



BEDFORD HARRIERS A.C.

Bedford International Athletic Stadium
Barkers Lane, Bedford MK42 9SA
www.bedfordharriers.co.uk

Email: hello@bedfordharriers.co.uk
Telephone: 01234 307013

Minutes Annual General Meeting of Bedford Harriers Athletic Club Wednesday

11TH April 2018, 20.30

Venue - Bedford International Athletic Stadium.

CHAIRMAN INTRODUCTION -

Meeting opened 20.40.

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending your Club's Annual General Meeting.

For those of you who don't know me or recognise me out of running kit I'm Steve Crane, the current Chairperson, other introductions, Zoe Willett, Jacinta Horne, Richard Watson.

There are agendas and the minutes of the last AGM on the chairs, not enough for one each but probably enough for one between two.

The attendance register is doing the rounds, please do print and sign your name so that we can ensure we have a quorum to endorse the validity of this meeting.

The format of the evening is as per the agenda, and as was mentioned in the invitation letter members of the committee will be around after the meeting for informal conversation.

ATTENDEES – Bill Tallentire, David Prior, Lorena Henderson, Lesley Gaunt, Graham Short, Dave Holt, Russell Page, Peter pack, Susan Pack, Angela Gallivan, Mark Taggart, Simon King, Stuart Bullard, Neil Loader, Judy Prior, Peter Fadden, Chris Fadden, Steve Crane, Adam Hills, Lesley Barnes, Tony Barnes, Michelle Fadden, Ian Kingstone, Lynn Short, Yasmin Gooch, Chris Capps, Gill Fullen, Claire Lathall, Carolanne Gibson, Julia Churcher, Rob Upton, Karen Barringer, Rebecca Fleckney, Jen Lovesey, Neil Lovesey, Jonathon Powell, Ian Srudgess, Jenny King, Elaine Fullard, Lynne Greenard, Tony Jones, Steve Gaunt, Sheila Humphries, Zoe Willett, Jacinta Horne, Richard Gallivan, Norma King, Lorraine MacCormack, Iva Barr, Bill Khinda, Brian McCallan, Graham Horned, Karen Robertson, Val Bird, Richard Watson, Linda Watson, Jacky Keenan, Bev Tredget, Stuart Knight, Sally Knight, Alastair Fadden, Kevin Shelton-Smith, Gary Finch, Angie Finch, Ian Joyce, Kevin Willett, Richard Pooley, Amanada Friman, Viv Kilgour, Laurence Folley, Alex Rothwell,

PATRON
W.J. Jordan, Esq.

CHAIR
Steve Crane

VICE CHAIR
Zoë Willett

HON. TREASURER
Richard Watson

VICE PRESIDENTS
Richard Canvin
Barry Whitmore
Rob Burrells

HON. SECRETARY
Zoë Willett

Affiliated to ARC, UKA/EA, Bedfordshire AAA, BTF, SEAA and CTT



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APOLOGIES – Ronnie Singleton Lawley, Peter Lawley, Mourad Ben Taieb, Steve Ball, Anna Folland, Andrew Robertson, Paul Furness, Tony Parello, Sally Johnston, Sally Cartwright, Mark Tinkler, Sarah Fadden, Donna Dean

MINUTES OF LAST AGM (2017) –

It was agreed the minutes to be a true reflection with a majority vote from all present in agreement, Proposed by Chris Fadden and seconded by Ian Sturdgess, therefore passed as accepted.

CHAIRMANS REPORT – Steve Crane

Looking back over previous AGM reports tonight's report is much the same as in years past. I'm pleased to report that the Club continues to thrive in every respect and you will hear positive words from others on the various aspects of club activity.

Many of our members will be aware of the existence of another local association that promotes running and will see this other association as a threat to the existence of Bedford Harriers.

But look at it another way.

Consider what Bedford Harriers has to offer that others perhaps don't,

- Democratic organisation

- Variety of coaching groups to meet all abilities

- Advance publication of planned group schedules

- Qualified coaches and continuous personal development of coaches

- Free entry to cross country races

- Free coached track sessions

- Free circuit/body sculpting sessions

- A free awards night of the highest standard

- Free/subsidised triathlon and swim coaching

- Free/subsidised team entries to a number races

- Free/subsidised social activities

- First class website containing individual runners race details going back several years.

- Standard awards scheme

I'll stop now but I could continue for quite a while.

What are we not good at? Telling others how good we are.

Ultimately individuals will consider their options and decide what's best for them.



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To deliver such a variety of activities as previously mentioned takes a huge number of committed volunteers.

May I take this opportunity to publicly thank each and everyone of the Club's volunteers for their support over the last 12 months. I was tempted to list them all by name but the danger is that,

- a) We would be here a long time
- b) I would forget someone and cause offence

I think this an appropriate time to show our appreciation for all our volunteers, which incidentally, will likely include everybody in this room.

