

## Chair's Statement

Welcome to this year's AGM. In last year's statement I thanked our volunteers for everything they do.

This year I'm making an appeal to all to think about volunteering more, in 2016 Bob the chair at the time held a meeting where it was agreed that if everyone did their 2% the running of the club would be much easier.

This has worked in a lot of areas with people helping out and leading certain areas, for example Sue organising the handicap races, Andy, John and myself being the main contact for new members and we have lots of people trained in Leadership in Running Fitness who can share the leadership of the training sessions.

We also have a very dedicated team in the committee with Mick and Sam dedicating hours of their time, our brilliant captains, Andy, Gary, Keith, Rachel and Sam. The creation of our Fell Championship with Keith and Graham injecting some new life into the fell section of our club. James has also recently taken over the accountability for the Grand Prix from Alan who has been running it for 25 years.

Bob, Richard and Paul dedicate their Tuesdays to train our juniors with support from parents and Bob does a fantastic job of managing our membership and organising junior training sessions and managing the junior section.

This is all great however it tends to be the same small bunch of people who do the majority of the work and I'm therefore making a plea to all members to think about how they can help, I realise people have their own lives and may not want to get involved in the running of the club however if you want to get more involved please do let me know.

In 2026 I'll have chaired the club for ten years and I'd like to hand this over to someone either at that point or earlier if anyone is interested.

I'm sure that others in the committee and undertaking key roles will also want to hand over at some point, Sue has said she no longer wants to lead organising the handicaps, Alan has handed over the baton to James.

So, if you've ever fancied chairing the club, being treasurer, getting more involved in organising of races, handicaps, training sessions, membership or helping out with juniors, please do contact me about it.

I'd like to take this opportunity to make a special mention for Hannah Brown for achieving the joint second fastest VS female marathon time at London last year and the fastest female marathon time in 18 years, 2:55:49, truly remarkable, the only lady who has been faster was Tracey Morris (now Taylor) who came 4th in the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, and also competed in the Athens Olympic Games, European Championships and World Championships.

At the AGM we award life membership to members who have contributed significantly to the club including being a member for 25 years. This year we are awarding this to Alan Hutchinson for his contribution to the Grand Prix competition for the past 25 years, thank you Alan and congratulations on your life membership.