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## **Weston Athletic Club celebrates a year of achievements**

Last weekend, 150 of Weston Athletic Club's members gathered at the Winter Gardens 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 Tony Roper to speak, recognising the club's 40th anniversary in 2018. Tony was one of the club's original members and regaled the guests with his tales of running during the club's formative years.

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. It was a notable evening for many members thanks to their efforts throughout the year, with the most awards going to Matt Wheeler, Nia Davies and Kieron Summers.

While most awards recognised sporting achievements throughout the year, two were made to individuals who made outstanding contributions to the club. The club person of the year voted for by club members, was Carol O'Leary, while the Chairman's award was presented to Julia Withers for her tireless work behind the scenes for the club.

The winners included:

Most improved female runner	Julia Withers
Most improved male runner	Dave Groves
Barry Hotlegs	Matt Wheeler
Ginnie Hotlegs	Michelle Fryer
Female road championship	Susan Duncan
Male road championship	Kieron Summers
Female off-road	Nia Davies
WAC best female all-rounder	Nia Davies
Male off-road	Matt Wheeler
WAC best male all-rounder	Matt Wheeler
Male head coach performance award	Matt Wheeler
Female head coach performance award	Maria Davidson
Marathon cup	Kieron Summers
Fastest female marathon	Nia Davies and Susan Duncan

Fastest male marathon	Kieron Summers
President's triathlon bowl	Mark Bowskill
Female triathlon cup	Carol Brent
Triathlete of the year	Margaret Sills
5K handicap trophy	Oliver Andrews
Achievement award	Kieron Summers
Club person of the year	Carol O'Leary
Chairman's award	Julia Withers

As well as the main awards and age category winners, 56 club members achieved their fastest times at the Weston five mile prom run in 2018, and each of them was awarded with a commemorative medal.

2018 was a memorable one for the club with racing achievements across the world and at all levels. 2019 has got off to a great start, and Chairman Ian Carpenter wished members all the best for the year ahead, whatever their running goals.

ENDS

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