

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

I am delighted to report on another successful year for the Spartans in 2010. Without doubt, the highlight was being crowned the UK's Best Running Club back in April. The pride and honour that Chris Leigh and I felt receiving that award on behalf of every one of you is something that I know will live with me for a very, very long time. So many people work so hard to make this Club the success that it is, and they are backed up by our members who are, to a person, friendly, warm, enthusiastic, and supportive. Without you, this Club would be nothing.

On the subject of Awards, it has been a great year for the Club and for our members. At the Comet Sports Awards back in January, the Club won Club of the Year and Chris Leigh was deservedly awarded Coach of the Year. Simon Harris, Iris Hornsey and Tony Osborne were all runners-up in their respective categories.

At the Herts Sports Partnership Service to Sport Awards in September, Paul Holgate won the prestigious Service to Sport Awards ó recognition of the huge amount of work that Paul puts into helping all of us, and indeed many others outside of the Spartans. Again, Tony Osborne and Simon Harris were finalists in their respective categories.

And I must also make note of the remarkable achievement of Roger Biggs who has now run a Marathon (or longer) every week for well over 100 weeks! Good luck Roger as you set your sights now on the World Record for consecutive Marathons.

To all of you, congratulations from all of us.

Success, however, is not all about winning awards. In so many other ways, we can measure our success as a Club, including some of the following:

- Our membership now stands at well over 400 and continues to grow
- Our coaching team under Chris Leigh continues to grow in both strength and capability and remains, in my view, fundamental to our success
- We continue to organise hugely successful races that have a great reputation around the County and beyond. Without naming every individual involved, my thanks go to all our Race Directors, Assistant Race Directors, Marshals and everyone else who has contributed to our successful race program
- Our finances as a Club, under the stewardship of Sean Thompson, remain strong and give us a good base for the future
- The social program continues to thrive with all sorts of different events, both club-organised and member-organised, for our members to enjoy
- The range and availability of kit under the superb management of Ian Larman, Paul Carter and Simon Harris.
- The different opportunities for our members continue to grow. Starter Group, a range of different groups at Tuesday & Thursday training, Track training and Track & Field events, cross-country events, Ossi's Angels, etc etc. I am convinced that this variety of different offerings means that there is something for everyone at the Spartans and is a big factor in our continued success.

As ever, this year has seen some quite astounding achievements in competition and I would like to pick out a few highlights. Please forgive me if I miss out your particular achievement or highlight:

- At a National level, we have won 6 Gold Medals, 2 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals
 - **Iris Hornsey** won Gold Medals in both the BMAF Outdoor Track & Field Champs, and at the BMAF Indoor Track & Field Champs, at both 400m and 800M. In addition, Iris won Silver at the BMAF Outdoor Track & Field Champs 1500M
 - Other National Gold Medallists were **Monica Brown** in the BMAF Indoor Pentathlon Champs, and **Chris King** in the ARC National Marathon Champs
 - Also, in the ARC National Marathon Champs, **Tracy Pez** won a Silver and **Sara O'Callaghan** won a Bronze.
 - **Chris Feely** won a Bronze in the National BMAF Indoor Pentathlon Champs

- At a Regional level, our members have won a total of 5 Golds, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze in various competitions as follows:
 - **Simon Harris** won 2 Golds and a Silver at the Eastern Region Disabled Athletics Championships
 - **Iris Hornsey** 6 Golds in the EVAC Indoor Track & Field Champs at both 400M and 800M, plus another Gold at the Southern Vets Cross Country Champs
 - **Grant Ramsey** – Bronze in the South Eastern Inter Counties Athletics Champs

- The number of medal winners at County Championships is quite staggering. A total of 37 Gold Medals, 48 Silver Medals, and 45 Bronze Medals. Here are, I think (with apologies for any errors or omissions), all our County Medal winners
 - Gold Medal Winners:
 - **Iris Hornsey** (Herts County Vets Championships Individual 5k)
 - **Pete Smith, Jim Brown, Roger Biggs, Paul Holgate** (Herts County Vets Marathon Championships Team)
 - **David Bowker, Andy Garrett, Jim Brown, Mick Connell** (Herts County Vets 10M Championships Team)
 - **David Bowker** (Herts County Vets Championships Individual Half Marathon)
 - **Iris Hornsey** (Herts County Vets Cross-Country Championships Individual)
 - **Barbara Wilson, Sue Leigh, Sharon Crowley** (Herts County Vets Cross-Country Championships Team)
 - **Tracy Pez** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 1500M)
 - **Sharon Crowley** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 1500M)
 - **Sharon Crowley** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 3K)
 - **Rosie Canham** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 400M)
 - **Steve Mayfield** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 800M)
 - **Sharon Crowley** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships Hammer)
 - **Kerry James, Rosie Canham, Alison Wood** (Herts County Vets 3K Relay Championships)
 - **Alison Wood** (Herts Vets County 5k Championships Individual)
 - **Jo Laing** (Herts Senior County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Ella Ceraulo, Nikki Andrews, Claire Drake** (Herts Senior County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Paul Carter, Danny Hukin, Christopher Westcott, Jamie Drackford** (Herts Senior County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Jo Laing** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Rob Shaw** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Tony Osborne** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Jo Laing, Karen Wells, Monica Read** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Jo Laing** (Herts Senior County 10M Championships Individual)
 - **Roger Biggs** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 10K)

