



***Wellington Scottish Athletics Club  
Inc.***

**2022 Annual Report and Statement of  
Accounts presented to the 2023 Annual  
General Meeting**

**Office Bearers**

<b>Club Patron</b>	Alan Stevens
<b>President</b>	Michael Wray
<b>Life Members</b>	Michele Allison, Brian Cattermole, Bruce Cowan, Don Dalgliesh, Ken Howell, Steve Hunt, David Lonsdale, Colin Maclachlan, Grant McLean, Melissa Moon, Bob Stephens, Alan Stevens, Todd Stevens, Glen Wallis
<b>Management Committee</b>	Ben Bielski, Marshall Clark, Lucy Fauth, Malcolm Kerr , Scott Ryland, Alice Sowry, Hayden Smith, Glen Wallis, Lindsay Young
<b>Special Role Officers</b>	Andy Ford, Simon Keller, Iain Shaw, Sharon Wray

# *Annual Report for 2022*

## **President's Report**

The 2022 Management Committee had a slightly different flavour this year. In addition to the formal MC positions, we had four special roles whose office holders were invited to participate in meetings.

The 2022 Management Committee consisted of: Ben Bielski, Marshall Clark, Lucy Fauth, Malcolm Kerr, Scott Ryland, Alice Sowry, Hayden Smith, Glen Wallis, Lindsay Young and the additional roles were provided by Andy Ford, Simon Keller, Iain Shaw, Sharon Wray.

A number of the Management Committee are retiring this year after providing years of service. Past President Glen Wallis is stepping down after over a decade on the committee, Scott Ryland after eight years, Treasurer Marshall Clark after seven years and Sharon Wray also after seven years. Ben Bielski and Lucy Fauth will be heading overseas in the coming year; as I write I do not know whether they will be stepping down or staying on until their departure.

I am also retiring from the role of President after six years in the role, after having served two non-contiguous years on the committee before that. I've had various roles for Scottish over the years – handicapper, pack run coordinator, On the Run editor, masters men's captain, membership registrar, on-line club shop creator, clubnet admin, J-team manager etc – but the Presidency has probably been the most satisfying.

I think we've achieved a lot in that time both on and off the racecourse. We've only missed winning Top Club once in that period, although losing on countback tiebreaker was a cruel way for us to miss out on a 100% record.

At the start of those six years, our membership count was at its lowest since 2001 and had been steadily falling year-on-year from 2013. We close the current season with our second highest membership count for 10 years; only the weird Covid-bump year of 2020 was higher. Our adult female membership is now the highest it has ever been, surpassing the previous best from 2011. This is particularly pleasing given we started my term with the lowest number of adult females since 2003.

We've been proactive in trying to influence Athletics New Zealand and this has been successful. The two most significant changes we are responsible for were:

- the introduction of the W50+ race grade across all National Championships so the older masters women were given the same rights as the men.
- Athletics NZ introducing rolling 12 month memberships. This last took several years of lobbying and talking to other clubs to test whether we were alone in seeing this as a benefit to our sport.

We recognised that relations between Wellington clubs were not always healthy; there were a few fires to put out when clashes occurred. We took the opportunity to memorialise Bernie Portenski and convert one of our club handicap races into a season-closing interclub handicap race with the social interaction between clubs as the focus.

Athletics New Zealand consider us to be the model club for adult athletics; even asking us to deliver a presentation on what we're doing to the last Club Connect Conference.

## **Competition**

Scottish athletes performed well in races across the country and overseas. Hannah Miller, who returned to New Zealand from the US, joined Scottish and had a good season with Marathon, Half Marathon and 10000m titles, amongst others, and representing NZ at the World Cross Country Championships. James Preston has been tearing up 800m tracks, moving up to third place in the all-time NZ rankings.

We successfully defended the Top Club at NZ Road Relays, meaning the last time we failed to win was in 2017. And, more pleasingly for me at least, we once again had more teams at Road Relays than any other club.

