



136th AGM Clonliffe Harriers Honorary Secretary's Address

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

It has been an extremely busy year for the club, with many ups and a couple of downs along the way, but that's sport.

In the last year, the clubs training nights have returned to the newly completed track here in Santry, and there have been many busy nights on the new blue Mondo track. The club's membership has increased to record levels with an increase to a total of 624 registered AI members in 2023. To date, in 2024 there are 554 registered members.

All club fees are now paid online and the Athletics Ireland Registration system, requiring active membership for race entry, has resulted in a very strong membership rate in the early months of 2024. The monthly Club Committee Meetings are held in person in the bar, while the Dublin County Board meetings have continued to be held remotely via Zoom.

There has been a steady increase in the use of the Club Gym for Strength and Conditioning and for general rehabilitation work outs. The investment in the Club Gym is showing to be a wise move. The weekly use has grown over the last year, in particular from the Juvenile Throwers and Middle-Distance groups, to the Senior and Masters groups, all using the gym as was intended.

The club promoted an extremely successful Brother Schools Run, which was held in the Trinity Sports Grounds in October. The venue is an excellent facility with a good fair course, with parking and welfare facilities on the site. There were 14 races and over 1500 primary and post primary school children took part.

The club held our Annual Track Club Championships in June and July with events from 100 to 5000m. These were very well supported by the athletes. The Grand Prix series ran 17 events and increased its fields in most events.

The Clonliffe 2 Mile took place in Glasnevin in October with the finish at Kavanagh's Grave Diggers. It was a very successful event with 242 finishers and a first Clonliffe win since 2014, Cathal Doyle finishing in an impressive time of 8:46. The 1st Lady was Carla Sweeney of Rathfarnham WSAF in 10:34. In the Junior Men's grade, Clonliffe's men placed first to third. The entry on the day boosted by the inclusion of our Juvenile athletes, a number of their parents and our new "Noisy Neighbours" Ballymun AC.

The Morton Games was held on the 14th July, changing back to a Friday evening timeslot, with a Back to the Future/Fever theme. A very wet blustery day gave way to a perfect 3 hour evening window to allow a successful night with the highlight being a stadium record for the Women's 100m Hurdles for the very popular Sarah Lavin of Emerald AC.

The National Competitions brought our athletes to the far reaches of the country. The National Cross Country to Gowran Demesne, Co Kilkenny in November and for the Novices and Uneven



Ages, back to Navan in December with the Intermediates and Master's to Dundalk this February. The Junior Men and the Junior Men's and Women's Development squad travelled to Albufeira in Portugal, with the fundraising support of the committee and club members, to take part in the European Clubs Cross Country Championship and the Almond Blossom Cross Country Open Race.

And then, there was the short trip to Raheny to take part in the National Road Relays. Each of those results resulted in success for the Club and the athletes.

New affordable competition gear has been provided for the Juvenile sizes. This has proved successful, and the range has been extended to adult sizes.

As always, there has been continued maintenance and upkeep work on the Clubhouse, all under the co-ordination of Stephen Harkness. Additional car parking spots were created by moving the equipment container, and with the provision of security cameras and lighting to the side of the building, this has added to the security and safety of the club on training nights.

Coaching training has been provided for the Juvenile Coaches and for the Senior Sprints Coaches. AED/Defibrillator training has been provided to the bar staff and some of the coaching volunteers. Refresher Fire Training has been arranged for the Bar Staff.

All 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 like to pay tribute to our outgoing Juvenile Club Captain, Gladys Cooper. Gladys 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 12 months.

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