

Bournemouth Athletic Club – Virtual AGM - 1st September 2020

Chairman's Report

I have been reflecting on recent challenges and potential for the future.

Firstly challenges

- Three years ago, we heard of apparent plans by AFC Bournemouth to develop a new stadium on this site. Whilst Bournemouth Council consistently made it clear that a new athletics stadium must be provided for the Club at Kings Park before it went ahead - there was an element of uncertainty as to the future of the track and indeed the club. We now understand that AFCB have decided to stay put.
- Then two years ago new High Jump and Pole Vault rules were introduced which mean we had to place mats all around the landing area. Plus, new long throws rules were introduced which effectively prevented the use of the inside cage. We managed by making more use of the outside cage but this wasn't ideal and throwers made their frustration known.
- UKA introduced a new track accreditation programme called Trackmark. The track does not meet the Trackmark standard and the report outlined work needed urgently and other work for the medium term.
- In March, the Coronavirus lockdown saw a complete cessation of all club activities and the cancellation of all leagues.

Good News

- The club is now operational again with Club Plan and Risk Assessment enabling training and limited competition.
- The Committee has also taken the bold decision to extend memberships in place at 30th September 2020 for a year to end 31st December 2021.
- In March 2019 we signed a new 3-year licence agreement for the use of Kings Park including the offices and storage areas we use. A commitment by Bournemouth Council before it was absorbed into the new BCP Council.
- Work to make the inside cage fit for competition was carried out during April 2019.
- The Council is about to go out to tender for a contractor to comprehensively refurbish the competition / training area. We are in discussion regarding the details of this work which is due to commence this autumn.

So, we have gone from not knowing if the track would survive to a position where the council are willing to invest in improved facilities. I'm optimistic for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the whole team:

- Coaches, team managers and officials out on the track, or the road, or the muddy trail - throughout the year.
- And all those working in the background, including those working in the office, sorting out the finances, the membership records, the DBS checks, the liaison with leagues, the people making tea and coffee and the people I have omitted to mention
- And not forgetting the members of the committee who've made my job so easy, despite coronavirus over the last twelve months.

Robin James

8th August 2020