

Magnolia Road Runners

Chairman's Report 2016

It has been a privilege to have served as Magnolia's chairman during this, the 35th year of our club's existence. Our club has a rich history of achievements and values which we all cherish. The examples and benchmarks set by previous chairmen and their committees since 1981 has set high standards which are not always easy to improve on let alone match them. I am of the humble opinion that the young committee that assisted me during the past year went a long way to uphold everything that members of this club, past and present, held so dearly through the past 35 years.

I would therefore like to thank each and every member of my committee for their loyalty, dedication and initiatives during the past year. A special word of appreciation to Melinda Smal, Haffie Mahomed and Magda Grobler, who in terms of their portfolios walked the proverbial extra mile with their persistent presence at the club house on Tuesdays and sometimes over weekends to attend to the needs of our club members.

The following events and initiatives continued successfully during the past 12 months:

- Our Christmas Charity run with The Lemon Tree as beneficiary
- The Lawley Street lights social walk
- The McCarthy Toyota Race
- The Magnolia Long Run
- The Chairman's Run and Captain's Braai a week before Comrades
- Our Comrades club tent at Kingsmead Stadium
- Our Comrades water hole on the route near Gillets
- Comrades Aches & Pains
- The Spring Run - with a new face
- Our continued presence at local and other races through our club tents
- Our Sunday club runs
- Our monthly social and braai
- Our frequent newsletter

The following members contributed on a grand scale to the success of these events and initiatives - Janeen de Klerk, Hank Bezuidenhout and his race committee, Glen Frost, Dave Wallace, Herbert Zemann, Tinus & Marinda Marais, Ronald Lagerwall, Freddie du Plessis, Julie Niemand, Dirk Olivier, Dewald Muller & Melinda Smal.

The following new or revised initiatives were introduced during the past 12 months:

- A formal arrangement with Phobians to join them on an official basis at their weekly time trial;

- Introducing non-committee members who contributes beyond the ordinary call of duty towards the club's activities through the nomination of a Magnolian of the month;
- A comprehensive sponsored goodie bag for Comrades participants;
- A semi club-sponsored, high quality Magnolia branded long sleeve shirt for Comrades participants;
- A brand new website with trendy features;
- A notice board in the club house displaying activity details.

My sincere appreciation to the following members for the role they played in launching these initiatives: Rudolf van Wyk, Melinda Smal, Dieter Gloeck, Sare Pienaar, Naomi Wilkinson, Stephen Vienings, Noel Young and Carmen Muller.

Our financial position was sound during the past year and we reported a healthy profit. It is our intention to pass this benefit on to our members by keeping the subscriptions for 2017 unchanged. I would like to thank Janeen de Klerk, Retha Maré and Chris Greyling for their contributions and efforts in this regard.

We were reminded of our own mortal vulnerability through the untimely passing of Leatitia Spammer, a former member and Chris Hancke, a serving member during the cause of the year. Our hearts and thoughts go out to their next of kin. May their legacy live on with those who knew them well.

Congratulations to everybody who will be rewarded in some form or other for their achievements through the year and years - enjoy the victory and achievement but remember the now famous quote of the great Emil Zatopek: "Great is the victory, but the friendship of all is greater."

It is my sincere hope and wish that every member of our club will enjoy a blessed and joyful Festive Season with family and friends in 2016. If you are travelling by road kindly take all precautions to do so safely and return safely.

I trust to see you all back at the club we hold so dearly, in January 2017.

Charl Crouse

12 November 2016