



Reading Roadrunners

Reports presented to the Annual General Meeting 2018/19

1. Chairman's report

Presented by Carl Woffington

The 2017 Reading Half Marathon took place just before the 2017 AGM and was included in my report last year. The 2018 Reading HM will take place after the 2018 AGM. We will again be supplying a marshal team for the start thanks to Richard Hammerson and have our RR kit tent thanks to Kerri French.

RR took over the Woodley park run on 1st April. Thanks to Sam for organising this.

We sent over 60 members to Marshal the London Marathon on 23rd April. There were two teams operating with team leaders Carl Woffington and Peter Green. Carl Woffington was again a Sector Manager for a length of the course.

We had the 2017 Spring Do and the RR Cross Country Championship presentation evening on 29th April. This was organised by Hannah at Reading Cricket and Hockey Club, Sonning. It was very successful and enjoyable. Carl Woffington organised the XC Championship.

Early May Bank Holiday Monday is our Shinfield 10k date. Colin Cottell and his team putting on another very successful event.

We had a quiz night on 5th May and Footgolf on 12th May.

Also in May, was the Royal Berks 10k where RR supplied a marshal team.

Late May Bank Holiday Monday was the London 10k and we again supplied a marshal team for the race. We also entered a men's and women's team in the UK 10k Road Champs which is incorporated in this race.

In the summer relays we had teams out in the Ridgeway Relay and Runnymede Relay. RR participation in these is good with excellent team spirit. The Bounders Relay was again cancelled.

We had a real ale treasure hunt on 8th July.

In July Sandy Sheppard organised our own Dinton Relays. A very wet evening but it didn't stop us holding the BBQ afterwards.

Belinda and Graham Tull organised some runs from South Stoke followed by a social gathering.

On 24th July we sent a marshal team to London for the Great City Race.

We had a social trip to see Olly Murs at Newbury Races on 19th August. This was followed the next day by Dragon Boat racing, where we had two boats out.

The last Sunday in September saw the traditional Mortimer 10k. Another successful race from Bob Thomas and his team.

Also in September was our Hog Roast at the Queens Oak, Finchampstead. This was part of our 30 year celebrations and incorporated the launch of our RR celebration book. The book is an excellent publication involving much hard work from a dedicated team.

The London Marathon Marshals and Club Draws took place in the bar.

We had some sad news in November. Nick Lisle passed away after a long battle with cancer.

The RR Christmas party was held at Sutton Bowls Club on 2nd December. There was an optional fancy dress based on the 80's.

There were a few festive events. Fiona organised mince pies and mulled wine at track. Kathy put on her Boxing Day run from Goring. Katie and Simon ran sessions from Palmer Park on the 27th.

The first EA Club Run session took place on 3rd January and Pete Darnell sadly collapsed and passed away during this track session. The second EA Club Run session took place on 5th Feb. This was an excellent presentation held at Berkshire Sports Club.

Our home TVXC race took place on 14th January. It was a new venue at Ashenbury Park, Woodley. Thanks to Bill and Sam for early work on the course and Race Director Sev. It all went very well.

The weather was once again kind on 11th February for the Bramley 20/10. Another successful race from Adele Graham and her team.

We had a charity quiz night on 16th February.

We supplied marshal teams to the Wokingham ½ on 18th February. Thanks to Roger Pritchard.

The RR Dinner Dance was held on 3rd March. Excellent organisation from Hannah and Anne Goodall. It included the Charity Presentation, the culmination of all the hard work during the year from our Charity Team and co-ordinator Ellen Togher. Also the Club Championship award presentation, the culmination of all the hard work during the year from Bob Thomas. Presentations were made by our guest of honour, Chris Sumner.

That just about completes the chronological events run down of the year.

However, in addition we had a successful series of our traditional Pub Runs throughout the summer – co-ordinated by Tina Wilson.

Tony Canning organised a series of timed track 1 mile and 5000m runs throughout the year. They are getting more popular.

Fiona Ross and John Bowley organised several curryoke evenings.

RR had a very good cross country season this winter. We competed in both the TVXC League and in the Hampshire League. We also sent teams to various Championship races, more from our team captains later. Katie Gumbrell coordinated Team Manager volunteers for TVXC races.

The club spirit is also helped by small groups travelling to races – both home and abroad. The attendance at parkruns over the last couple of years has also built friendship groups and brought us some new members.

In the above report I've mentioned some race directors. Obviously they rely on the teams working with them. In turn, those teams put things in place for the races to happen. It's the volunteers that turn out on the day that actually make it happen. It's a big team effort. So thank you to all race volunteers.

