

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2011

It gives me great pleasure to write this year's report. A year that seen the club continuing to grow. 2010 saw the club break the 100 member barrier, an important milestone that gains us an extra automatic place in the London Marathon!

There was a smattering of club records – with a notable double by Charlotte Giddings over the Half Marathon and Marathon distances. The Wilson boys have also been very prominent this year with Bob just stealing Dave's thunder. On an age graded basis the best runs this year were by Kevin Smith (10k in 36:58) and Jean Bancroft (10k in 56:43). It just goes to show that there are rewards for continuing to run!

Last year's London Marathon saw Andrew Corbett, Dean Richards, Daren Peacock, Keith Cotton and Adele Minshall run. Luckily for them the previous hot weather moderated to provide excellent running conditions. Andrew was our first member home. Poor Adele did very well to complete the distance with a fractured wrist. For many weeks it was touch and go as to whether she'd even be able to run.

The Summer handicap series was as popular as ever with 50 members running at least one race. The series was won by Graham Jones from Brian Hickson with a very surprised Maureen White in 3rd place.

We continued our practice of the occasional run out over at Bickerton in the Summer and we also had a social run from the Horse and Jockey at Grindley Brook. The run was followed by a fine meal in the pub.

We were unable to link up with South Cheshire Harriers again, but made new friends when members of the Wrekin Road Runners joined us for a Breakfast run from the Raven in early September.

A club first came with participation in the 24 hour Thunder Run. It has obviously inspired those who took part and other members as this year, 2011, two teams have been entered.

May and June also saw another very successful Beginner's course. Over 30 took part with 15 attendees going on to join the club. Because of the club's growth we have sought to increase the number of coaches. As a result, Laura Fisher, Sarah Wilson and Fiona Challinor attended the UKA Leadership in Running Fitness courses to join myself, Adele Minshall and Simon Phillips as members of the club's coaching team.

The winter months saw us again field Men's and Women's teams in the North Wales Cross Country League. Fortunately no races were cancelled this year, although Lilleshall was bitterly cold with ice dropping from the trees! The men had an excellent season improving from 9th to 5th in the league whilst the women held steady in 9th place. If just a few more members took part both teams could improve further.

This year's Birthday bash, our 3rd, was held at Hannah's in Green End. I don't remember a lot of the evening but I do remember eating a whole tin of chocolates over the next few days.

But it hasn't all been about running. We have also held several social events. As well as the Social Runs - Jon Morgan and Rob Sharam both hosted very enjoyable Social events at their homes.

The previous year saw the introduction of club "hoodies" - a not to be missed item of clothing, this year club clothing was boosted by new performance T-shirts in Red. Thanks go to Sara Rogers for her work on the kit front with the support of R&R Roofing.

This report would not be complete without noting the sad and untimely death of Don Wilbraham after a long illness. A keen member of the club and athlete in his youth. We will be naming this year's Summer Handicap in his honour.

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