

At the beginning of this year, the committee identified a number of priorities which pointed towards the accessibility of our club, and in response we created the new position of “Outreach Officer”. This position grew from our desire to increase equality and diversity within our sport and increase accessibility to running. However, there is no question that there is much more to be done to promote this within our club.

We have a lot of learning to do. Like many of us as individuals, the committee were firm in the belief that we were an inclusive club. This may well be so, but we have begun to question whether inclusive is enough if we are not equally accessible to all individuals, regardless of race, religion, gender, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation. Achieving a status of being both inclusive AND equally accessible is no straight forward task – we know that inequalities exist in our sport, and we want to ensure that as a club we are actively working towards reducing these inequalities.

As Eilish McColgan put in a recent Instagram post “On the starting line, everyone is equal. But before and after this, it isn’t always the case in everyday life”. The committee want this to change, and we want our club to be part of this change. We are far from experts, but we are committed to learning, challenging ourselves to look beyond our personal perspectives, and working towards increasing accessibility to running in the North East of Scotland. Discussion around what specific actions we take in doing so are on-going, however we will soon share with the membership the actions that we will commit to taking.

Whilst we all are currently missing the joy of training as a club due to Covid-19, the pause on training provides us with the opportunity to re-evaluate and re-set our priorities, and emerge from these difficult times as a stronger, more united, and better informed running community. For many of us, running will have been a welcome sanctuary from these difficult times, and the more people we can share that joy with, the better.

If any member has any ideas, thoughts, comments, or advice as to how we can progress on these issues, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please contact us via [admin@metroaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:admin@metroaberdeen.co.uk).