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Weston Athletic Club celebrates a year of achievements

On Friday evening, 150 of Weston Athletic Club's members gathered at the Royal Hotel for a night of celebration, marking the many and varied achievements of club members throughout the year. A three course meal was followed by an opening address from the club's chairman Ian Carpenter who then invited guest of honour Mina Holder to speak. In 2015, Mina became the first woman to run the Te Araroa trail - a 2,031 mile route along the length of New Zealand. Mina's inspirational story proved that anything really is possible if you work hard enough.

Ian then handed over to Jim Wotton who presided over the awards ceremony. Jim gave a round-up of the club's year of running before moving onto the awards themselves.

The winners were:

Most improved female runner: Jo Coveney

Most improved male runner: Stuart Diamond

Best 5k handicap runner: Mark Hill

Barry Hotlegs award: won jointly by Stuart Diamond and John Hinchliffe

Ginnie Hotlegs award: Jo Coveney

Female road championship winner: Helen Diamond

Female road championship 2nd: Niki Fulstow

Female road championship 3rd: Gerry Hope

Female road championship 1st senior: Michelle Fryer

Female road championship 1st over 35: Jo Coveney

Female road championship 1st over 45: Lesley Bowskill

Female road championship 1st over 55: Julie Shergold

Male road championship winner: Kieron Summers

Male road championship 2nd: Steve Kibblewhite

Male road championship 3rd: Richard Brent

Male road championship 1st senior: Chris McMillan

Male road championship 1st over 40: Stuart Diamond

Male road championship 1st over 50: Marc Whiting

Male road championship 1st over 60: John Hinchliffe

Female off-road championship winner: Niki Fulstow

Female off-road championship 2nd: Helen Diamond

Female off-road championship 3rd: Julia Withers

Female off-road championship 1st senior: Michelle Fryer

Female off-road championship 1st over 35: Jo Coveney

Female off-road championship 1st over 45: Sian Roberts

Female off-road championship 1st over 55: Julie Shergold

Male off-road championship winner: Paul Snelling

Male off-road championship 2nd: Matt Wheeler

Male off-road championship 3rd: John Hinchliffe

Male off-road championship 1st senior: Chris McMillan

Male off-road championship 1st over 40: Stuart Diamond
Male off-road championship 1st over 50: Pete Bartlett
Male off-road championship 1st over 60: Jim Wotton
Female championship overall winner: Niki Fulstow
Male championship overall winner: Kieron Summers
Head coach female performance award: Sara Butcher
Head coach male performance award: Chris McMillan
2016 achievement award: Paul Snelling
Female triathlon championship winner: Jules Pflaum
Male triathlon championship winner: Nick Cook
Triathlete of the year: Simon Andrews
Female marathon trophy: Phil Richards
Male marathon trophy: Kieron Summers
Hart/Snelling marathon cup: Nick Briffitt
President's club person of the year: Mark Hill
Chairman's award: awarded jointly to Cheryl Valentine and Kevin Hudson
You've been framed award: Darren Abbots

As well as the main awards, 56 club members achieved their fastest times at the Weston five mile prom run in 2016, and each of them was awarded with a commemorative medal.

2016 was a memorable one for the club with racing achievements across the world and at all levels. 2017 has got off to a great start, and Chairman Ian Carpenter wished members all the best for the year ahead, whatever their running goals.

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