There are also some "unsung heroes". People who do jobs that we may take for granted but keep the club running from day to day. The rota team that operate Wednesday track desk, the man that meets and greets first timers at track, car booters, bucketeers, charity stall caterers, the people that stock the bar and run it, the kit man & woman, the newsletter editor, the man that collates race results, June who does the sports massage. I'm sure to have missed some, apologies. Also, our Charity Team that does such amazing work.

A special mention here for our two team captains. It's a huge job and they have done really well over the last year.

I would like to single out one group for a special mention, the coaches. They turn out in all weathers throughout the year. A huge input into the club.

Lastly, I would thank the Committee that supported me through the year. It would be impossible for RR to function as a club without the Committee serving the members.

2. General Secretary's report

Presented by Bob Thomas

Carl gets to talk about sport in his bit; I get the really interesting admin to wow you with.

There's been a quite diverse bunch of activities taking place during the year, some of which, such as the new Point-of-Sale facility that Chris uses to let you buy club kit and the online membership service will be apparent to you, while others go on behind the scenes.

We've been tidying up some processes to make it easier to understand how we operate, e.g. around the charity and sponsored entries to certain races, which should reduce, if not eliminate, the need for ad hoc decision making on a case-by-case basis.

Recently, following Peter's tragic death at the track, Carl has been leading an initiative to interview members and stadium staff who became involved to ascertain if we could have responded better as the incident unfolded. The outcome of this review will be an assessment of whether we need to amend or develop procedures and some actions placed to correct any identified deficiencies.

I've picked a few things to pull out that may be of interest.

Early on, largely promoted by Simon Davis, we introduced a card payment facility for club kit. It was immediately a hit with members, but a nightmare for the Treasurer to administer. With a bit of work and a lot of TLC from Chris, it's now a part of the club's operation and we'd probably be lynched if we suggested taking it away.

At last year's AGM, you may recall Ted Wingrove giving an impassioned talk on traffic management and urging the club to take it seriously. Essentially, what Ted was saying is that there's a clear line between race marshals being empowered to instruct runners and being empowered to interrupt the flow of traffic. We did take it seriously, and Catherine has spent a considerable amount of effort trying to track down suitable courses. Whilst you may think that these will be available aplenty, Catherine has been unable to find anything that we think would be appropriate. We may try again in the coming year but, for now, sadly, we haven't been able to pursue this initiative.

Another issue that likely won't be apparent to you unless you have a specific interest is that on 28May18, courtesy of the EU, the DPA becomes history and we all become subject to the GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations. We're impacted because we record members' personal details, for obvious reasons. You may have noticed websites that you've used for years asking you to confirm that they can still send stuff to you – that's all GDPR.

In the autumn, EA sent club secretaries a document they'd prepared on the implications for clubs, with some recommended wording for membership application forms, which was all about EA and little if anything about the club. I've amended our membership application form to lay out the data protection implications of being a member of the club.

There's an obscure aspect to the new regulations loosely termed the "Right to be Forgotten", which is probably the trickiest part of the legislation. Basically, when someone severs ties with an organisation, they have the right to demand that their personal information is expunged from the organisation without really defining what this means. I challenged EA over why their advisory document ducked this issue completely, and what I got back was essentially "manjana". I asked our

new membership service, WebCollect, what they were doing about it, to which the response was basically “manjana”.

Other obligations under this legislation include detailing the information held on record pertaining to an individual upon their request; ensuring that any personal data is held securely, which almost certainly means encrypting it on disk, which we don't do; and ensuring that we don't use personal data other than for the purposes for which it was gathered, which we don't, anyway.

We should probably appoint a Data Protection Officer, who isn't involved in the operation of the club, to audit our processes and practices and insist that the Committee corrects identified non-compliances, essentially a safety officer for data.

Moving on to the big event of my year: I've spent the best part of 6 months planning, building and testing the new online membership service and eventually transitioning all our live membership data onto the new platform.

For the last couple of years, we've used an EA facility to run the renewal process. This provided an excellent UX, through a third-party service, PayZip, but was a nightmare to administer and was only accessible to members who had affiliated with EA.

This year, most of you will have used WebCollect to renew your membership subscriptions, which was a breeze to administer but gave a less intuitive UX that leaves more room for user errors, of which there were quite a few. Where PayZip provided a single-phase transaction in which you were only allowed to pay what it thought you owed, and you paid right then using a card, BACS payment is a two-phase transaction, and the problems all occur in the gap between the phases. Those of you who paid by Direct Debit did it in one phase and have been error-free.

