



**BEDFORD HARRIERS A.C.**

Bedford International Athletic Stadium  
Barkers Lane, Bedford MK42 9SA  
[www.bedfordharriers.co.uk](http://www.bedfordharriers.co.uk)

Email: [hello@bedfordharriers.co.uk](mailto:hello@bedfordharriers.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01234 307013

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Bedford Harriers Athletic Club**  
**Wednesday 19:30 31st March 2021 online, via Zoom**

**CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

Chairman Steve Crane (SC) opened the meeting by welcoming members, introducing himself and explaining briefly how to use Zoom and the Chat facility. This remote AGM effectively covered 2019 and 2020. The meeting was recorded for various purposes.

**ATTENDANCE** – Lesley Barnes, Tony Barnes, Valerie Bird, Chris Capps, Jeanette Cheetham, Cathy Clark, Jutta Crane, Steve Crane, Chris Fadden, Michelle Fadden, Peter Fadden, David Frampton, Gill Fullen, Amanda Friman, Angela Gallivan, Richard Gallivan, Bev Gous, Lorena Henderson, Jacinta Horne, Niki Jones, Noel Jones, Sylvia Jones, Jenny King, Simon King, Sally Knight, Stuart Knight, Eva Kovacs, Richard Lawson, Neil Loader, Jen Lovesey, Neil Lovesey, Elaine Massie, Jackie Popland, Peter Pack, Mike Parks, Richard Pooley, Andrew Robertson, Karen Robertson, Paul Roberts, Vicky Shaw, Ronnie Singleton-Lawley, Jo Smythe, Mark Taggart, Linda Watson, Richard Watson, Hannah Woodrose, Ian Woodrose, Richard Woodward

**APOLOGIES** – Helen Gardner, Maria Mcbeth, Ian Sturdgess

**MINUTES OF LAST AGM (2019)**

Acceptance of the minutes of previous meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – proposed by SC, seconded by Zoe Willett and accepted as an accurate record by a majority vote. Note that it had not been possible to hold an AGM in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Steve Crane (SC)**

The Chairman gave a report covering the year from March 2019 to the present day.

Key points:

Death of Iva Barr in November 2020; a 'local and national star'. SC sought suggestions from members on how best to recognise Iva's contribution to the club and community via email, committee member or other appropriate method of communication.

2019 began with a successful awards evening and had a healthy membership and bank balance. There was a wide range of coaching groups. 2020 opened with another glittering awards evening and many members were able to compete in events prior to first lockdown: a total of 133 events and 851 individual results were recorded in the first 11 weeks of 2020 after which we have benefitted from various virtual events. August 2020 saw the introduction of the Extra Mile Award; a subjective award which can be submitted to Committee by any member. The first two recipients are members of the informal virtual events team. A hard copy of *On the Run* was sent to all members.

**PATRON**  
W.J. Jordan, Esq.

**CHAIR**  
Steve Crane

**VICE CHAIR**  
Chris Capps

**HON. TREASURER**  
Richard Watson

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Richard Canvin  
Barry Whitmore  
Rob Burrells

**HON. SECRETARY**  
Jenny King



SC thanked the production team and contributors. *Up and Running*, a periodical by email, appeared for the first time in 2019. To date nine editions have been produced. SC took the opportunity to thank committee members for their willingness to serve and for their valuable contributions, stating that the minutes do not adequately reflect the great deal of work that goes into meetings. Neil Loader was co-opted in April 2019 and Elaine Massie was co-opted in Sept 2020. Ian Sturdgess resigned in Sept 2020 and has received a small gesture from the club for his service. Gill Fullen and Lorena Henderson did not stand for re-election. SC reminded members that the club relies on volunteers and gave his thanks to all those who have helped.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Watson (RW)**

Key points:

2019: The governance of club was split into two entities, both registered at Companies House. RW thanked SC for his hard work in setting us up as a Community Amateur Sport Club (CASC) and for his work on club accounts. Bedford Harriers Events Ltd generates profits from races and these are passed onto Bedford Harriers Athletics Club. Expenditure in 2019 was £31,378, 37% of which was funded by subs and the remainder from race revenues. The club began its efforts on becoming carbon neutral.

2020: the club incurred a loss of £7,128 due to the impact of Covid-19, with the only income apart from subs being donations from Oakley 20 entrants and Triathlon payments for the 2020 race [deferred]. Despite this loss, the balance stood at £56,559 – only £5,000 less than six years ago. RW said he was confident that the Club's strong financial situation would return when normality resumed.

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Jacinta Horne (JH)**

Key points:

404 members at March 2021, which is 81 fewer than last year. JH said she felt encouraged that many have chosen to renew. The committee is researching direct debit as a payment option, which may come into effect subject to it not incurring additional work.

#### **TEAM MANAGEMENT REPORT – Angie Finch (AF)**

Key points:

Three Counties Cross Country series season finished at beginning of 2020 and AF has beanies ready to be distributed shortly. It has been decided that the series will not go ahead in winter 2021/2 due to difficulty securing schools for venues. Squeaky Bone was rested for 2020 and is planned to go ahead in October 2021. Some other events are expected to be going ahead. Greensands Relay had just opened for entries and at the time of the meeting four of five Harriers teams places had been allocated. Stevenage Relays are expected to be going ahead. AF expressed thanks to Gary Finch and Peter Pack for their work on team management.

#### **COACHING AND TRAINING REPORT – Richard Woodward (RWO)**

Key points:

The impact of the pandemic has been heavy with groups not able to function for much of the year, however RWO reported a positive growth of groups, new coaches, a new and clear training hierarchy and the establishment of new Couch25K and Run/Walk groups. Warm up has a new team of volunteers. Track, circuit and swim coaching continued when possible. RWO gave his thanks to all those who have made these extra



activities possible. Many groups continued to engage with each other via online media in addition to virtual events coordinated by Jenny King. Difficulties in searches for suitable meeting places, Test and Trace, social distancing and negotiating gates were acknowledged. RWo said that group running is planned to resume from Wed 7<sup>th</sup> April but there is uncertainty when the stadium will reopen.