TREASUERS REPORT – Richard Watson

There is an underlying surplus of £109 in the year, after taking into account a provision for the true up required to Fusion for 2017 Track Fees to paid in 2018.

There is an overall surplus of £78,785, and the club remains financially healthy. The potential tax issue is still being processed (the revised Memorandum of Association has been submitted to Companies House). Even with the potential liability of £19,000, that still leaves a surplus of over £59k.

Race revenue is down £10,763 YoY, ignoring the timing impact of the 2016 numbers distorted by £9,556 (Oakley 2017 opening in late 2016), the main reductions are DA5K (lower entrants) £497, and lower income from the half (£734) and the Harriers hosted XC race (£201). All races generated a surplus, and the YoY expenditure on our races were flat YoY. As in previous years the race surpluses continue to fund the clubs activities.

Expenditure on annual club activities, which includes our annual awards, circuits, team racing events, triathlon swimming, social and membership insurance is funded by our race profits given that the cost exceeds subs by £9,714. Team events include, Round Norfolk Relay, EVAC, Squeaky Bone, Fairlands Valley Relays, Greensands Ridge, Triathlon team relays and X Country league and championship races. The subscription increase reflects the decision made at last years AGM to raise the subscriptions to offset the Track pass costs. The triathlon costs include some 2016 invoices for swimming at Trinity arts that were not billed, and therefore paid in 2016. The subscription increase reflects the slightly higher members on average throughout the year.



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The club had equipment costs of £2,305, which again was funded by our races, this includes equipment insurance, a new club printer and a general refresh of our race equipment a necessary to reflect the high quality of all of our races.

Other costs are similar YoY, when taking into account the fact that we did not run the Harpur Trust 5k in 2017, and the club ceased selling running kit in the year. A one off donation towards a defibrillator was made to Great Denham ParkRun.

The decision at last years AGM for the club to part fund the track passes, had a significant impact, with the number of people purchasing track passes at 231 (a 30% YoY increase from 16/17), the number of renewals was at 81%, compared to an average of 67% in previous years.

There are now only a handful of people who train with the club who do not have a ticket and I would ask you all to renew for the year ahead please.

Question raised from the floor if the liability tax will happen or not, if so when – Treasurer replied hope to have resolved by April 2019.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT – Jacinta Horne

At the committee meeting dated 6th March 2018 we had 493 members, which is 16 down on this time last year. Of these 70 are new members and the others renewed from last year. Our membership continues to be stable despite the very slight drop. I feel that our club has grown to a size that suits it activities and surroundings and is reasonably self-regulating.

As always, I would like to thank the welcome members and their buddies for sorting new people out as they walk in the door and all the coaches who put in so much effort to keep the schedules up to date. All of this adds to the professional appearance of the club and encourages new members to become long term members.

I can add that just this evening, whilst running, a new member of the group stated, “I can’t believe how professional the club is and yet still so friendly and welcoming”.



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TEAM MANAGEMENT REPORT – Angie Finch

Here we are again, another year done and looking forward to the next.

I would like to say a very big thank you to Anna Folland who has decided to step down from her role with Team Management. Anna has encouraged the club to enter several Masters events over the years and also started up the EMACs and this has been great fun with athletics and we have found some fast sprinters and walkers in our midst!! Anna has also been a great contributor to the Club Championships races over the years, so a big thank you for all the hours spent in this role.

Also a big thank you to Mark Taggart who is also standing down as his talents are needed elsewhere. Mark has been our voice on the committee and has kept them informed of the teams/your achievements throughout the last few years.

Another thank you to Gary Finch for his continued support, cajoling, motivation and general get out there and run attitude to the Team Events especially the 3 Counties XC and the Stevenage relays.

So onto new ventures. Peter Pack was asked to join us and he will be our new voice on the committee, thank you Peter and we would like someone else to join us. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to find out information on races, help with team spirit, organisation of the teams and assist with the choice of the Club Championship races – never an easy task as there are nearly 500 Harriers to please!

Ronnie has taken on the responsibility of the Counties XC next season, so look out for that next year.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on Team Events then do contact us and we can see what can be done.

Beanie hats next!! These are awarded to any person who runs or does the scoring in the 3 Counties XC in all 5 races or 4 plus 1 other team event. A list was displayed this year so that any discrepancies can be ironed out before tonight. Names were called out for runners to come forward and collect.



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COACHING AND TRAINING REPORT – Jeanette Cheetham

Thank you to all the coaches, swim coaches, running coaches and bike coaches, for another year of dedicated hard work. Setting sessions, producing schedules, turning up for sessions and crowd control.