I would have liked to activate card payment but was advised that an organisation needs a turnover in excess of £100K to be cost effective, and that we should expect some difficulty in obtaining a merchant account to enable card payments. If you're wondering how Chris manages to take card payments, he does so through a third party, iZettle. Unfortunately, WebCollect doesn't have an interface with iZettle or PayZip.

It does, however, have an interface with PayPal, which is the next development I would like to pursue. Whether we can use the PayPal card payment facility will depend on cost, remembering that it's now illegal to pass on credit card transaction fees to consumers, but we should be able to establish the regular PayPal payment facility.

Another development I'm keen to pursue is to get event booking and payment onto the service. I built and trialled a mock-up of a booking facility for the London Marathon coaches in a few hours, which worked perfectly. Opening up event booking will take some negotiation with the Social Secretary as it obviously involves more administration than having a single method of booking and payment, but it would be beneficial to members who don't regularly visit the stadium.

Finally, I pulled a few stats off the database that may be of interest:

As of Monday, we had 586 registered members, though nearly 140 were still to renew.

The male/female split is 57% : 43%

16 members manage to get through 21st century life without an email address.

168 members haven't provided an emergency contact number.

For men, the average age is 47 and for women, 44.

Taking everyone into account, the average age is 45.

I sincerely hope that your first brush with the new WebCollect facility hasn't been as engaging as mine.

3. Membership Secretary's report

Presented by Anne Goodall

I am pleased to say that we had a very good year membership-wise, finishing with 561 members. I would like to thank Bob for all the help he has given me with the online renewals which, I think I can say, has gone quite well.

4. Social Secretary's report

Presented by Hannah McPhee

As we are all aware, 2017 was a special year for Reading Roadrunners and it was a year for celebrations with it being the 30 Year Anniversary of the Running Club. My aim was to plan a range of different social events to suit all, including families and to bring more people together by doing this.

It was agreed that there would be at least one event each month, sometimes there was more and sometimes less than one event a month but it all worked out. I decided that the best way of planning the events was to put together a 2017 year planner which I was then able to advertise in the newsletter, at track and online. This was to show the range of events on offer so people were aware of what I had planned for the year ahead.

If any of you work in events, then you will understand how time consuming and sometimes stressful they can be to arrange, especially if things do not go to plan. This is when I was thankful for the help of people like Fiona Ross who helped to organise the events and helped sell tickets when needed and for this, I am truly grateful.

The socials always involve a lot more than people see when they attend them. They don't see you visiting different venues and having meetings with different people and the endless emails and phone calls that are sent to make sure it is a great success. For example, last year I visited 'Salters Steamers' Boat Company in Oxford to discuss the planned Boat Social to make sure I was happy with the size of the boat and discussed what we had planned. As you can see I do put a lot of effort into it all but I am happy to do this for the socials to run smoothly.

The socials also involve selling tickets, advertising using social media as well and displaying posters, purchasing the relevant items and having links with different venues and DJs. But I clearly enjoy it to want to continue doing it.

Due to how many socials there were last year, I won't go through every single event that was put on last year, but here are a few:

I started the year off in Jan 2017 with The comedy club which was an enjoyable night had by all. We also had a 30th celebration night at the track in Jan with a cake to start off the celebrations. This was followed in Feb by the Dinner Dance. We then had a Sport in Mind Table Tennis Celebration put on by the charity as a Thank you to everyone at the running club. The spring do was next followed by Futgolf which proved very popular and an event where people could bring children if they wanted.

In June we had an organised boat trip with a BBQ along the River Thames

Catherine Leather put on a Quiz and Katie Gumbrell put on a Real Ale Treasure Hunt Ultra 10K which was lots of fun.

In August we enjoyed dancing away to Olly Murs at Newbury Races.

One social that I personally really enjoyed was the Dragon Boat Racing event in August, where many people came together to race each other to see who would be crowned Reading Dragon Boat Winners 2017. The RRR put a team together and this is where I saw the competitive side of many shining

through. Pete Morris did his usual and decided to film us all when he was supposed to help row and as always, the phone took priority!!! I am sure you won't be surprised for me to tell you all that we did not even make it through to the finals to be crowned Reading Dragon Boat winners of 2017!!!

But all is not lost, If you feel you might like to give this a go then we have another boat booked to try and be champions on Sunday 19th August 2018. I know I will be there again having an enjoyable day out.

