

VAC Annual General Meeting

Monday 24 September 2018 at Premier Inn, Victoria

Race Walking Secretary's Report for 2017-18

I am pleased to report that a full series of races has been held which included the Jack Fitzgerald Memorial Race of approx. 6m held in Tilgate Park, Crawley, with 25 entries, a record number, and the Cecil Gittins Memorial Walks with distances up to 15k in Gravesend with 42 entries. In addition, 17 attended the 10k track meeting at Battersea Park, an increase from 2017.

We were fully represented at the Inter Area Indoor Match at Lee Valley over 2k; however, we had no representation at the Outdoor Inter Area Match at Solihull also over 2k.

The 5 miles races at Battersea Park are traditionally spread over the Summer months from April to August held in conjunction with the road runners – the average turnout was 10, no change from 2017.

Sadly, in the April race, there was a collision between a competitor and a cyclist which resulted in injuries to the competitor. We informed the relevant licensing authorities and reviewed our Risk Assessment and medical procedures. As a result, we increased the number of cautionary signs in the Park and reinforced the warnings in the briefings for athletes and marshals.

VAC had representation at the meeting with SCVAC who incorporated VAC's 3k walk in their Indoor Championships and at the popular Enfield 7 mile race which incorporated the VAC 7m championships, supported by 12 members. However, the Steyning 5k track which was to incorporate the VAC 5k championships was cancelled due to frozen track conditions.

VAC's members have set records at the Euro and World Championships, which have continued to be dominated by Ian Richards with his usual harvest of gold medals. For the ladies, Fiona Bishop and Maureen Noel performed well on the European and world stages and achieved team placings.

We have been able to have a full list of officials for all our meetings and I am grateful for their presence and invaluable assistance. In addition, we have the expertise of Mike Peel who posts our results and notices on the VAC website with immediate effect.

Our walking members are busy in other areas too. In particular, Noel Carmody was elected as Race Walking Association President for 2017/18. He has been an international judge for some time.

In summary, we have been successful in introducing walking to a greater range of athletes, but more work needs to be done to increase participation by members in the forthcoming year, particularly in the Battersea Park series.

David Hoben

VAC Race Walking Secretary

24 September 2018