



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

29TH March 2017, 20.30

Venue - Bedford International Athletic Stadium.

CHAIRMAN INTRODUCTION -

Chairman opened the meeting at 20.30 hours and welcomed the members, thanked them for attending and explained the format of the evening.

There is a published agenda and the meeting will follow that. There are some reports and members are usually invited to ask questions after each report.

On the chairs there are some copies of the agenda, minutes from last year's AGM, the financial report and the proposal for later discussion.

After the meeting Committee members will make themselves available and the membership is invited to discuss issues that concern them that haven't been covered by the meeting.

ATTENDEES – Tony Barnes, Lesley Barnes, Niki Jones, Alex Rothwell, Adam Hills, Chris Fadden, Michelle Fadden, Peter Fadden, Billy Fadden, Alastair Fadden, Ian Sturdgess, Dirk Wolvaardt, Renette Wolvaardt, Simon King, Kate Stephenson, Stephen Ball, Zoe Willett, Kevin Shelton-Smith, Ian Joyce, Karen Barringer, Steve Crane, Noel Jones, Sylvia Jones, Andrew Robertson, Jacinta Horne, Jeanette Cheetham, Peter Pack, Ian Kingstone, Sue Pack, Sheila Humphries, Amanda Firman, Viv Kilgour, Bev Tredget, Jenny King, Jenny Lovesey, Neil Lovesey, James Shea, Carole Watts, Stuart Snelson, Tony Jones, Sally Gurney, Stuart Knight, Mourad Ben-Taieb, Kevin Willett, Mark Taggart, Norma King, Lary Corkrey, Bill Tallentire, Chris Parello, Tony Parello, Linda Watson, Stuart Bullard, Adam Foster, Karen Robertson, Gill Fullen, Julie Loader, Neil Loader, Adrian Quarry, David Prior, Angie Kay, Gary Finch, Graham Horne, Graham Short, Lorena Henderson, Tracey Thompson, Steve Gaunt, Lesley Gaunt, Sally Cartwright, Gary Rudd, Russell Page, David Frampton, Chris Capps, Julie Driver, Richard Gallivan, Bill Kinda.

APOLOGIES – Ronnie SingletonLawley, Dave Holt, Mike Barnett, Sally Johnson, Danielle Wolvaardt, Alison Champion, Angela Gullivan, Mark Tinkler, Diane Wallis, Rob Wallis, Norman Beckwith, Lorraine McCormack, Judy Prior, Val Bird.

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

MINUTES OF LAST AGM (2016) –

It was agreed the minutes to be a true reflection with a majority vote from all present in agreement, therefore passed as accepted.

CHAIRMANS REPORT –

I was elected Chair in March 2012, and every year since it has an honour and privilege to address the membership at the AGM.

I am pleased to report that your Club continues to flourish in every respect.

The finances are sound, even with the impending payment due to HMRC. you will hear more from our esteemed treasurer later in respect of the financial situation.

Coaching by a dedicated team of coaches continues to provide coaching for all abilities from beginners to experienced, fast and not quite so fast runners.

Not forgetting the Saturday morning swim coaches that again provide a range of coaching to suit all abilities.

Social events continue to contribute to the Club providing key social activities for the benefit of members.

Membership levels are being maintained and the Club continues to welcome new members and returning ex-members.

Races organised by your club are always well received by the participants despite the technical challenges that IT regularly presents.

The volunteer ethic within your Club continues to prevail and is in evidence in all aspects of Club activity.

Having mentioned volunteering I'll bring this report to a close by taking the opportunity to publicly thank each and every volunteer for their contribution to your Clubs success, they and you, deserve a round of applause.

TREASURERS REPORT –

There is an underlying surplus of £8,281 in the year, after taking into account the true up required to Fusion for 2016 Track Fees to paid in 2017.

There is an overall surplus of £76,979, and the club as always is in a good healthy financial position. Following the EGM, there may be a Corporation Tax liability of £19,000 that we should provide for, but that still leaves a surplus of over £58k

Race revenue is up £11,506 YoY, ignoring the timing impact of Oakley 2017 opening in late 2016 (£9,556), the main increases are for the XC race (held first in 2016), and higher income in the DA5K of £693. All races reported a YoY increase in income, and all generated a surplus, with the Half Marathon reporting an increased YoY surplus of £2,181.