We also had the big 30th celebration party with a hog roast and many came to celebrate the incredible 30 years that the club has had.

We ended 2017 with a 80s themed fancy dress Christmas party at Suttons Bowls Club. This included a photo booth which went down very well. it was great to see the many different 80s outfits and there was a dance off at the end to decide on the winner and Liz Atkinson enjoyed this dance off dressed as Madonna and Melvin Silvey as Twister.

It has already been a busy 2018 on the social side. We started off the year in January with Fiona Ross and John Bowley organising a sell-out Curryoake. It is clear to see we have some talented singers in the club and I never say no to having a little sing song.

The Cycle Smart charity made a whopping £24,656.67. In Feb, Cycle Smart organised a Quiz, organised by Ellen Togher and her charity team.

On Saturday 3rd March we hosted a very successful DD organised by Anne Goodall and myself which 106 people attended and danced the night away. After the DD all that seemed to be on my FB newsfeed was many photos and positive comments about what a good time people had had and it is little things like this that make me want to continue doing it.

The next big social of 2018 will be the Spring Do on 28th April.

I have lots of ideas for 2018 and if I am voted in again I will advertise the year planner and make sure we have another successful year of Social events.

In 2017, some social events fell on other running events and it could be difficult to get the required amount of numbers, but it's a risk you take when planning events.

I has been important to use social media and the newsletter to advertise the events. Even though my recent FB event I have set up for the spring do wont let me invite everyone so social media isn't always reliable but it is about finding a way of making everyone aware of the social events.

I would like to thank Fiona Ross for always being there to help out when needed and helping to make the socials a great success. I would also like to thank Peter Higgs who has incredible cake baking skills and who has baked many cakes for us including the 30th Celebration cake and also Carls 70th birthday celebration cake that was given to him at the DD on Sat. It is thanks to people like these two who make the Social Secretary role that little bit easier.

I would also like to thank the members for their support in the events that I have arranged since taking on the role as social secretary in Nov 2016 and that are currently being arranged. It is important for members to continue to give ideas for social events that they wish to happen to ensure it is inclusive to all and I am still working on getting new faces to the socials.

I would like to be voted to the club as the 2018 Social Secretary so I can help to make 2018 another year to remember.

5. Ladies' Captain's report

Presented by Sam Whalley

When I took on the role of ladies' captain last year, I thought it would be all about completing race entries, supporting our runners at events, and picking teams from hundreds of volunteers. In reality, I have become far more familiar with an event shelter than I ever thought possible, and spent a lot of time bossing the men's captain around.

The year kicked off with the veterans' track and field league. At first I failed to see why our club participated in this league. There seemed to be very little interest in it, and I was struggling to muster the enthusiasm to recruit athletes for the early fixtures. By the end of the season, however, I had reached the conclusion that, with enough willing jumpers and throwers to accompany our runners, and given some specific training regarding the sprints and field events, we might actually be able to perform well in the league. I have even undertaken some training as a level one field official. A standout athlete for us was Adele Graham, who appeared to be something of a heptathlete at every meeting. Particular highlights for me were Gill Manton and Gill Gillard in the 2000m race walk, and the Athletics Weekly standards reached by Jane Davies in the 5000m, and Adele Graham in the javelin. Perhaps surprisingly, as we had failed to put forward a full team for any fixture, we did not finish the league in last place, and many of us achieved PBs during the season, at distances from 100 to 5000m. I am grateful to Nigel Hoult for offering to take on the organisation of the bulk of this for the coming season, and hope that we can make more of an impact.

We then seemed to hit the relay season. I took on the task of organising the A, B and ladies' teams for the Ridgeway Relay, while Cecilia Csemiczky put together the over 60s team as usual. Our A team was very strong, and we looked forward to a podium finish, having come so close to winning in recent years. However, it was not to be, as the leg one runner was hit by heatstroke, and hospitalised, and from then on, the team, while allowed to continue, was considered non-competitive, due to the leg not being completed. Nevertheless, there were some impressive times recorded by other runners on the day, and I hope that some of these can be repeated this year. The B team was comprised of men and women, and, like the ladies' team, was mixed ability. I was delighted to see a number of first-timers in this event. Temperatures on the day soared, and there is no doubt that this affected performance, with a 'safety first' approach being adopted, particularly during the midday legs. Nevertheless, some runners did still manage to gain places on their legs, with Lesley Whiley, Carrie Hoskins, Sophie Hoskins, Belinda Tull, Jane Davies, Sian James and Angela Burley had particularly good runs. We did not come away empty handed, either, with the over 60s picking up the wooden spoon, and the A team receiving a shield that was about to be retired - awarded to Reading Roadrunners as the club's name featured on it the most times. The ladies were fifth ladies' team.