Our individual A teams had mixed results, with the SW and O60s coming close to the podium, each finishing fourth. Our MM and O70 were third, MW second, while the M50 and W50 teams each won gold. The SM had a tough day, finishing eighth.

It was the first time in 13 years that I missed Road Relays and particular thanks go to Paul Barwick who stood in as MC at the dinner to continue the six year old tradition of a short, drunken Englishman making bad jokes!

## **Programme**

We need to thank Iain Shaw for being our programme manager this year and also welcome Hinano Andrews into the role.

The Agency Group 10000m was able to serve as the Athletics NZ National 10000m Championships status, as well as NZ Masters Athletics, this year after Covid prevented this in 2021.

## **Current Challenges**

Our two main challenges consist of one that is Scottish-specific and one that all clubs are facing.

Simon Keller has been doing some excellent work on dealing with the challenge of our clubroom buildings, leading a working group on the topic. This is a difficult challenge that involves multiple parties: us, our long-time tenants the Dojo and the Council. This is an emotive issue for some members who feel that emotional attachment to the building. The building is not helped by its positioning against the bank, the downstairs areas suffering from mould and dampness as a result. The working group will continue to work on the options before making any recommendations.

Our other main challenge is one many clubs are facing and that is the clash between the demand for Saturday mornings versus the demand for Saturday afternoons. We are not alone in finding a significant proportion of members, especially those with family commitments, prefer completing their training on Saturday mornings, while those who have been with a club for many years are still attached to the tradition of Saturday afternoons.

## Peter Tearle Bequest

The generous bequest we received from Peter Tearle has been a different kind of challenge. It's a nice challenge to have but remains a tricky one to get right. Rather than subsume the bequest into the general funds, which are already in a healthy state, we decided to set these funds aside from the general club funds and allow members to apply for grants to be provided from these funds.

## Financial Position

Marshall will present the Treasurer's report.

## 5km Series

The 5km Series was able to re-start after an extended hibernation. Originally put on hold by Covid, we suffered a further delay to getting things going when Daryl announced his retirement. Daryl had helped us grow the quality of the event such that we didn't want to rush things back into action with a sub-standard offering.

Hayden Smith has done a great job in getting the event back on for the second half of the summer season. This was a lot of work, negotiating arrangements with a new event management company.

## Volunteers

The key to Scottish's on-going success is the support all members give to keeping it running and the atmosphere they generate. Thanks to the following people. I'm sure this list is not exhaustive and I apologise to those whom I have omitted:

- Time keepers and recorders - John Turner, John Hines, and Peter Baillie
- Section captains – Bert Prendegast, Emma Sturmfels, Hinano Andrews, Emily Solsberg, Andrew Wharton, James Turner, Paul Rodway, Tricia Sloan
- J Team co-ordinator – Michael Wray & Sharon Wray
- Walkers Coordinator – Sean Lake
- Programme manager – Iain Shaw
- Database and registrations - Michael Wray
- Road relays trip coordinator –Alistair Collow, John Gardiner
- Website and social media - Amanda Broughton, Chandima Kulathilake, Stephen Day, Dani Stevens
- Handicapper – James Turner
- 3 Peaks – Andy Ford
- Track and Field - Andy Ford, Marshall Clark
- Coaches – Jamie White, Valentino Luna Hernandez, Don Dalglish, Matt Dravitzki, Rees Buck, Todd Stevens, Vaile Mexted, Jonathon Harper, Chris Hare, Anne Hare, Rowan Hooper, Rohan Biggs, Jamie White, Michael Wray, Amanda Broughton, Paul Barwick, Chandima Kulathilake and others.
- Uniforms – Heather Walker
- Weekly Newsletter & On the Run– Stephen Day, Simon Keller
- Mail clearance - Loretta Desourdy
- The tent – Sharon Wray & Michael Wray

- Clubhouse - Howard Harman
- 5km series – Hayden Smith, Sharon Wray, James Turner and many others.
- Pacers (5km, Round the Bays, Wellington Marathon events) – so many!
- Wellington Centre –Todd Stevens, Alan Stevens, Don Dalgliesh, Rees Buck, Bev Hodge, Peter Baillie, Marshall Clark, Michael Wray. Andrew Wharton
- Athletics NZ - Peter Maunder

And to everyone who helped out in some way during the year.

