

President's AGM review 2020

The Club had a fantastic year in 2019 and looked set to make a big impact in 2020, particularly with a new National Athletics League (NAL) combining competition for women and men. Then COVID19 struck with facilities closed and events cancelled. The last few months have been challenging on all fronts. We have been lucky at BAC as BCP Council were proactive in opening the track as soon as regulations allowed. Many tracks still remain closed. The committee, led by Robin James, also acted quickly when EA guidance enabled the restart of club training sessions, albeit with restrictions and limitations.

The following provides a brief overview of the last 12 months.

Sportshall

Enthusiasm for The Dorset Sportshall League continues to grow at BAC. Providing indoor competition for our younger athletes in the winter months, BAC stormed the County Championships with many medals in the U11G, U11B, U13G and U13B.

Cross country

It has been particularly encouraging to see our younger athletes embracing cross country and this bodes well for the future. In the Dorset County Cross Country Championships BAC brought home 4 golds and 3 silvers and several young athletes competing for the Dorset team won medals in the SW Regional Inter Counties Cross Country. As ever the club has performed well in the Wessex League and again several young athletes featured in the top 3. We also had a strong performance in the Hampshire League, one of the strongest cross country leagues in the country.

Road running

There have been a number of outstanding individual road performances, with our athletes embracing distances from 5k to ultra-marathons. The Dorset Road Race League has sadly been cancelled for 2020, though after the first two events BAC men led division 1 and the women were in second place. It was also great to see young athletes taking part in local distance running events and bringing home medals and great performances

Wessex League

There was a strong team spirit in this league last summer, with athletes stepping up to fill relay slots and events. It is sadly missed this year. The league provides good opportunities for non-scorers who then go onto be scoring athletes and many athletes attempt events for the first time to fill slots. This league also incorporates Quad Kids - U11s with BAC coming 4th overall in the Wessex league.

YDL Lower – Southern West Div 1

This is a composite team with New Forest. Promoted in 2018 the team had a great season last summer maintaining their position with new athletes joining the league and fitting in well.

YDL Upper - Southern Div 2B

A composite team with Salisbury and New Forest, in 2019 this team achieved what some of us who've been involved thought impossible – promotion! A great prospect for our u17 and u20 athletes in 2021.

SAL – Div 1

Competing in Division 1, we are in the top 16 teams in the south. There are another 84 clubs in lower divisions. The SAL always has a good team atmosphere & athletes willing to cover events for the team. In 2019 some good & keen U17 women joined the team and some club records broken on the way.

BAL and NAL

The men's team competed in the BAL in 2019. After a very successful few years the team made it to Division 1 competing nationally at a very high standard. In 2020 this was all due to change as a new National Athletics League (NAL) had been due to start combining the men and women's national leagues. The club was looking forward to this opportunity, but sadly this will now be for 2021.

Championships

In 2019 numerous athletes took part in championships from County level to British Championships and several athletes competed at internationals.

Ten Club records broken in 2019**Community**

BAC is a strong community run by volunteers who coach, officiate, cover behind the scenes administrative duties and run the café. Much of this has continued during lockdown with coaches operating remotely and administration sorting out, among other things, risk assessments so that we could return to the track

New track

The track relaying is now proposed for late autumn. Watch the club website and Facebook page for details.

Return to competition

In August 2020 we returned to competition. With athletes training hard, this was a much needed move. Following EA COVID19 Guidelines, the club has organised four competitions: Horizontal Jumps Invitational; Bournemouth Unlocked Sprints Fest; Bournemouth Throws Invitational Trial; and Junior Shot

Janet Dickinson August 2020