

As you are probably aware, last season the committee reviewed M & M club athletes that are training with the club and in particular which athletes had or hadn't competed. We also reviewed athletes that had paid their membership, but had not trained *or* competed.

As with any other athletics club, we exist to ***partake in athletics*** and club members are therefore expected to participate in competition at some stage. This is important not only for the club to survive, as a club, in leagues etc, but also for athletes to be able to monitor their own progress and to work towards goals. It is also very important for you as coaches, spending a lot of your time working with athletes, to know that your efforts are rewarded and that you are helping your athletes to move in a forward direction. Every athlete in the club has the opportunity to compete. There are very few occasions when all team places are full and even then there are non-scoring events and open meetings to help towards goals and judge progress.

It is appreciated that some higher-achieving athletes will be busy with individual championships, county events, national events etc. It is also accepted that injuries can limit some athlete's involvement in competition. There are some athletes, however, that do not come under either of the above categories and still haven't competed for the club over a full season. It is difficult to ascertain why this would be the case, apart from them using the training facilities to maintain/enhance a level of fitness.

To provide fairness to competing athletes and as the club currently has a shortage of coaches and a waiting list, this position will be monitored again in the coming season. You, as coaches, are of course, in the best position to assess your training group and you should know exactly what the situation is in relation to all your athletes. We are also sure that you will want to ensure full participation from your athletes wherever possible.

To help with this matter, it is also important for you to ensure that all your athletes complete the section on their new member/renewal form which requires their current coach to be inserted. Where applicable, athletes, particularly younger athletes, should have a nominated coach within the system. Currently some athletes do not have a nominated coach on the club's database at all and others appear to be out of date. It may also be useful to get your athletes to complete coach details on the Power of Ten database, although completing the club membership details is our main priority.

It should be noted that to deter athletes from being 'training only' athletes, the club has for some time now had an enhanced 'training only' membership fee and this will be increased significantly in 2018.

Finally, coaches and athletes should be aware that Medway Park is booked by the club for sole use for three sessions per week and therefore should not be used at these times by non-club members. Members of other clubs using our training facilities and equipment should be training with a nominated coach and will be expected to pay towards club sole-use track hire by completing the membership form and paying the "Use of Facilities" fee. This currently equates to £4 per week (for an average of 50 weeks use). This is less than Medway Park would charge for a *single* session per week. Please note that members of FANS are not eligible to use the facilities when hired by the club on a sole-use basis unless they come under the above 'Use of facilities' membership procedure.