

## Presidents Report 2018

I am pleased to have presided over another successful year for the club where our membership of 144 have competed with distinction at home and abroad. Our hard working committee have again ensured that the club affairs have run smoothly and again delivered 5 quality events which were enjoyed by competitors far and wide.

Our Boxing Day Turkey Trot races again attracted a large field and the new route for the 10K seemed popular with the competitors. Alastair should be congratulated for his work as Race Director for a number of years and we wish him well in his retirement from that post.

Despite concerns due to lack of entries, a late surge ensured the Duathlon went ahead smoothly under the guidance of Grant and Andy.

Lyndsey again delivered excellently organised Spring and Autumn Aquathons with record numbers taking part.

There was a disappointing response to the introduction of an Aquathon at the pond and resulted in the event being incorporated into the triathlon at the same venue. In its second year it was again an excellent event with the weather gods on our side once again.

Our members had a busy season competing in a vast array of multisport events over varying distances but it was in triathlon where the major successes took place.

David Auchie continued to pick up age group prizes and GB qualification, taking silver at the National Sprints at Monikie but the highlight of his season was a superb bronze medal at the European Championships at Strathclyde Park which he followed up with bronze at the National Standard Championships at Knockburn Loch.

Lorna Todd recovered from an injury plagued 2017 to impress in a competitive age group and ended the season holding National Sprint, Standard and Aquathon titles plus overall wins at Bute and Irvine and a top ten finish in the Europeans at Strathclyde Park.

Our own Peter Pan Grant Young continued to perform at the highest level, a podium place in his age group at Nottingham earned a place at the Europeans at Strathclyde Park where he finished with a top ten placing. A challenging double at the European Multisport Championships in Ibiza saw him take 4<sup>th</sup> in the tri cross event before a superb performance in the Aquabike earned him gold in his age group. The secret elixir is obviously working – wonder what it could be?????????

Lyndsey Blair clocked up the miles, competing regularly down south and abroad where she represented GB in Aquathon in Denmark and Ibiza as did Alastair Stewart in the Duathlon discipline finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively. Daughter Mandy, benefitting from a move to warmer climes finished an excellent 6<sup>th</sup> in Ibiza, ensuring qualification for next year finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> GB.

There were also GB representative honours at the Europeans at Strathclyde Park for Alastair, Lorna Sloan, Emma Lunan and Andy Rennie.

It was good to see newer members dip their toes in the water and Alice Vernon earned a couple of podium places in novice events while young Abi Middleton showed great promise in both running and triathlon races.

Several members favoured the longer distances as did Marc Auchie who built through the season with a number of 70.3 races before completing Ironman Vichy in August while Gavin Kelly completed his second ironman event over the tough Wales circuit. In the extreme world, Roddy Dunn and Ian Macalindon endured, and finished the Celtman.

And I must make a special mention of our intrepid loch bagger Stuart Baillie who completed his quest in swimming in every loch in Scotland. This has been truly remarkable feat which earned him celebrity status on TV in a recent Adventure Show programme.

Those are the highlights but there were plenty others as members swam, biked and ran over various distances and terrain, home and away, wind, rain or shine.

I would like to pay tribute to our coaches who diligently man the poolside each Monday and to the two Lorna's who continue to provide quality track sessions each Tuesday at Kilmarnock, and to Alan Blakely who has picked up where Ross left off in continuing to offer quality, fun sessions for the kids.

Thanks go to Davie for developing the time trial programme and for coaxing and cajoling members to get involved. To Kenny for keeping everyone but Tom up to date with what's happening around the club. To Lorna for all her efforts with the membership, race entries and trophy organising, and to Lyndsey for rejuvenating our awards night and stepping in with the race reports. To Andy for looking after our clothing, Tracey for keeping track of our meetings and to Katherine for the noticeboard at Troon.

Finally I would like to thank all of the committee for their hard work and support over the past two and a bit years and making for a smooth trouble free presidency. I hope you will continue to offer your support to my successor in the same way and look forward to working together in keeping the club to the fore in its 30<sup>th</sup> year.