

The Association of Running Clubs (ARC) celebrates its 10th Anniversary

When ABAC was formed in 2006 it had 386 member clubs of which around 300 were road and cross country clubs. ABAC set up several working teams to look at various aspects of the sport. The Road and Cross Country team soon identified the need to protect clubs from a trend which indicated that the UKA Ltd was planning to hijack this section of the sport by taking control of road and country race licensing fees. Previously these and non club athlete race fees were the main income source for the 3 Territorial Associations.

ARC was incorporated in 2007 and has grown at a steady pace since. Its main contributions to aiding member clubs have been,

- Issuing race permits at prices less than UKA's.
- Providing a superior insurance scheme with fewer constraints than UKA's.

The main benefit is that UKA has been unable to increase fees on an annual basis. Indeed UKA has had to reduce permit costs to remain competitive with ARC. ARC helps member clubs and indirectly has helped all road and country clubs by ensuring UKA have had to cap their charges.

It is an indication of ARC's growing influence that two years ago UKA introduced a rule whereby Power of 10 were not permitted to record the results and performances of individuals in ARC permitted races. ARC has overcome this by having all its measured course road race results and individual performances reported on the *topsinathletics* web site.

http://www.topsinathletics.info/default.asp?page=league_page&id=51&period=2017

Now in its 10th year ARC can be proud of its achievements. At the moment it has 313 member clubs and organisations. The clubs have a membership of 28728 individuals and ARC is on course to issue over 500 race permits in this year. Membership continues to grow. The ongoing reduction of Government and Lottery Grants to NGB's will inevitably result in further attempts by UKA and England Athletics to increase affiliation and race fees.

ARC will surely benefit further from increasing membership in the years ahead.

***The grass root clubs of our sport are indebted to the small band
of volunteers who created and run ARC***