As in previous years the race surpluses continue to fund the club's activities.

Expenditure on annual club activities, which includes

- Circuits,
- Team racing events (Team events include, Round Norfolk Relay, Squeaky Bone, Fairlands Valley Relays, Masters relays, Greensands Ridge)
- EVAC
- X Country
- Triathlon swimming
- Annual awards

is funded by our race profits given that the cost exceeds subs by £10,424.

The subscription increase reflects the slightly higher members on average throughout the year.

The kit was sold to No Limitz earlier this year, and this is an arrangement that appears to be working well for both parties and our membership.

The club purchased new equipment last year to the tune of £3,816 (a similar amount to 2015), which again was funded by our races, this includes the new starting blocks for the EVAC league and a general refresh of our race equipment a necessary to reflect the high quality of all of our races.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT –

At the committee meeting dated 6th March 2017 we had 509 members, which is 8 up on this time last year. Of these 83 are new members and the others renewed from last year. Our membership has been pretty stable for many years now.

I have nothing exciting to add but would like to say what a lovely bunch I find our members to be. The welcome crew really help to give a positive and organised front to the club and make it easy for new runners to join in and then become members. They really do make people welcome.

Everyone seems to be enthusiastic, interested and gets involved.

TEAM MANAGEMENT REPORT –

This is the team management report for the year. I would like to say thank you to Gary Finch, Anna Folland and Mark Taggart for their hard work and support throughout the year.

At Team Management we organise team events as in Squeaky Bone, Stevenage Relays, EMACs the 3 Counties XC league, other xc races and we choose the club championship races – never an easy task as we can't please everyone!

So this year, briefly - we have achieved an incredible turnout for the participation in EMAC's – the masters side of athletics, masters being over 35 - Anna has been organising these for the past 2 years. It has been fun watching our fellow Harriers excel in the disciplines especially the sprinters, walkers and throwers. This is exceptional for our club as we are not coached in these disciplines, just gleaned tips and how to's from some of our club members and the other clubs who we are competing against – this shows the friendliness of the participating clubs. Jenny King has kindly volunteered to take over the organising of these meetings and getting the team together. So if you have some hidden talent or just fancy a go then please contact Jenny.

3 Counties xc League – after much debating over the past 2-3 years we have finally managed to change the scoring system in the combined race to reflect the efforts of the ladies racing. So now everyone races against everybody and the Harriers won the combined race, so well done everybody. Gary Finch was Race Director again as we volunteered to host a XC race at Sharnbrook and what a successful race it was. A very big thank you to all who helped to make it so.

The Club Championship races and dates are all on the web site and the first was last week end at Sandy 10, lots of Harriers were there some competing for titles, age group wins and others to enjoy the run on a lovely sunny day. Last year we decided to add in the first Ultra race which was

the Stort 30, training sessions were organised by Mark Taggart and it was a success so keeping the ultra in our championships.

We have entered teams into the Green Sands Ridge Relay with some excellent results and we are looking for someone to take on the team management for this year, any volunteers? If so then please see me after.

So onto my favourite part – awarding the xc colours – these beanie hats are awarded to the Harriers who compete or do the scoring in all 5 of the 3 Counties xc or 4 and 1 other team xc – I will call out the names and come and collect your beanie. If I do not call your name and you think you are eligible then please see me after and I will go through my list.

COACHING AND TRAINING REPORT –

The club currently has 8 training groups, with 31 active coaches. Congratulations and welcome to our two new coaches, Amanda Friman and Mark Taggart. The club has a ongoing coaching recruitment and training programme, so if you think you may be interested, please talk to a qualified coach and ask for details.

The current club groups are as follows:

2 Improvers

4 Intermediate

2 Advanced

The beginners induction is on 26th April. It is in the early stages of planning, but usually consists of a complete beginners group, and a group for those who can already run for 10 minutes.

The full club training events that we have held in the past year have been:

5k's in Priory and Bedford Park

30 bridges run

Charity timed mile

Christmas track session

Thank you to all those who organise these sessions. There are more planned for 2017.

Your coaches are dedicated; attending 6 coaches meetings a year and setting sessions each month to suit the seasons and daylight hours. Most of them also hold group social runs at some point in the year, often from their own homes, sometimes including food and drink. THANK YOU COACHES!

