



Havering AC AGM Friday 17th March 2023

The club's 55th AGM at Havering Indoor Bowls Club on Friday saw no changes in the top table as **Claire Brennan** started her fifth year as President, with **Martin Chester** continuing as Chairman, **Tony Benton** as Secretary and **Irene Brennan** as Treasurer.



The evening also saw the club award life membership to eight members. **Robyn Matson** joined the club not long after her tenth birthday in March 1998, so has now chalked up 25 years active service. She has competed for club teams from Under 13 upwards through to seniors both on the track and at cross country throughout that time, most recently when her NHS work commitments allow. You will find her best track performances on our StatPack at 3000m, 5000m, steeplechase & marathon, where she is the second fastest ever club female in just over three hours.

The first of the seven nominated for "exceptional and meritorious service" has had links with the club for well over 30 years and has been a member for the past 20 of them, since she first took over as the club's trophies administrator, adding the role of Waiting List Coordinator in 2014 where you will see her at the track when she meets & greets new members, and also gives a hand at home meetings. **Kay Benton**

The second is a member of the club's Naylor family dynasty who literally grew up at the club and competed as a young athlete. She returned when her children joined the club over 20 years ago, qualifying as a young athletes coach, and acting as a young athletes' team manager. She has served on the club Committee since 2010 and qualified as a field judge in 2012 and now represents us on the Havering Sports Council and is our School Liaison Officer. In fact last month she also won the Havering Sports Council Volunteer of the Year award, so here's to the Double ! **Sue Deane**

The next to be awarded Life membership has been a club member for 15 years and like many volunteers came to the club as a parent, initially at Mayesbrook Park. He carried out the role of young athletes' cross country team manager for ten seasons until 2017, and has been a young athletes coach for most of his time at the club. This is **Derek Earney** who unfortunately can't be here tonight as he's at a suit fitting for his daughter's wedding but we'll get his award to him.



Another receiving Life membership also came to the club as a parent in 2007 and soon joined us and started competing herself for our senior and vets cross country teams. She's also pulled on her spikes a few times to run 3000m on the track and broke the four hour mark for the marathon. In 2012 she took on the Under 13 to Under 20 ladies cross country team manager role, and in 2017 added the senior team, which she has concentrated on managing for the past five years. **Jane Hallam**

The next and youngest member receiving life membership tonight reaches 20 years as a club member next month. She still competes for club teams and is a qualified coach who volunteered at the club for several years but her award recognises her contributions as a field official. Starting her officials journey in 2011 she rapidly

progressed up the levels, and is now our most senior official. As well as officiating at the highest levels, she acts as field referee at our fixtures. Last March she organised a successful officials' training day which attracted national attention and this event is being repeated this Sunday, and expanded to include track events, with the support of Essex County AA. **Rachel Kerr**



The penultimate volunteer receiving life membership tonight is another member of a club family dynasty with long links to the club – the Gahagan family. Another former young athlete she returned to the club 20 years ago when her son joined and later qualified as a coach which is her main role. She has served on the club committee and successfully organised the Havering Borough team competing at the London Mini Marathon for several years. **Claire Richards**

Finally, we recognise a volunteer who has been team managing for almost 20 years, taking on the Senior & U20 Men's cross country team manager role in 2004, initially working alongside the late Dave Bland and managing in his own right since 2005. The past few years has seen our men's cross country teams enjoying their most successful results for club senior teams for many years with bumper turn outs which is a reflection of the hard work of the team manager. **Peter Warner**



Pics: Courtesy Kevin White