## **Membership**

The membership continues the overall upward trend that we've been on since the 2016/17 season. The majority of those members who did not renew did so because they were taking advantage of the re-opening of international borders. Many paid the club warm tribute as they left, describing us as a warm, welcoming and friendly club.

Our masters women section bounced back from last year's dip and, as previously mentioned, the club now has its highest ever adult female membership.

Sharon and I took over the J-team section and were rewarded with an increase of 15 members up to 26.

Despite the generally positive state, the W15-19 age group remains a problem. This has always been a difficult group for us to hold on to and we've only ever hit double digits in the 2007 to 2012 years. ANZ's membership stats show this is a national trend, where the 7-14 age group goes from being roughly evenly split between boys and girls to a skewed 15-19 age group and then to a massively skewed adult split where the men roughly outnumber the women by 2:1.

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
SM (to 39)	54	65	85	65	60	50	45
M40+	80	84	80	76	74	74	81
MU20			1	2	7	2	5
MU18	10	5	8	6	7	4	4
B15	4	1	6	5	4	4	4
B13	3		5	3	6	9	4
B11 & below	7	5	8	4	3	7	13
SW	42	45	35	35	30	32	18
W35+	51	37	54	45	36	44	39
WU20		3	3	1	3	3	2
WU18	1		1	1		1	3
G15				1	1		1
G13			1	5	5	5	2
G11 & below	11	5	6	3	5	7	8
<b>Sub</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>229</b>
Associates	3	2	5	3	2	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>233</b>
	+14	-46	+43	+12	-2	+12	-16
<b>Male</b>							
Adult	134	149	165	141	134	124	126
Mid-Late Teen	10	5	9	8	14	6	9
Kids	14	6	19	12	13	20	21
<b>Sub</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Female</b>							
Adult	93	82	89	80	66	76	57
Mid-Late Teen	1	3	4	2	3	4	5
Kids	11	5	7	9	11	12	11
<b>Sub</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>73</b>
	39.5%	35.7%	33.6%	35.7%	32.9%	37.6%	31.3%
	3.8%	2.2%	2.1%	2.8%	4.6%	6.2%	0.4%

## 2023 Subscriptions

The levies for Athletics NZ are unchanged and Athletics Wellington have gone up a little. The Management Committee have decided to keep our base subscriptions unchanged at:

- Seniors \$185
- Non-racing \$110
- Under 20 \$85
- Under 7 \$42.50
- Associates \$50
- Join a friend \$15 discount for new member  
plus referrer gets a \$15 rebate per joiner
- Student/Unwaged \$50 discount/rebate on request with Student ID

We were able to re-start the Round the Bays recruitment drive, offering a \$20 early bird discount. Marshall has compiled the following summary of the response to the survey question.

Count of My name is: (firstname lastname)	Column			
Row Labels	Female	Male	(blank)	Grand Total
I am a current member of Wellington Scottish	45	48		93
I am a former member of Wellington Scottish	1	1		2
I have not recently (or ever) been a member of an athletics club	4	9		13
I have recently been a member of another athletics club	1	2		3
(blank)			6	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>117</b>

## Murray Gowans

We were saddened by the passing of Murray Gowans, a long time member who joined the club in 1961 and who contributed greatly to Scottish through various roles in the following decades.

## Final Words

I feel conflicted in stepping down. I will miss being the figurehead of Scottish and working with the Management Committee. It is important to change to prevent the club and its servants from going stale. The blood in my veins is yellow and red but six years is at the upper limit of how long a President should serve and I have every confidence that my successor will be a success. The club's first female President is statistically overdue and I will remain on-hand to provide any assistance or advice Lindsay may require while at the same time being distant enough so the new Management Committee can take the club forward in their own style without being fettered by the past.