The coaching side of the club is extremely important and sets us apart from other typed or funning group which seem to be springing up of late. We are also impressed with the number of members who are happy to assist, sometimes running at the back when they are very able to to run at the front.

We have been lucky enough to have affair few runners take up the challenge to coach for the club and they are working there way through their assessed ten sessions and will ten continue to be monitored and mentored. It is not difficult to use out coaching pathway and we would welcome anyone who has been a member for more than two years to consider it and talk to us if you are interested.

We have recently started to think about refreshing our qualifications and hope to run a course here soon.

This year has seen the first Coached2run group and couchtotri taster session. Time will tell how these progress and we can report on these next time.

Please remember that constructive feedback from our group members is always welcome.

RACE MANAGEMENT SECRETERY REPORT- Steve Crane

In the absence of a Race Management Secretary I'm afraid you are going to have to make do with me.

In the calendar year 2017 the Club organised and promoted 4 races;

The first event of the year being the Sharnbrook cross country as the fifth and final race in the three counties 2016-2017 season, in which there were 336 participants.

2nd April 2017 saw the Oakley 20 with a full entry list of 1019 participants.



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The Doug Anderson took place on 26th July with a respectable 340 entrants.

3rd December 2017 saw the 14th running of the Bedford Harriers Half Marathon in Wootton with an entry of 1223. As has been mentioned in previous years this entry level, whilst still respectable, is nevertheless down on levels of just a few years ago. This is almost certainly due to the impact of commercially organised events of a similar nature and around the same date.

As a measure of the esteem in which Bedford Harriers events are held, all three of the Club's road races, Oakley 20, DA5K and the Wootton Half, were used as the Bedfordshire AAA championship races.

Mention has already been made of how important the surpluses produced by the races are to the financial well being of the Club. I know, from personal experience, organising a race is an onerous and time-consuming task, but immensely rewarding.

It does need to be said that in the very early hours of Sunday 18th March 2018, two of our race organising stalwarts were out on the Oakley 20 course; such is the nature of the job and an example of the dedication demonstrated by those individuals. I need say no more on this subject.

Could I ask for Chris Capps, Gary Finch, Kevin Willett and Jerry Pullinger to stand up please.

These guys were our intrepid Race Directors for 2017 and I think now is an appropriate moment to demonstrate our appreciation.

Towards the end of 2017 it became apparent that the model used for the organisation and delivery of Bedford Harriers races had become unsustainable and needed a substantial review.

To this end three Race Management meetings have been held over the last three months. Initially to gauge the enthusiasm for race management within the membership and then subsequently with the objective of establishing 2 separate Race Management Teams to deliver the Half Marathon in December 2018 and Oakley 20 in spring 2019 and a third team to carry out a wide ranging strategic review of the Clubs races.

I must say that at the first meeting on 22nd January there was a huge and very enthusiastic response from our membership, standing room only as I recall.

Pleased to report that from those meetings we have a Team to deliver the Half in December, another team established to deliver Oakley 20 in 2019 and the makings of a team to effect the strategic review.



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These are challenging times for the volunteer organisers of races such as ourselves. There seem to be an increasing number of events for runners & triathletes to choose from, an awful lot of them are commercial events undoubtedly with an eye to the profit element.

Which event to enter is a personal choice.

What I can say is that time and again I hear the comment that races organised by Bedford Harriers or volunteer clubs are better organised and have a pleasanter atmosphere than the commercially organised events. When I ask why the response is usually includes reference to the number of marshals and their vociferous encouragement.

TRI-SUB COMMITTEE REPORT – Gill Fullen

In 2017 triathlon activities within Bedford Harriers underwent a complete re-invention. We formed a new multisport sub-committee with plenty of enthusiastic members keen to push multisport forward within the club.

In December we were privileged to host two days of triathlon training here at the stadium with the professional Trisutto coach Perry Agass. The days proved incredibly popular and attendees left with plenty of new ideas and renewed enthusiasm for training and racing.

Twelve Harriers followed this up by attending an ETE tri training camp in Cyprus with Perry. We all trained hard, learned loads and generally had a fantastic trip.

Back home and the Saturday bike rides have been successfully reinstated as a regular event and attendance has been steadily increasing. Last weekend we had a great group of 12 riders. A less experienced Saturday ride is being held once a month at present, but we hope to increase this as the couch to tri programme gets underway. Many thanks to all ride leaders, these rides would not be possible without your continued support.

Saturday swimming continues to be very popular and huge thanks go to our swim coaches for their dedication and continued enthusiasm which leads them to get out of bed at silly o'clock every Saturday morning to help Harriers with their swim technique, strength and endurance but also and critically with increased confidence.

