

President's report 2022/2023

Our membership reached 636 at the end of May. This represents a fall of around 50 compared to last year, with no clear reason. John Fisher has introduced an initiative whereby we reach out to other running clubs in Perth and invite them to join us in 'Friendship' runs where we do not charge a visitor fee. These have been very popular and our hope is that some of these over 30 runners will join our club.

In the past year MAWA members were recognised for outstanding contributions to Local, National and International Masters Athletics:

- David Carr was named World Masters Male Athlete of the year
- John Dennehy received a Merit Award for outstanding service to athletics in WA
- Lynne Schickert was confirmed in her role as WMA Executive Vice President
- AMA awards were given to David Carr, Mandy Mason, Barbara Blurton, Richard Blurton

Registration of MAWA athletes with Athletics West increased from \$10 to \$15, while registration with AMA increased from \$7 to \$10. This left us with no choice but to increase our membership fees by \$10.

We rolled out a new club logo, for which we received numerous favourable comments. We also changed our uniform supplier and the mechanism by which members will place orders. This means the club will no longer need to carry stock – with our cost savings being passed to members through lower uniform prices. We also gave the website a facelift, with a more modern look without changing the functionality.

Co-operation with Athletics West continued to be very good. The new registration arrangements worked smoothly again while we were again well represented at the 3 'all-ages' State Championships, (multi events, cross country and 20km walk).

This has been the second year for the system of online registration for helper duties, but this year we put all dates up from day 1. We like the low drop-out rate and the flexibility it gives members, but again we have found that we have to put a lot of work into sending out specific reminder emails.

Nothing much changed for our elite road runners with Clare Wardle, Roberto Busi, Gillian Young and Paul Watson all retaining their trophies.

On the track we re-started Tuesday evenings after completion of the WAAS re-surface in January, while attendance at ECAC was strong all season.

Thirty of our athletes travelled to the Nationals, held for the first time at Olympic Park in Homebush. Leading the gold medal charge was Sue Coate, medalling in no less than 13 events including 5 gold and a pentathlon Australian record. To no-one's surprise Club Secretary Gillian Young bettered her own mark by some 13 seconds to set a new W75 Steeplechase World record of 11:01.5. And a second MAWA World Record went to Sharon Davis in the 4 x 800m relay. Our men could not quite match these dizzy heights. David Carr

was of course a stalwart winning everything he entered in the M90 group but was not in the World Record form that saw him become World Masters Athlete of the year in 2022. Morland Smith also bagged a bunch of golds in the M85 – a great ambassador for the sport putting in top rate performances despite his sight impairment. And in the M70 Michael Byrne excelled with a gold and two silvers in the sprints and middle distance. Walk golds went to Karyn Tolardo, John McDonagh and Victor Munoz, while throwers Bev Hamilton and Ossi Igel both won 3 golds.

Six of our athletes made the long trip to Torun in Poland for the World Indoors, achieving numerous State and Australian Indoor Records, (full listing on the website).

Once again our State Championships were a thoroughly enjoyable event with the threatened bad weather not materialising. We were slightly down on numbers but not on performance quality, with dazzling Australian records for sprinters Mandy Mason and Adrian McKenzie, plus an Australian pentathlon record for Sue Coate. Mandy took the 60m record from multi-world record holder Julie Brims and in so doing earned the Athlete of the Meet trophy.

My thanks to a first class committee last year with special thanks to new committee member Steve Travell who has taken on a key task in obtaining Council approvals for some of our runs.

Richard Blurton
President