

Colin Mitchell Coach Coordinator 2022 AGM Report

The Club now has 8 separate Coaching groups plus the Tuesday Road Running group, therefore separate more detailed reports from each of the group's written by their respective Coach leads, are available on the website.

This report is an overview of all of the groups, with the exception of Tuesdays Road Running group, which I will leave to others.

2022 has seen another successful expansion of the Junior section and as John has reported in his membership report, we now have 230ish active junior members attending Club training nights at Tilsley Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Coached by a mix of 40+ licensed UKA Coaches and parent Helpers.

With the new enlarged membership, we have decided to enter another Junior league, in order to give every one of the juniors the opportunity to pull on the Club team vest regardless of their ability and enjoy a great day out with their club friends

We currently still have a waiting list for new members for the U11 and U13 training groups of around 70, which we are activity trying to get down but we are limited by the Coach/Helper ratio set by our UKA Club insurance policy.

In order to try to recruit new Coach/helpers we have just started a new "Fastrack Scheme" where by if a parent offers to help Coach regularly or volunteer in some way with the Club, we bring their child in straight away, this has seen 3-4 new volunteers on training nights and a few more are in the pipe line.

The extra helpers will enable us to bring in 4-5 new members per new Coach/helper, so please spread the word we are always looking for new volunteers, because as a Club we can't operate properly without members volunteering to give their time free.

Therefore, to that end if anyone would like to discuss volunteering on the Coaching side, please contact me at the track or direct on email or What's App and I will gladly explain the joys on offer and the buzz you get from knowing you are giving a youngest the same enjoyment you get from athletics.

We continue as a Club to invest in education courses for the Coaching team in order to provide a first-class fun coaching experience for our junior members, with the aim to retain them in the Club as they get older and ultimately continue to enjoy taking part in athletics as they become adults. 2022 saw 2 more of our L1 Coaches become L2.

This aim has also been well supported by the committee by investing Club funds in the equipment we need to train the athletes with, so they can compete for the club at local, regional and in some cases national level.

The Club has always had an inclusive and diverse policy for new members, which means we now have a small number of junior members with specials needs, so we are running a half day training course for our Coaching team on Child Development and Education/SEN/Inclusion to ensure we also offer them the best experience when they train with the Club.

As a Club we have been able to negotiate with Tilsley Park management, exclusive use of the track, infield and throws area on Club nights from 5.30 to 8pm, which has enabled us to give space to each of the groups without the issue of ball kicking team game being played on the infield and non-Club members randomly running on the track, which pre Covid was a major problem.

Following this agreement, we have now been able to offer a wider range of Coaching opportunities to all our members regardless of age and experience, so in 2022, we started an adult beginners Track and Field group on a Tuesday night, a direct result of request's from the adult members in 2021, which although the early numbers attending was small, the group is now growing and we are looking forward to seeing the results in the coming track season

In October 2022 UKA started a new scheme entitled "Regional Club Coaching Lead".

UKA have appointed 9 individuals across the County to coordinate the scheme and select just 2 Club per region to work with, in the next few years.

We applied to the scheme and were selected as one of the 2 Clubs in the South East region, to have regular visits and online help from the RCCL officer and UKA Club development officer, giving guidance to develop the Clubs Coaching structure and help the Club improve its overall governance, in line with UKA best practice, so we are looking forward to our first visit on 24th January.

Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to all our Coaches and helpers for their hard work in 2022 making the junior Club as successful as it is now in our 40th year, bearing in mind though, we only started the junior section 25 years ago with 5 junior athletes and one Coach.

Also, I personally wish to thank the Committee for their fabulous support over the last year and Stuart Watton who has deputised for me when I am away on Grandad duties and holidays.

Thank you for your attention

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