

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2010

It's with much pleasure that I write this year's report. A report that sees the club still growing and expanding its activities. On the road our members ventured far and wide to race over just about every distance imaginable. None more so than Kate Waterhouse who still seems to find somewhere new to race every week! A small club group even went to Prague to race over 10k.

It is always a pleasure to record club records and age bests. The highlight was probably John Dillon's 10k record of 36:36 set at the Muller 10k - also the club's best represented race with 34 members taking part.

For the first time the club was able to take advantage of the two places awarded for the London Marathon. In all, 4 members ran London. First home was Jon Morgan, he was backed up by Mark Gregory, Keith Cotton and Dean Richards. Sadly, Adele was injured in the run up – a fate that has befallen her again this year.

The summer 3 mile Handicap series was also very well supported, with 36 members running at least 1 race. The winner was Sara Rogers who narrowly beat off challenges from Christine Henderson and Rob Lewis. Our thanks go to Simon Phillips for taking on the organisation and doing such a good job. Congratulations are also due to Jon Morgan for winning his age group in the Sexarathon after a hard fought series.

On a less competitive front we ventured over to the Bickerton Hills for a couple of sessions in the Bickerton Poacher, sorry – I meant over the hills!. Also new were the Chip Butty sessions with the South Cheshire Harriers. In July we went over to Nantwich to run on their ground. In early September they came over to us .

Social runs were again popular – especially when combined with meals at the Horse and Jockey at Grindley Brook. Another new venture has been the Breakfast runs from the Raven Cafe. A run round Brown Moss and Ash followed by as much as you can eat. Very popular with some of us!

After last year's horror stories I was surprised to learn that the ladies were keen to enter a team in the Cross Country League. The girls acquitted themselves brilliantly with Helen Robbins claiming victory in her age group despite Sara's navigational skills! The season was cut short due to bad weather but ended with both teams in 9th place in their Divisions. For the men this was a 2 place improvement on the previous year.

Not everything has gone as intended. The beginners course failed to meet up to the success of the previous year. In 2008 around twenty people took part. This year saw a very disappointing 8 start, and very few complete the course. This year's course will be organised by Adele Minshall and Simon Phillips. Adele and Simon both attended a coaching course in the Autumn and are now qualified to lead groups.

This year we also ventured over to Wrexham for some track work, which I think came as a bit of a shock to some members! It's just a pity that it always seemed to rain whenever we went.

But it hasn't all been about running. We have also held several social events. This year our summer social was held at the Horse and Jockey whilst our second birthday party was again held at the 'Doddy'. A curry or two rounded out the social calendar.

Our membership has continued to grow well, and as we speak it stands at 74 – give or take a few. At this point last year it was around the 55 mark. I look forward to us pushing towards the 100 mark. We will again work hard at recruitment over the spring and summer. Sadly, we lost Carrie Bradbury-Jones and Jo Meadowcroft who moved away from the area. Both are missed, but I hear that Jo may return to the UK.

Last year also saw the introduction of club "hoodies"- a not to be missed item of clothing! My thanks go to Sara Rogers for all her work on the kit and clothing front.

I would like to end this report by thanking all committee members for their hard work and support. Our club wouldn't be in the healthy state it is now, without them – and of course you!

Simon Parsons
Hon Chairman