RACE MANAGEMENT SECRETERY REPORT-

In the absence of a Race Management Secretary I'll attempt to cover some of the current Race Management issues.

Wearing of head/earphones (including bone conducting headphones) in races.

In January this year your Committee unanimously agreed to continue with the exclusion of the wearing of head/earphones including bone conducting headphones (other than those medically prescribed), during Harriers races.

The background to this is that UKA rule 240 S5 does not permit the wearing of headphones (except in certain road closed circumstances) unless they are the bone conducting Aftershokz brand that is the subject of a partnership between England Athletics and Aftershokz.

Although Bedford Harriers races are permitted by ARC nevertheless it was considered prudent to establish a Club policy in respect of the wearing of head/earphones in Harriers races.

If anybody is interested I have the necessary publications regarding the wearing of headphones in races available to view.

Beware of complacency

Whilst Bedford Harriers races have an enviable reputation nevertheless your club should not become complacent.

The choice of events for members to participate in continues to increase, naturally affecting the participation in Harriers events.

It is noticeable that the Harriers, Bedford Half Marathon appears to have been dramatically affected, with numbers now hovering between, 1200-1400 over the last three years from the heights of around 2000 (2200 on one occasion).

This year's Oakley 20 did not reach its limit until this time last week whereas in previous years it would have been full 3-4 weeks before race day.

As I said earlier, the Club should not become complacent, it should continue to aim for perfection giving quality and value to the participants. This is what Clubs do best; the willing army of club volunteers convey their enthusiasm to the runners and the runners respond accordingly.

In 2016 your club organised 5 races;

January 2016 saw the inaugural 3 counties cross country race at Sharnbrook

In April 2016, the annual Oakley 20 took place.

In May it was the Harpur Trust 5K, ostensibly organised by the Harpur Trust but due to 'mission creep' became a Bedford Harriers organised event.

July was the DA5K that many of 2016 intake of beginners used as their first race.

The annual Bedford Half Marathon took place in December 2016

As usual, all the races were very well received by the participants.

Finally, a huge thank you to your Clubs Race Directors for their commitment to the cause. From experience I know that being a Race Director is a very stressful occupation although immensely satisfying when the accolades flood in. Could the following please stand up;
Chris Capps, Gary Finch, Kevin Willett and Jerry Pullinger. These gentlemen are our esteemed Race Directors and deserve a round of applause for their efforts.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE –

All nominees were read out to the meeting with the proposer and second. The following were elected to committee 2017 / 2018.

POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
CHAIRMAN	Steve Crane	Bill Tallentire	Bill Khinda
VICE CHAIRMAN	Zoe Willett	Bill Khinda	Bill Tallentire
SECRETARY	Zoe Willett	Steve Crane	Noel Jones
TREASURER	Richard Watson	Tony Jones	Peter Pack
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jacinta Horne	Bev Tredget	Sylvia Jones
RACE MANAGEMENT	Vacant		
TEAM MANAGEMENT	Mark Taggart	Peter Pack	Danielle Wolvaart
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Val Bird	Sylvia Jones	Paul Walton
MEMBER	Lorena Henderson	Steve Gaunt	Steve Crane
MEMBER	Gill Fullen	Neil Loader	Andy Palombella
MEMBER	Ian Sturgess	Val Bird	Paul Walton
MEMBER	Jenny King	Val Bird	Tony Jones
MEMBER	Peter Pack	Mark Taggart	Renette Woolvaart
MEMBER	Sylvia Jones	Lesley Baker	Chris Capps
MEMBER	Alex Rothwell	Lary Corkery	VBal Bird

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

BEDFORD HARRIERS – REVIEW OF ANNUAL STADIUM USER CARD FEE OPTIONS WITH FUSION

In response to the agreed proposal from the Bedford Harriers AGM of April 2016, the proposal being “for agreement for discussions to take place with the Stadium to accept a Single Payment Residency Fee”, a sub-committee was formed to effect this mandate. The sub-committee, consisting of Lesley Gaunt, Jacinta Horne, Lorena Henderson, Peter Pack, Richard Watson and Steve Gaunt met to consider the options that Bedford Harriers, as a club, wanted to explore with Fusion (the Stadium managing agent), in respect of the objective of the whole of the Harriers membership contributing to the perceived cost of the Club using the Stadium as its home. The current position is that over the last two years, annual renewals of Stadium Annual User Cards has been between 75% and 67%, whilst the number of card holders has remained pretty steady at c200.