 - Silver Medal Winners:
 - **Jo Laing** (Herts County Vets Championships Individual 5k)
 - **Sharon Crowley** (Herts County Vets Marathon Championships Individual)
 - **Jim Brown** (Herts County Vets Marathon Championships Individual)

- **Kerry James** (Herts County Vets Championships Individual 10M)
 - **David Bowker** (Herts County Vets Championships Individual 10M)
 - **Paul Carter** (Herts County Vets Cross-Country Championships Individual)
 - **Alison Wood, Helene Miller, Yvonne Jones** (Herts County Vets Cross-Country Championships Team)
 - **Jim Brown** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 1500M)
 - **Andrew Hull** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 5K)
 - **Jim Brown** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 5K)
 - **Steve Mayfield** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships Triple Jump)
 - **Alison Wood** (Herts County Senior Championships Individual 10K)
 - **Liam Herbert, Richard Sidlin, Jim Brown, Tony Argyrou** (Herts County Senior Championships Team 10K)
 - **Alison Wood, Esther Hamill, Renate Bolenz** (Herts Senior County 5k Championships Team)
 - **Simon Jackson, Philip Rich, Paul Carter, David Bowker** (Herts Senior County 5k Championships Team)
 - **Liam Herbert, Ryan Davis, Kirston Winters, Robert Evans** (Herts Senior County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Val Little** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Beverley Harlow, Julie Goodwin, Lina Porecha** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Andrew Garrett, Mark Beasley, Steve Mayfield** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Adrian Donnelly, Graham Blackburn, Tim Pine, Jim Brown** (Herts Senior County 10M Championships Team)
 - **Monica Brown, Sharon Crowley, Chris Feely, Rosie Canham** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 4x400M Relay)
 - **Paul Pickard, Andrew Hull, Andy Jay, Steve Mayfield** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 4x400M Relay)
- Bronze Medal Winners:
 - **Richie Bate, Andrew Patterson, Danny Hukin, Paul Carter, Pete Smith** (Herts County Senior Championships Team 5k)
 - **Jo Laing, Sam Pretty, Chris McCullough** (Herts County Senior Championships Team 5k)
 - **Pauline Dimmock** (Herts County Vets Championships Individual 5k)
 - **Jo Laing, Chris Feely, Chris McCullough** (Herts County Vets Championships Team 5k)
 - **Roger Biggs** (Herts County Vets Marathon Championships Individual)
 - **Kerry James, Beverley Harlow, Sharon Crowley** (Herts County Vets 10M Championships Team)
 - **Tony Osborne** (Herts County Vets Cross-Country Championships Individual)
 - **Liam Herbert** (Herts County Senior Track & Field Championships 1500M)
 - **Paul Holgate** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 1500M)
 - **Andy Jay** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 5K)
 - **Paul Holgate** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 5K)

- **Steve Mayfield** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 400M)
 - **Paul Pickard** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 800M)
 - **Iris Hornsey** (Herts County Vets Track & Field Championships 200M)
 - **Alison Wood** (Herts Senior County 5k Championships Individual)
 - **Lucy Crisp, Lorraine Thomas, Lina Porecha** (Herts Senior County 5k Championships Team)
 - **Tracy Pez** (Herts Vets County 5k Championships Individual)
 - **Roger Biggs** (Herts Vets County 5k Championships Individual)
 - **Alison Wood, Tracy Pez, Christine McCullough** (Herts Vets County 5k Championships Team)
 - **Paul Carter** (Herts Senior County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Kieran Feetham, Dyfed Thompson-Smith, Matt Gatherar, Simon Harris** (Herts Senior County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Mark Goodwin** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Individual)
 - **Sally Beasley, Christine McCullough, Lisa Jerrom** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Team)
 - **Andrew Hull, Tony Argyrou, Mark Goodwin** (Herts Vets County 5M Championships Team)
- And I should also mention the following outstanding achievements:
 - **Alison Wood** ó who won the overall Female Vets Prize in the 5K Series
 - **Simon Jackson** ó who was 3rd in the overall 5K Series
 - **Jo Laing & Dave Bowker** ó who won their respective age categories in the Midweek League
 - **Roger Biggs** ó who was second in his age category in the Midweek league
 - **Tracy Pez** ó who came 3rd overall in her MWL age category
 - **Jo Laing, Tracy Pez, Kerry James** ó who were the second Vet Female team in the Midweek League
 - **Monica Brown** ó who won the 100M, 200M and High Jump at the EVAC Track & Field Finals
 - **Iris Hornsey & Chas Avis** ó who represented the Eastern Vets in the British Masters Inter-Area Track & Field Competition.

All of the success detailed above, both for the Club as a whole and for individuals within the Club, comes with a lot of hard work from a lot of people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outstanding coaching team for their dedication, support and sheer hard work throughout 2010. And, in addition, I must thank the Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the Club continues to run smoothly. We all owe all of them a debt of gratitude and I would ask all Members to show their support by re-electing those Committee Members who are standing for re-election.

This year, there are 4 Committee Members standing down. They are:

É Joan Ridger	É Sue Leigh
É Tracy Pez	É Marie Colucci

Thank you in particular to them for their contributions in 2010. I am happy to say that Tracy will continue as our Webmaster where she does such an excellent job.

Finally, this is my last report as Chairman after 3 years of service which have been, at times, challenging, exasperating, frustrating, and plain hard work. Most of all though, those 3 years have been exciting, rewarding, fulfilling and plain good fun. It has been a great honour and an enormous pride to serve as your Chairman and to watch the Club go from success to success. Fairlands Valley Spartans is truly the UK's Best Running Club.

Thank you.