The Southern Road Relays took place in September, at Crystal Palace, a new venue for this event, and an improvement on the very unpopular Bedford Aerodrome of the year before. Despite there being a date clash with Mortimer 10k and Berlin marathon, among others, we had plenty of willing participants, and I entered two teams of four, one senior and one veteran. Again I was very pleased to see some newcomers running for the club, and experiencing this kind of occasion, and we travelled together by minibus. Being a regional fixture, the standard was very high, but there were some very competitive times run, by Helen Pool, Jane Copland Pavlovich and Jane Davies, in particular. The senior team finished 65th out of 82, and the vets were 9th out of 12.

The cross country season started earlier this year, with the first fixtures of both the TVXC and Hampshire leagues taking place in October.

The TVXC is always well attended, and is altogether the more popular of the leagues with our members, for reasons I don't understand. Nevertheless, there is still a trophy at stake, and while it is fantastic to see people of all abilities choosing to run cross country, given its known benefits, I was always grateful to see some of our faster ladies turning up and scoring vital points for us. The ladies' team position ranged from ninth to second during the season; it would be good to have more consistency next year, and I would like to see more coaches incorporating cross country into the training plans for their groups. Indeed, there are some coaching groups who seem to be almost

completely absent from these fixtures, which is a shame. That aside, the combined men's and ladies' teams finished fourth. Our own TVXC fixture was scheduled for January 14th, rather than its usual December date, because of the Berkshire championships having to change dates. We also had to find a new venue, due to the original one initially being unavailable. I was thankful to not have the mammoth task of organising this event, so well done to Sev and her team for doing such a sterling job. Well done to Alix Eyles and Jo Sollesse, who ran in every fixture of this league, as did I, and to Gemma Buley, Pip White and Sarah Alsford, who have shown themselves to be consistently strong cross country runners.

The Hampshire league tends to be less well attended, unfortunately, largely due to its reputation as being more serious. There are indeed plenty of elite runners, but there is still a large proportion of average club runners to race, and those of us who participate in this league recognise the impact that these races have on our fitness. We welcomed a number of first-timers to the league, and really noticed the difference when more senior women turned out for the team, as this age group has previously been underrepresented. Again, it would be nice if coaches promoted these fixtures to their own groups. We seem to have no difficulty persuading people to travel to Europe for a weekend of racing, yet struggle to generate interest for an afternoon's racing in Bournemouth. There is always a bigger turnout, and more support, at our local fixture in Prospect Park, which is fantastic; we had a whopping fourteen ladies in this event. Claire Seymour and I were the only women to attend all of the matches this year; the vet women finished the season in fifth, and the women overall were tenth. Thank you to Tom Harrison and Cecilia, who have often travelled to support us, and saved us from having to deal with paperwork in the cold.

We have also entered teams for various cross country championship races. In November, we needed eight ladies for the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire championship, and our top three scorers, Jane Davies, Lesley Whiley and Nicole Rickett, took the team bronze. Seven ladies entered the Berkshire county championships, and with four to score, Sarah Dooley, Helen Pool, Lesley Whiley and I took the team silver. Sarah Dooley qualified to run in the inter-counties championship, with Helen Pool chosen as a reserve.

We entered over 40s, over 50s and over 60s teams into the southern masters cross country championships in December, including some ladies who were racing cross country for the first time. Numbers were much higher this year, and competition was tough. The over 40s team of Helen Pool, Claire Seymour and myself, was ninth, and the over 60s team – Sian James, Cecilia Csemiczky and Carol Jewell – was fifth. Due to illness and injury, the over 50s did not field a team on the day, but June Bilsby raced well. Paloma Crayford, Sally Carpenter, Claire Seymour and I made up a team for the southern cross country championships in Brighton in January, and ran a tough course in appalling weather. With reduced numbers overall at this fixture, largely due to the venue and concerns about parking, we were happy to not come last.

We had a large amount of interest in the recent National cross country championship at Parliament Hill, and the committee met my request to provide a coach for the team of nine ladies and 24 men, so thank you to the committee for that. With four to score, Sarah Dooley, Gemma Buley, Pip White and Marie-Louise Kertzman brought the team home in 56th place, out of over 100 teams. It may be apparent that the same names are cropping up over and over again in these cross country races; I hope we can encourage even more to join us next season.

