Chair’s Chat– October 2016

At the EGM on 22nd September I was elected the Club’s Chair and Keith Bullock is the Coaching Secretary. The new Constitution was accepted. Constitutions are not the most exciting reading matter but they are very important because they are the Club’s Rules. This can be read on the website under the Committee Club Policies Page.

There have been several changes recently in how the Club operates – Membership (new application forms), direct contact with England Athletics, payment of membership fees online, biometric scanner next to the entrance to name but a few. Our Membership Secretary, Mark Smith, has been plagued with a skeletal problem in his back and has not been able to operate as he wished for some time. These plans may not have progressed as quickly as we would have liked.

New starters to the Foundation Course will be accepted only on the first Tuesday and next Thursday of each month.

Other changes include the formalising of policies and the need to run ideas passed the Committee before implementation. Ad hoc decision-making is a thing of the past. If a problem occurs it is the Committee which is accountable. Therefore, the Committee must be involved before any implementation. The Committee will usually look favourably at most ideas where they benefit the Club. **If you have any ideas please do not hesitate and contact a Committee Member.**

The Committee is seeking more volunteers in all areas. It is felt that people are reluctant to volunteer because they see the amount of commitment from the current incumbents and then shy away. The new Constitution is an attempt to rectify this. The Officer roles will need filling at the next AGM. However, each individual Officer will be encouraged to create a small sub-committee (of 2, 3 or 4 people) to assist the delivery of their area, e.g. as Officials Officer I would work with a couple of others to make sure that the Club provides Officials for all matches and Club members have the opportunity to attend courses to become fully Licenced. The elected Officer will be responsible and accountable to the Committee. In that way, we encourage more volunteers, with less overall responsibility, are short-term and we are seeking succession planning. The current Committee will not be here forever.

There will be, before the next AGM, brief role descriptions available for all the Officer roles including Team Captains.

We will try to add to the website brief outcomes from Committee Meetings, after the Minutes have been accepted by the Committee. These will not be as detailed as Committee Minutes because there may be confidential or, sensitive, items discussed.

A huge area of concern is the unwillingness of many members competing for the Club at its many fixtures. One of the main purposes of joining an athletics club is to have the opportunity to compete. Why train 3 or 4 times a week and then not compete? Perhaps the Club should withdraw coaching opportunities from those who regularly fail to compete?

Any comments please contact me – email, Facebook, phone or face to face (I do not do Twitter ….yet!).

Barry Parker