A new running group has been set up by Kevin Willett, with the support of Sally Johnston and Tony Parello, which concentrates on running for triathlon, using somewhat different training methods to those of the established running groups and taking into consideration the differences in seasonal goals from road running to multisport. As this is aimed at faster runners, the other group offering tri based sessions at a steadier pace is Angie Finch's running group.

The new Bedford Harriers Triathlon and Multisport Facebook page has made multisport activities visible and accessible to the whole club and huge credit to Justin Burrell for all his hard work in setting up and maintaining the site.



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On the Facebook page there are instructions and advice on how to take part in GB teams as well as information on qualification criteria and procedures. Harriers have a great depth of experience in GB teams, which we hope to grow even more. We have a team going out to Ibiza in September for the ETU multisport championships where the club is represented in a variety of disciplines.

We have worked hard to make multisport accessible to all club members and this has been particularly successful this year not only in the launch of the couch to tri programme for newcomers to the sport, but also with more accessibility to swimming and cycling training as well as encouragement for all to take part in triathlon relay events of different distances. Particularly successful has been the uptake for the middle distance club championships at Holkham in July, where as well as a good number of individual entrants, there are currently 5 Harriers relay teams entered. We look forward to a brilliant Harriers weekend away in Norfolk and hope to replicate the success of Wimbleball, where we dominated the podium.

Club championship races will be held over sprint, standard and middle distances as well as at classic duathlon distance.

As a club we are affiliated to BTF as a multisport club, we are registered with the cycling time trial association and we are also registered with Ironman on their Triclub programme. There are 11 Harriers registered for IM Maastricht, so we hope this will give us a good standing in the competition this season.

We are looking into the feasibility of hosting a Bedford Harriers' triathlon in 2019. Consideration is being given to venue, organisation and financial implications. We feel this could be a good platform to promote BH as a multisport club.

Congratulations go to Melissa Burrell and Jason Lee on gaining triathlon coaching qualifications.

We are very lucky to have these two coaches in our club and thanks go to them already for all their work on coaching and putting together the training schedule for the couch to tri programme.

The couch to tri programme aimed at newcomers to triathlon has been launched with a hugely well attended evening at the stadium. Interest in this programme has been so high that there is a danger of having too many people signed up for our coaches to deal with. We do however have help from many experienced athletes, so the coaches are well supported. The programme targets a sprint triathlon at Box End in July, which is also the club sprint distance championships, so should be well attended. After the racing we aim to hold a social event to celebrate the newcomers' successes, which all are very welcome to attend.

To conclude, many thanks go to so many Harriers who have attended tri meetings, given their time and enthusiasm to the club in a variety of ways and generally helped to reinvigorate these activities within the club. We continue to prove that Bedford Harriers are indeed, to quote the European Director of Ironman, "a running club with a serious triathlon problem".



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ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

All nominees were read out to the meeting with the proposer of all nominees from Bill Tallentire and seconder from Simon King. There was a unanimous agreement from all present at the meeting, therefore the following were elected to committee 2018 / 2019.

POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDED BY
CHAIRMAN	Steve Crane	Jacinta Horne	Ian Joyce
VICE CHAIRMAN	Zoe Willett	Paul Stuart	Jeanette Cheetham
SECRETARY	Zoe Willett	Ian Joyce	Paul Stuart
TREASURER	Richard Watson	Zoe Willett	Jacinta Horne
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jacinta Horne	Val Bird	Jenny King
RACE MANAGEMENT	Vacant		
TEAM MANAGEMENT	Peter Pack	Angie Finch	Jacky Keenan
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Val Bird	Bill Tallentire	Jerry Pullinger
MEMBER	Lorena Henderson	Peter Pack	Sue Pack
MEMBER	Gill Fullen	Lorena Henderson	Adam Hills
MEMBER	Ian Sturgess	Michelle Fadden	Angie Finch
MEMBER	Jenny King	Bill Khinda	Bill Tallentire

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

It was proposed to the meeting to keep the annual subscription at £20 (£15 for concessions).

Proposed by Ian Sturdgess and seconded by Chris Fadden with a unanimous vote.

VOLUNTEERS DRAW

The annual volunteers draw was held at this point of the meeting.



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Mark Keens - £100
Alex Rothwell - £100
Bill Tallentire - £100
Martin Leach - £75
Richard Watson - £75
Frank Esaw - £75
Gordon Lland - £50
Karen Robertson - £50
Anna Rust - £50
Justin Burrell - £25
Neil Lovesey - £25
Judy Prior - £25

AOB

There will be a possible club trip to Bamberg in summer 2019 following the good response from members, however to manage this there will need to be a group of volunteers to look at travel arrangements and accomadation.

We have secured an exhibition stand at the river festival however need volunteers for ideas to demonstarte what a running / triathlon club does.

Meeting closed at 22.23 hours.