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**Chair’s Report 2022 / 2023**

**Welcome to another AGM and Awards Evening – the Beetroot way!**

Andy and Marion have been co-chairs for two years now. Marion is standing down after five years as chair and co-chair but hopes to remain on the committee as a general member. Andy is happy to be re-elected as co-chair.

So, another year and the club continues to change and develop while retaining its identity: friendly, competitive and open to all.

We want to focus on the future in this report – where will the club be in five years’ time, in ten, in twenty? We all need to plan for that.

First of all, our Track Project is ongoing. There was disappointment that no provision was made for a track in the MSDC plans for the new Outdoor Sports Centre in Burgess Hill. Nevertheless, working with Burgess Hill Runners, we aim to look at alternatives.

Although Burgess Hill Girls is no longer collaborating in our original plan to build a track enclosing a hockey pitch, Burgess Hill Academy may still be interested in developing Compact Athletics Facilities on their site. This is being followed up by the chair at BHR and Mike Bale is drawing up some draft plans. Marion is looking into the group becoming a legal entity to enable flexibility in the future. It is important for both clubs to continue raising funds and to be able to make a contribution.

We want to provide suitable athletics training facilities, particularly for juniors, and a safe space for seniors to run too. We are supported by Mims Davies, our MP and HHH member, who is keen to see different sports developed in the area, in addition to the well-established football, cricket and rugby.

Let’s look forward to another outing of the Wakehurst Willow in July and the Walstead Five in October. The club again hosted a Sussex Athletics League Event last November and helped to stage a Sussex Schools Inter Counties Fixture in January, both at Ardingly Show ground. The events went very well and have further established the club’s credentials for excellent organisation, particularly in course set-up and the delivery of accurate, timely results. Look out for a special event in early 2024!

There is still a need for more coaches in all areas of the club. It would be rewarding too to provide something for younger primary school children using EA’s Funetics. That is for the future. The club is so grateful to Helen, Abi and the crew for continuing to do great work with the juniors, after Linda left in the Autumn. Thank you.

It would be good to see the club featuring more in Sussex events. Many of you do take part and wear the beetroot vest, but we haven’t yet returned to pre Covid levels in terms of participation.

In April we move back together to Whitemans Green when it will be fantastic to be doing what we all love best: running, jumping, throwing and generally having fun!

Thank you all!

Andy Hind and Marion Hemsworth

Co-Chairs HHH

April 2023

PS Marion would like to thank everyone who has helped her in her role as club chair. Your support and generosity has been much appreciated.

And Andy, you have been great to work with!