### **RACE MANAGEMENT REPORT- Neil Loader (NL)**

Key points:

The Club held four races in 2019; Oakley 20 took place with 871 participants and the Doug Anderson 5K had 306 finishers. August 2019 saw the inaugural Bedford Triathlon with more than 150 individual and team participants. Bedford Harriers Half Marathon 2019 had only 755 finishers, consistent with recent years, due to other competing events. No club races took place in 2020. Preparations are underway for 2021 Triathlon. NL thanked all Race Directors and all who joined race management teams, thus reducing work for RDs, as well as sharing knowledge of race management issues among a wider base. Jerry Pullinger has stepped down as RD for the DA5K and NL thanked him for his hard work. Beverley Gous has taken on the position. Throughout 2019, the club held extensive reviews of races and NL thanked Steve James for his work on this. The resultant Action Plan is currently paused.

### **MULTISPORT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Gill Fullen (GF)**

Key points:

Annual awards – congratulations to winners:

Club Best Times:

Jackie Popland, Marathon, LV65, 4:32:55

Kirsty Jones, 100 miles, 23:24:27

Sean Crawley, 5k, MV45, 17:04

Kevin Shelton-Smith. 10k, MV60, 38:18

Club Championship Races:

Cross country

1<sup>st</sup> male – Danny Winn

1<sup>st</sup> lady – Gill Fullen

Sprint Duathlon

1<sup>st</sup> male – Bruce Hutchinson

Multisport – only one of our championship events took place. Club had to cancel our own Triathlon. Saturday swimming was cancelled for 2021 Easter Term but it is hoped to resume swimming coaching in the autumn. GF gave her thanks to the swim coaches; Simon Fisher, Noel Jones, Kate Williams, Angie Finch and Kevin Willett and to swim administrator Jenny King. GB qualifications events were cancelled but some have been rescheduled for this year. European Duathlon Championships took place in early March 2020 with Lisa Chapple and Neil Lovesey competing in the sprint distance team and Jon Clark competed in the standard distance event.

The Virtual Short Course Weekend was enjoyed by over 20 Harriers. Mark Nicholson was first male and Susan Evans was first lady and second overall. A new group - Harriers Zwift - was established during lockdown, is popular with its members and is planned to continue. The triathlon running group will recommence as soon as normal training evenings resume. The club triathlon Facebook group has generated some interest from



potential members. Simon King (Triathlon Race Director) is hopeful that the Bedford Triathlon will take place in August 2021 with progress being made on its production; its viability being continually being assessed meanwhile.

### **MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION'S REPORT – Vicky Shaw (VS)**

Key points:

VS became Mental Health Champion in 2018. She used 2019 to establish monthly Run and Revitalise sessions, the latest one ( the ninth) being in March 2020 just before lockdown. Sessions were attended by eight to fourteen people. She reminded members that anything that is shared is treated with the strictest confidence. Some who attend are interested in becoming MHCs themselves. Bedford Harriers is officially recognised by England Athletics as part of their Run and Talk Scheme and as having a registered Mental Health Champion. VS thanked Lawrence Folley and Niki Jones who have helped her to run the sessions. She then shared some ideas to help members regain their fitness and offered her support in the meantime.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following were elected to serve on the Committee for the year 2021-2022 by majority vote: (There were 34 respondents: 32 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.)

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NOMINEE</b>	<b>PROPOSER</b>	<b>SECONDED BY</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Steve Crane	Val Bird	Chris Capps
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>	Chris Capps	Richard Woodward	Jutta Crane
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Jenny King	Jacinta Horne	Vicky Shaw
<b>TREASURER</b>	Richard Watson	Chris Capps	Niki Jones
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	Jacinta Horne	Elaine Massie	Val Bird
<b>RACE MANAGEMENT</b>	Vacant		
<b>TEAM MANAGEMENT</b>	Peter Pack	Jutta Crane	Jenny King
<b>SOCIAL SECRETARY</b>	Val Bird	Richard Watson	Elaine Massie
<b>AWARDS MANAGER</b>	Elaine Massie	Peter Pack	Jacinta Horne
<b>MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION</b>	Vicky Shaw	Steve Crane	Peter Pack
<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	Neil Loader	Jenny King	Richard Woodward
<b>MEMBER</b>	Richard Woodward	Niki Jones	Richard Watson
<b>MEMBER</b>	Niki Jones	Vicky Shaw	Steve Crane



### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

RW proposed that we keep the annual subscription at £30 (£15 for concessions). The motion was seconded by SC and was passed by majority vote. There were 34 respondents: 32 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

### **VOLUNTEERS' DRAW – Richard Watson (RW)**

The annual volunteers draw was done by RW using a random number generator prior to the meeting and was based on 2019 races, with 463 individual instances of volunteering. The winners are:

£100 Carolanne Gibson, Gill Fullen, Renette Woolvaardt

£75 Sue Pack, Helen Gardner, Andrea McGrellis

£50 Amanda Friman, Lisa chapple, Richard Gallivan

£25 Jeremy Sear, Chris Fadden, Andrew Robertson.

### **AOB**

- Charity of the Year – membership had been previously emailed with information about the five nominated charities. 34 members voted and the largest percentage was in favour of Bedford Homeless Partnership, which was therefore adopted as Charity of the Year.
- No further proposed resolutions had been submitted.
- No questions were raised during the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:22.