Our ladies have also been very busy on the roads this year. We sent six runners to the Vitality 10k in May, courtesy of the places earned at the Road Relays, and the two teams finished in 24th and 82nd place, out of 208 teams. Christina Calderon completed her 50th marathon, while Carrie Hoskins has gone from strength to strength, recording two sub 3 hour marathons, taking first in her age category at the London marathon, cleaning up in the Oxfordshire Road Running championships, setting course records in two age categories, and qualifying to run for England as a masters athlete. Katherine Sargeant recently ran a marathon championship qualifying time at Wokingham half marathon. Helen

Dixon has earned herself the nickname, 'PB Queen' for her decreasing times this year, and we have welcomed a number of ladies back to racing, after injury and after having babies. Helen Pool, Sarah Dooley, Liz Jones, Jane Davies, Lesley Whiley and Sian James have continued to win age category prizes at races all over the place, and ladies' team prizes have been won at Maidenhead 10, Abingdon marathon, Bramley 20, and Wokingham half, to name a few. I have nominated Helen Pool for 'Improver of the Year' at the Reading Sports Awards later in the month; fingers crossed for Helen there. I apologise if there are people who have achieved great things, that I have missed.

This year, I have tried to lead by example by participating in, and supporting at, as many fixtures as possible. I believe I have remained professional throughout, in spite of some difficult circumstances. Although I am only reporting on the ladies' team and its achievements today, I don't really regard the men's and ladies' teams separately. I have spent many a chilly cross country day supporting both teams in equal measures, and will continue to do so. I hope that communication within the club about events can be improved, so that there can be a greater sense of team spirit. I look forward to seeing what both teams and individuals can achieve in the coming year.

6. Men's Captain's report

Presented by Phil Reay

I'm Phil, the Men's team captain. I've promised Carl I'd keep my talk short so I've reduced it to 2hrs.

At the start of the membership period last year we had 252 men at the club, we ended the year with 331. That's an increase of 79 people who've joined our club, with mixed ability and motives for joining. Whilst the club is not measured on numbers, the growth is an indicator of the great reputation we have out there in the community. I often receive positive feedback from other clubs about the ability, inclusiveness and the way we support other runners at events. As our 30th year as a club comes to an end we can be proud of what we've achieved both in and out of the Green Vest.

Firstly, some team highlights.

- **Winners:** Hampshire XC Vets League (a huge achievement in a league of 32 teams and GB athletes), We were also 6th in the senior Hampshire league, our highest placing since 2002 (records don't go back any further).
- **Winners:** Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire XC
- 2nd place Runnymede relays from 52 teams
- Our men's team had two 3rd place finishes in the Vets Track & Field League. A great achievement against seven specialist Athletics Clubs.
- 24th from 278 teams at the Vitality 10,000m British Championships with a team of Rob Corney, Chris Lucas, David McCoy, Lance Nortcliff, Matthew Richards, Ben Whalley
- In the SEAA Road Running Relays we were the first non-London team and 4th overall from 30 teams.
- Our men's team finished in 3rd place in the TVXC league with over 60 men representing the club.
- In the Ridgeway Relays we were awarded the shield to keep for most previous wins. We've not won it since 2009, but we've already had a lot of interest in this year's event .

Each and every one of our 331 men has contributed to club over the last year. I'd be here all night if I named each one although I would like to call out some of the highlights:

Club records

Rob Corney broke Howard Grubbs 23-year-old half marathon record in a time of 69:22. Rob also won the South Devon Coastal Marathon, the O2O 10K, our home TVXC fixture, as well as taking 2nd place at Goring 10k, and 3rd at Race the train.

Duncan Mollison smashed the 400m, 800m and 1500m club records with times of 54:37, 2:00:96 and 4:11:73 respectively. After becoming Berkshire 800m Champion, he won bronze in the British Masters Championships before selection for Team GB squad for the European Masters Championships in Denmark where he finished 11th and first Brit.

