# **Chairman’s report 2021/2022**

The past year has seen Basingstoke and Mid Hants Athletic Club continue its progress on every front; performance, governance, coaching and facilities development. We are an amateur club seeking to improve its professional standards in all aspects of our activities.

As Acting Chair and Coaching Coordinator, I am privileged to be a member of a highly committed Committee seeking to guide the Club forward. .I should like to thank past Club Chair Paul Sandford for his service. Jody Walker-Barrett also stood down as Club Welfare Officer whilst Caroline Wegg relinquished her position as Honorary Treasurer after many years of service.

We have revised our purpose, vision and values statement, ensuring that ‘safety’ and ‘enjoyment’ are at the core of how we move forward as an organisation.

We have appointed our first Health & Safety Officer, pending approval at the AGM. The rigours of working under COVID lockdowns emphasised the need for us to have a single person taking the lead on these matters. This role includes looking at how we can better ensure that issues of development through puberty are a central part of our coaching of young people.

The past year has seen the Club enjoy its first full track and cross country seasons since 2019. As members will note from other reports, our Club performances continue to improve, markedly so in the case of senior ladies’ endurance. That said, we will continue to strive for representation across all disciplines, especially those where we are relatively weak.

In that regard, we continue to seek people to help with coaching. We have 5 new helpers, with one of last year’s recruits already on the way to achieving their Athletics Coach qualification. Four others have reached the Coaching Assistant stage. Felicity Edwards will speak about our need for volunteers at the AGM.

Our aim is to be inclusive as a community organisation with a broad base of new athletes learning the challenges and delights of preparing for, and participating in competition. We are fortunate in having highly skilled and experienced coaches ensuring that our most talented athletes are supported as they strive to reach the highest echelons of the sport.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the fantastic work of Tim Fowler and his team who are again promoting the Hampshire Hoppit trail marathon and half marathon. The ‘Hoppit’ is one of the highest rated races of its kind the in the country. We’re proud to be associated with their efforts and really appreciate the fund raising work they have done over the years.

Felicity will also talk about the exciting opportunities and challenges arising from the redevelopment of the track from April onwards. Coaches are currently considering their options for training sessions whilst the track is closed.

My thanks to all our volunteer coaches, team managers, officials and post holders. The Club would not exist without them. Thanks, too, to my colleagues on the Committee; it can be hard work but so worth it!

Finally, we are still looking for a new Chairperson. I do not wish to be ‘acting’ a moment longer than necessary!

Leigh Henderson

Acting Chair