

VAC AGM: 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

TRACK & FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year's events started once again with the indoor championships at Lee Valley in February, (held jointly with EVAC), followed in March by the Inter-Area championships in which VAC came 3rd in the men's match and 5th in the Women's match, 4th place overall, and then the BMAF championships at which Peter Giles set two British records. More details were included in the Spring Newsletter.

Shortly after the Coronavirus lockdown hit us all and the whole BMAF and VAC track & field summer programme was lost. There are now a limited number of local events taking place, which are fully subscribed soon after entries open because everyone has been starved of competition. I have acted as field referee at five such events in Sussex since last month and we are holding the last one at the beginning of October. There have been a few VAC members competing at these meetings and I am sure other VAC members will have done the same at meetings near to them.

This brings us to the big question of what VAC going to do for track & field in 2021. We have a large number of members wishing to compete and I sent out a request last month for volunteers to come forward to help organise a programme of events, but only two people responded positively to date. The committee was not expecting this to result in the appointment of a new Track & Field Secretary and Inter-Area team, as Nick Lauder has stood down from the role, but we were hoping that a team could be formed to share in the work to build a programme. The results of the survey, which only 10% of the membership responded to, was that members would like to participate in our traditional outdoor championship but if we haven't got sufficient people willing to organise it and enough officials to run the meeting, then we should instead try to organise a series of meetings for each discipline, These would open meetings or other events, such as the London Inter-club challenge, which VAC would not themselves need to organise. This could be tracked as a virtual grand prix series, with awards for the overall winners. The final meeting for each discipline could be treated as the championship for each discipline if the competition format allowed this.

We still plan to hold the 5,000m and 10,000m club championships as usual, because they have been highly successful, and they need a much smaller number of officials to run them.

It would be good to discuss this in detail at the AGM – either with members saying what they can do to help or at least a group of members agreeing to plan the programme followed by another appeal to members to help organize it.

Peter Kennedy