

Magnolia Road Runners

Chairman's Report 2019

It has once again been a privilege to serve as Magnolia's chairman during this, the 38th year of our club's existence. Every year offers its own challenges to the serving committee to ensure that the club's values and traditions are upheld and improved in the changing environment of modern day road running and walking.

I would like to thank my entire committee for their dedication and selfless efforts during the year to ensure that all our members could enjoy the sport we all hold so dearly.

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

- Our Christmas Charity run with The Lemon Tree as beneficiary
- The Intercare Classic Road Race
- The Magnolia Long Run
- Our Comrades Goodie Bags & T-shirts
- The Chairman's Run and Captain's Braai a week before Comrades
- Our Comrades club tent at Scottsville Race Course in Pietermaritzburg
- Our Comrades water hole on the route at Camperdown
- Comrades Aches & Pains
- The Spring Run
- Our continued presence at local and other races through our club tents
- Our Sunday club runs
- Our monthly social and braai during summer months
- Our frequent newsletter
- Our notice board in the club house displaying actualities and activities
- Our Wednesday quality training sessions presented by Clint Hunt.

Our race at the beginning of February under the new Sponsorship from Intercare was successfully presented and enjoyed by the running and walking community. There were, however, challenges that need to be addressed going forward. Our race experienced lower levels of participation due to the following reasons: Firstly, the change in name and sponsor left many runners searching for the old race name and sponsor, notwithstanding numerous efforts to introduce the new brand to the running community. Secondly, most races in Gauteng experienced lower levels of participation due to the poor economic conditions prevailing in our country currently. Thirdly, the introduction of park runs reduced the 5 km fun run at most races substantially; and lastly, the few drops of rain that fell between 4h00 and 5h00 on the morning of the race reduced our 10 km entries taken on race day, significantly. The race director and his committee have taken notice of these and are already hard at work to ensure that the matters under our control are appropriately addressed to ensure increased numbers at our race in 2020.

I would like to call upon all our members to take ownership of our race in which ever way you feel fit to do so. A successful Intercare Race with improved participation numbers is imperative to strengthen our club's finances going forward.

Our financial position came under pressure mainly due to the low turnout at our race. The committee therefore had to cut back on some of our longstanding projects and maintenance matters at the clubhouse. The shortfall as reflected in our financial statements were financed by historical reserves for which we are grateful. This is however not sustainable over the long term and we are looking forward to reversing this situation in 2020 already. It is our intention to increase subscriptions for the 2020 year by an inflation related percentage, depending on the increase of ASA licenses for the 2020 year, which has not yet been announced. I would like to thank Chris Greyling, our honorary auditor, and his staff for their contributions and efforts in preparing our audited financial statements on a pro bono basis.

We learned with sadness of the following former Magnolia Members who passed away during the year:

- Marijke Kostelijk – a walker that held membership up to 2018
- Tommy Els – a longstanding member for many years
- Dirk Claassen – a Comrades Green number holder that kept on marshalling at our race well past his running days

Our deepest sympathy to their families and close friends. May their souls rest in peace.

Congratulations to everybody who will be rewarded in some form or other for their achievements during the year tonight. You have all worked hard to achieve your goals and deserve this award.

I wish every member of our club a blessed and joyful Festive Season in 2019 with family and friends. If you intend to travel, do so safely and return safely, too.

May we all meet again in 2020 with new goals and renewed energy to reach greater heights.

Charl Crouse

16 November 2019