The sub-committee had three meetings with the Fusion staff, Shane Evans (the stadium manager) and Ian Stenson (Fusion regional manager), and put to them if we could explore other payment options including a lump sum.

After they considered the suggestion, they felt a lump sum, based on a negotiated fee in line with our overall annual payments to Fusion over the last two years, was not an option as they wanted to know how many people were using the facility, and they also felt such an option was not fair on the other resident clubs.

Likewise offering Stadium Annual User Cards on a corporate basis for the Club to offer out to members, whilst the Club retained overall ownership of the Stadium Annual User Cards, was not an option for Bedford Harriers, as the Stadium management wanted to have data on the user of each card and the Club would need to collect cards when members were no longer using them.

The sub-committee therefore considered that the best option was to carry on as at present with the members buying Stadium Annual User Cards via Bedford Harriers. However, it was recognised by both Fusion and BHAC, that there needed to be a greater incentive to encourage Harriers members to purchase Stadium Annual User Cards.

It was considered that the reasons that purchases were at current low levels was,

- a) The fact that not all members purchased a Stadium Annual User Cards and
- b) The lack of perceived value in the card for a member who turns up runs and then returns home.

The club has therefore three options to put to the vote at the AGM

1. Do nothing and remain as is, where the members pay the full cost of the restricted Stadium Annual User Cards (as at present) and the stadium invoice the Club twice per year based upon take up of cards.
2. Make Stadium Annual User Cards compulsory, i.e. as part of the BHAC membership and put the subs up to £90 for an adult and £45 for a concession, and accept the negative impact on memberships
3. Have a model, where we increase the Annual Membership subs to £30 adult and £15 concession, using the increase to effectively fund the nominal value that the Club receives as a benefit of using the Stadium as its home; i.e. storage, free meeting rooms etc. and we reduce

the Stadium Annual User Card fee to our members to £45 and £22.50. This reduces the cost of a current member who has a card from £88.70 to £75 and a concession from £44.35 to £37.50

Fusion accepted the point concerning the "perceived value" of the Stadium Annual User Card and have offered the following to BHAC members who hold a Fusion card in 2017/18.

- 25% off Gym membership for all track card holders, this would need to be either a monthly DD or an annual subscription. Fusion cannot facilitate a 25% reduction on pay as you go gym sessions.
- 10% off all Food and Beverage upstairs – all track card holders would just need to show their card to receive this discount
- ½ price admission for all upcoming summer events including the England U20/U23 Championships (including world trials)
- A pair of free admission tickets provided by Fusion to each of the above events, to raffle as prizes to Fusion card holders.

Fusion have also suggested monthly meetings with BHAC to discuss any issues, before they become problems and if groups are running from the stadium on a Saturday or Sunday, they will ensure 8:30 opening and look to provide tea/coffee/bacon rolls etc. providing the demand justifies this.

Several emails have been received prior to meeting asking for proxy voting, unfortunately the Bedford Harriers Constitution does not allow for this.

Ian Kingston proposer and Peter Pack seconded proposal.

Floor opened up for discussion.

Concern re showers - stadium have advised they are working to improve issues in old building. People still use facilities but do not have a stadium card – Stadium will be enforcing policing before and after training.

Are other clubs who use stadium in same position? – B&C, and rugby club use track and rugby pitch so situation different

Issue with people collecting in foyer needs to be addressed

It was explained that a vote will take place and looking for a clear majority, however if this is not achieved the lowest option will be eliminated from a second vote.

All present had the opportunity to vote for each option but requested only one vote each person.

Option 1 – 2 votes

Option 2 – 3 votes

Option 3 – Overwhelming vote of majority

1 x abstention.

VOLUNTEERS DRAW

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

Aaron Donohoe - £100

Lynne Greenard - £100

Tony Jones - £100

Noel Jones - £75

Zoe Willett - £75

Ealine Fullard - £75

Norma King - £50

Sarah Crawley - £50

Mike Barnett - £50

Rob Roy - £25

Jenny King - £25

Chris Parello - £25 (donated to charity)

Lisa Webster – champagne

Steve Crane – Champagne

Jason Lee – Chocolates

AOB

None

Meeting closed at 22.00 hours.