



135th AGM Clonliffe Harriers Honorary Secretary's Address

I have been greatly honoured to have represented Clonliffe Harriers in the role as Club Secretary in the past year.

In that time, as the Covid restrictions were lifted, there was a return to the normal workings of the Club. The Club Committee meetings have resumed to in-person meetings while the monthly Dublin County Board meetings have continued to be held remotely via Zoom.

Some activities such as the paying of club fees, the registration of members to Athletics Ireland and transfers of athletes have moved online. Club membership is now more important than ever as competition is now centralised through the AI system with an active AI number being essential.

The upgrade works to the track and stadium commenced following the Morton Games last July and an excellent modern facility will be in place upon completion.

While the track has not been accessible, the Club has made provision for training in a number of locations, primarily the ALSAA track but also the sports hall at St Aidan's, for Juniors, and the usual locations of Trinity Sports Grounds, Abbottstown and Santry Demesne, as well as some ad-hoc locations such as car parks and cycleways.

There has also been a return of the "Thursday Long Road Run" and the Club facilities have been available for athletes on those evenings. The Sprints groups have also continued to utilise the high-performance Club gym and recently returned to the upgraded indoor facilities at Morton Stadium to test it out on behalf of DCU.

While there has been disruption to the normal Club activities due to the unavailability of the track, overall, with the co-operation of the Club coaches and athletes, the important task of training has continued.

The Club's membership has maintained at steady levels with an increase to a total of 564 registered members in 2022, and to date, in 2023 there are 451 registered members.

In the period between when life returned to normal and the track works commencing, the Club held very successful Club Championships. These were to a high standard and were very well supported by the athletes.

The Club were involved in the course building for the Leinster Schools Cross Country Championships and the successful return of the Brother Schools Run, which was held in the Trinity Sports Ground in October.

The Clonliffe 2 Mile returned to Glasnevin in November with the finish at Kavanagh's Grave Diggers. It was a very successful event with entries capped at 200. First place went to Kieran Kelly of Raheny in 9:10 and 1st Lady being Ellie Hartnett of UCD in 10:42. The entry on the day was boosted by the inclusion of our Juvenile athletes and some parents.

The Morton Games returned on 2nd July 2022 after a gap of 2 years changing to a Saturday evening timeslot with a *Saturday Night Fever* theme.



The National competitions brought our athletes to the far reaches of the country, the Intermediates and Masters to Cork in February, the National Cross Country to Rosapenna, Co Donegal in November and The Novices and Uneven Ages back to Cork in December.

The Track team travelled to Belfast, Athlone and Tullamore in the summer months for the T&F league, the Senior Men and Women travelled to Belfast to take part in the NI Road Relays and then there was the short trip to Raheny to take part in the National Road Relays. Each of those trips resulted in success for the Club and the athletes.

There has been continued maintenance and upkeep work on the Clubhouse and further works will be required in the coming year, all under the co-ordination of Stephen Harkness.

All the Club activities rely on the team of volunteers and obviously none of these events would take place without them. I would like to thank them for their continued support to the athletes and our Club.

I would also pay tribute to our outgoing Club President, Paddy Marley. Paddy has always been supportive and encouraging to me personally during my time as Club Secretary.

I would like to thank Declan Power who has acted as Assistant Club Secretary for the last 12months.

I would note that I would be willing and honoured to continue to serve as Club Secretary if re-elected for the coming year.

Stephen Bateson
Hon Secretary