Individuals

- Wins for Richards (9mins Clarendon half), Corney (5mins coastal), Lucas, Worringham, Apsey, Freer, Paul Jenkins, Tom Harrison, Nigel Hoult. Worringham.
- Mark Worringham was called-up to the England Team for the British XC Championships and won a team silver medal. Mark had already won a Bronze on the track at the British Masters. Mark also dominated his home race, winning the Woodley 10K as well as winning the 3 race Yateley 10K series. He's been shortlisted for Men's Vet Reading Sports Personality of the Year which takes place later this month.
- Brian Grieves finished 2nd out of a field of 118 in the solo competition at Endure 24 running a total of 115 miles over 23 laps.
- Donald Scott-Collett completed 'The Toughest Footrace on Earth', The Marathon Des Sables. A self-supported race over 237km of the Sahara Desert in temperatures above 50 degrees C.
- Sub 3hr Marathons from 12 men: Matthew Richards, Rob Corney, Seb Briggs, Rupert Shute, Brendan Morris, Andrew Smith, Gary Tuttle, Lance Nortcliff, Ben Whalley, Jamie Cole, Ashley Middlewick & Keith Russell.
- Good For Age Marathon times (based on London) for: David McCoy, Dan Brock, Brian Grieves, Tony Walker, Gavin Rennie, Peter Aked, Brian Kirsopp, Andy Atkinson and Alan Freer.
- Huge marathon PBs at Marathon Majors for, Paul Kerr (London), Brooke Johnson, Simon Denton and Tony Streams (all Berlin).
- Brian Kirsopp entered the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest to run a Marathon dressed as a postman.
- Stuart Kinton earned a 100mile belt buckle finishing the South Downs Way 100 in a time of 22hrs 7mins.
- In the Berkshire Road Running Championships, Gavin Rennie won the trophy in the v50 category, Daniel Rickett took Bronze in the Seniors.
- Ian Giggs celebrated his 400th parkrun and finishes the year having ran 419 at 220 different venues across 7 countries. He's also completed 63 consecutive Yateley 10Ks over 21 years
- David McCoy finished inside the top 50 from a field of 8,500 at the Great Scottish Run achieving a PB of 1:15:24 in the process.
- Big PBs at several distances for Brendan Morris, Tony Streams, Neil Carpenter, Gary Tuttle, Dan Brock, Fergal Donnelly, Kevin Strong, Mark Dibben, Stewart Wing and Dave McCoy.
- Head Coach Simon Davis completed the world's oldest Ultra-marathon, Comrades, in South Africa and later added marathon major medals from Berlin and Chicago to his collection.
- The adventures of Ashley Middlewick ended on a 2017 high with 4th place in the Puglia Half Marathon. In a field of over 400 runners he took over 3 mins off his PB to finish in 1:19:18.
- Paul Monaghan (website) and Dean Allaway joined the prestigious 100 marathon club
- Pete Morris completed his 500th Marathon
- Martin Bush joined the 900-Marathon club and finished the year on 928 marathons.

Volunteers

It's not just the running we're good at, our volunteers contribute equally as much to the club. In fact, it's only since I began this role a year ago that I've truly appreciated just how much work goes in behind the scenes.

- I've been to a committee meeting and had many interactions with each of them. There's so much work goes in behind the scenes, so thank you to the committee.
- I've been around most of the coaching groups and have witnessed first-hand the friendships between group members and their love of their coaches. Thanks to the coaches
- Thanks to David Dibben for all the report writing. He turns them around quickly with his own brand of humour included.
- To Chris Cutting for his patience as I hit every newsletter deadline with seconds to spare. ☺
- And indeed, to Chris, David, Fergal, Jim Kiddie, Chris Mason and everyone who contributed to the 30th anniversary book.
- parkrun...it's not a RR event but the volunteers there are representative of the club. Paul and Teresa Caswell for their Pride of Reading Award. Christ Smith for volunteering over 250 times.

Improvements

It hasn't all been sunshine and rainbows. We fielded an eligible team at the Berks XC championships due to a rule misunderstanding so needed to return the trophy.

There was also a mix up with some of the Berks RR championship medals which BAA are in the process of correcting.

2018

For the year ahead we've a strong team in all age categories and I expect we'll continue to compete for honours.

Through hard work and good coaching, we have so many members who are improving week on week. We'll continue to encourage them and support them on their journey.

I think we can further increase our numbers and encourage participation in our events for ALL members, particularly the XC events. Having only been at 3 of our TVXC fixtures and none of the Hampshire fixtures it's certainly something I'll be doing more of this year.

I've enjoyed volunteering in the role. It's been a privilege and I'd love to do for another year. Thank you.

Two thank yous and I'm finished!!

Thanks to Christina for her continued support, advice and indeed...patience...especially when I'm working to enter teams into events and the system keeps crashing. She is unable to be here this evening but has been amazing.

And finally.....

