester, Malaga to name a few and loads of 1st’s and PB’s

The Champions League races really gained momentum this year with many favourites like Crowle, Croome and Worcester, with quite a healthy level of competition for the winning places towards the end from both male & female. The introduction of the handicap system was a great addition, adding another level of fun to the league. We’ve had Couch to 5K, Sunday long runs, Monday madness, Mon/Tues night efforts, Friday night wind down runs, Cart Shed Canter, Peachley Fun Run (Club Day) and Cross Country and I’d like to thank all of you who step up and take the time to make these runs happen

Of our members, we’ve also had some engagements, marriages, pregnancies & births, which are all great life moments that all add richness to the club environment

We had fantastic involvement with our charity The Cart Shed this year, a very special place, and through our various events, we have raised £2,000 plus £1,400 from the quiz night earlier in the year

Again this year, I have to give a big thanks to the Rugby Club; especially Sam and Lucy – always helpful, smiling faces as you enter the club who look after us every Wednesday night and at other events. And we still haven’t got them running - C25K starting in February?

Of course, non of this would happen without your committee. As always, an incredible amount of communication and activity goes on behind the scenes, and with a mix of different skills sets, experience and approaches, but always with the clubs best interests, we seem to agree on things quickly, and what is most important to me is that we take action

Thanks then to Jamie, my vice chair, unfaltering & always there for me, and a big year for him coming up. Tim, Race Caption who is constantly coming up with ideas for Champions League and runs, and well, now he’s found AI – who knows what’s next! Robert, our Treasurer, always the voice of reason and keeps us financially healthy. Jane, a real unsung hero for sorting all of your memberships with England Athletics – no mean feat in itself. Charlotte, who despite having baby George, and another baby imminently, continues to be enthusiastic, positive and so supportive to us all. Sam, well Sam just makes stuff happen in the background - sorting the web, bookings, tickets, the calendar – it just appears; and David, now helping us to be more professional on our communications and PR. We now also have Marie McNally and Jane Palfreman as our Welfare Officers, in addition to Tim, with Marie being on the committee

Part of this crazy running journey that we are all on is that we also have to deal with things like injury, health, life and work challenges getting in the way, and of course at times, these seem to be a constant, But they are all part of it. I often I speak to people who have maybe “lost their mojo”, and this maybe for a number of reasons as mentioned. But we can always come back to running at any point and you know that the club will always be here for when you need it. It is rewarding that we have so many different groups that provide something for everyone. This year we saw (although not official MJ because of EA) – a Canicross group which has provided much pleasure for people who want to run with their dogs

So, in summary, we’ve run, we’ve laughed, we’ve grimaced; we’ve had the odd fall

But always having the best fun, staying positive, supporting each other and celebrating success together

So, keep enjoying your running, let’s continue the momentum & thank you for a great 2023 Joggers, and here’s to an equally, if not better 2024

Warwick Taylor, Chair