

Proposal for discussion by Katie Gumbrell, Coaching Co-ordinator

Introduction

The Reading Roadrunners' Constitution includes the rule:

4.1 Membership

- a. The Club shall be democratic and impartial, affording equal rights and opportunities to all members, regardless of sporting ability.

Our club is excellent at welcoming and supporting everyone to become the best runner they can be and has a fantastic track-record of encouraging men and women to perform, become coaches and volunteer for our club.

Despite all the things society does to discourage women and girls from competition and physical activity, 45% of applicants to the London marathon are women, and around 45% of parkrunners are women.

Nonetheless, there are still a small number of events that do not invite women and men to participate equally. As Reading Roadrunners, in 2018/19, this included the age categories for our Club Championships, our participation in the Hampshire Cross Country League and the prizes awarded at our Bramley 20/10 event. These are historical anomalies which do our sport no favours and are in Reading Roadrunners' interest to change.

It is also worth saying that this change is already happening. Scotland have equalised their national XC champs to 10k (with record participants for the first equal event in 2018), the IAAF have equalised international XC to 10k and a number of other local leagues have also recently equalised their distances.

We anticipate votes on the remaining events will happen in the near future, the purpose of this motion is to establish a clear club position for our representatives at these.

Motion

Reading Roadrunners believes that women and men should have equality of competition opportunities and experiences.

With this principle in mind this club shall:

- 1) Equalise the age categories for our Club Championship events as soon as possible (the 2019/20 cross-country season and the 2020 Road/Multi-terrain season).
- 2) Ensure our own events offer equal race distances, age categories, prizes and status for women and men.
- 3) In the leagues and events we compete where competitions are not equal, the club will proactively advocate and vote for equal race distances, age categories, prizes and status for women and men.

When this means event distances will change, it is for the event organiser to decide what that distance should be based on their knowledge of their event and logistics. We will support their decision as long as the main principle of equality is upheld.