- Back in the summer we were did not have a venue for our TVXC fixture, it looked like we'd have to cancel it, until this person wouldn't take no for answer. Without her Ashenbury would not have happened in the first place. (also thank Sev, Bill, Katie)
- This person is the only person from 587 members to have done every TVXC and Hampshire league fixture

- In April this person set themselves a goal of a sub 4hr marathon at Brighton. It was terribly hot and it would have been tough for anyone, the target was missed, but they showed character to come back stronger and at Abingdon that 4 hrs was broken with a 3:55.
- Quite where they also find the time to be Woodley parkrun Event Director I don't know. ;-)
- She's made cakes, organised coaches, dried the RR tent in her living room and helped keep me organized over the last year.
- Her dedication to this club and the local running community is incredible, please put your hands together for Sam Whalley.

7. Charity Organiser's report

Presented by Ellen Togher

I am absolutely delighted to have taken on the role of charity co-ordinator for the last 12 months and been able to raise funds for Cycle Smart. It would not have happened without everyone that voted at last year's AGM, so thank you very much to all of you.

A massive £24,646.47 has been raised which I am absolutely delighted with. It is amazing what the Reading Roadrunners club has achieved and you should all be very proud of being able to help charities every year. I have met a teenager with brain damage who used to volunteer at Cycle Smart and it's hard to think he has brain damage just because he didn't wear a helmet. I have also met a mother at a fundraising event, who lost her son because he wasn't wearing a helmet and I have to say, at the time, I did not know what to say to her to make small talk. So I feel glad, with the club's massive help, to have raised much needed funds for Cycle Smart.

Breakdown of funds are:

Car boots sales have raised £10,702

Races, donations and collections has raised £8,735

Refreshments raised £1,566

Raffles, tombola and auctions raised £1,174

Calendar sales raised £632

The quiz nights and Chris and Katie's 10k raised £627

Clock hire raised £625

The various games raised £391

Charity pots on the front desk and the bar has raised £182

Thank you's

There are many people to thank. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and dedication to the club.

To those who kindly donated items to sell at the car boot sale and those that gave raffle prizes.

To Jane, Claire and Peter Higgs who helped on the coaches with the London Marathon Sweepstake. Much appreciated.

To Fiona and Hannah for their massive help and support throughout the year.

To those that helped at Shinfield 10k, particularly to Sev, Fergal and Tom for arranging to welcome Cycle Smart representatives at their first race and help with set up. They definitely felt looked after

on the day and were only too delighted to offer their support, help at the prize giving and generally be involved throughout the day.

To Sam Whalley for the Bingo run.

To Geoff, Richard, David, Diane and Tim....for showing me (and the Cycle Smart volunteers) the ropes at the car boot sales and being very welcoming. It was good fun helping out at those. Thanks to Fiona, Trisha, Hannah, Kingsley and Linda Wright for getting up early to come along and help too.

To Trisha, Maureen Sweeney, Dean and David Stares for their donations throughout the year and thinking of the charity.

To Kerry Eastwood for making the scrumptious cake for the "Guess the weight of the cake" game for the Dinton relays in July. Thanks to Peter Higgs for all his support and delicious cakes along the way. Thanks to all those that help with the race refreshments.

To those that arrange the clock hire for the club which helps raise more funds.

To Bob Thomas, Sandy Sheppard, Adele Graham and Sam and all of the race directors and helpers of the races, this is a huge part of the funds raised.

To Tina for arranging the 50p sale of Carl's London marathon merchandise.

To all who give to the charity pots on the front desk and in the bar and not forgetting Glynn and Anne who put them out each week.

To Alice Kerr and Jane Silvey for stepping in to do the raffle at the Christmas Party. Also to Alice for arranging the guess the weight of baby Kerr game!

To Fergal, Tony and others in arranging the track nights.

To Chris and Katie for the donation from their round Reading ale trail 10k.

To those that helped produce the ladies calendar, including Keith Russell, Kerry Eastwood, John Bailey and Ricky Cowley and to the ladies of course.

To Angie and the Cycle Smart volunteers who have been great with support throughout the year.

Thinking of my late friend Freda who left £200 to Cycle Smart.

To Roger for his kind regular donation of his London marathon expenses.

To Paul for keeping the website up to date.

Massive thanks to Liz Ganpatsingh in doing the banking side of things.

That's it from me, I hope I haven't missed anyone. It really is a joint effort raising the funds so everyone at the club should give themselves a massive pat on the back for contributing and best of luck to the next charity co-ordinator.