

# BEDFORD HARRIERS A.C.

[www.bedfordharriers.co.uk](http://www.bedfordharriers.co.uk)

patron: *W.J. JORDAN, Esq.*

**Club Address**  
Bedford International  
Athletic Stadium  
Barkers Lane  
Bedford  
MK42 9SA  
Tel 01234 351115

**Chair**  
Steve Crane  
**Vice Chair**  
Zoe Willett  
**Hon. Treasurer**  
Richard Watson



**Vice Presidents**  
Richard Canvin  
Barry Whitmore  
Rob Burrells

**Hon. Secretary**  
Zoe Willett

## MINUTES OF THE BEDFORD HARRIERS AGM 8:30PM WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

### 1 Chairman's introduction

Chairman opened the meeting at 8:30pm and welcomed the members, thanked them for attending and explained the format of the evening.

### 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Sarah Wanden, Mark Taggart, Mark Tinkler, Jen Lovesey, Neil Lovesey, Rebecca Baxter, Jack Keenan, Jeanette Cheetham, Beverley Tredget, Richard Piron, & Valerie Bird.

### 3 Minutes of the 2013 AGM

The meeting proposed and accepted the published 2013 minutes as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 4 Chair's report – Steve Crane (verbatim)

Pleased to report that in many respects 2013 was a very successful year for the club.

There was success not only at international, national and regional levels; these successes were widely reported via the Harriers website and other media, just as example of this I received a publication this morning that features one of our international athletes, I'll leave this here for you to look at later.

But success also relates to the many new members taking on their first 5K, or first triathlon, these endeavours tend to go widely unrecognised yet for each and every individual their achievement is yet another success story.

Continuing on the success theme, the club and its membership should be proud that it has the ability through its coaches and inherent structure that it can accommodate virtually all comers in some way shape or form.

Moving on to a recurrent theme – the volunteer ethic.

I make no apology for repetition.

A Club such as Bedford Harriers is only as good as its volunteers. I'm sure you will all agree that we have great Club - and that in itself says far more about its volunteers than I can ever hope to articulate.

Looking around the room this evening I don't see members, I see volunteers, I can't see one face here that hasn't volunteered their services in some fashion over the last 12 months.

Please could I ask you to put your hands together for Bedford Harriers volunteers?

### 5 Treasurer's report – Richard Watson (verbatim)

There is a deficit of £5,129 in the year, and if the track fees outstanding to the Borough Council are taken into account there is a deficit of £8,903.

This deficit is against an overall surplus of £64,318, after taking into account the kit balance and the amount owed to the Borough for track fees (that has now been settled), so overall the club remains in a very healthy financial position.

The in-year deficit, is driven through lower income from our races, which was mainly down to lower entry fees for the Half, DA5K and 10k races than previous years, which have resulted in a lower income, and increased costs, including that for St John's Ambulance and the one-off postage fees for mementos for last year's cancelled Oakley race.

We have reviewed with the race directors the reasons for lower entries, and there is no-one reason for this, and reasons include the current economic climate that we are in and people having less disposable income, greater

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competition from other races and the growing number of commercially run races. This will be covered in the race management report later.

Despite the deficit in the year, the club continued and is also committed to maintaining the services it provides to the membership, this includes the following:

- Subsidised bus and hotel rooms for the London Marathon
- Free Cross Country
- Free and subsidized entry into team events such as Fairlands Valley, Round Norfolk Relay, Greensands Ridge, Thunder Run and the Masters Relay
- An improved awards night and better quality annual awards
- Subsidised triathlon swimming
- Free circuits and track-hire

Kit continues to be well managed and we have expanded our range and quality of items, and the regularity of sales evenings.

The continued use of on-line payments has seen over 98% of Oakley entries being paid on-line, and an increasing number of you paying subs by BACS transfer, this will be expanded this year to allow on-line payments for subs and other items by Paypal, as well as on-line registration thanks to the good work of Chris Cottam.

Any questions?

## 6 Membership secretary's report – Jacinta Horne (verbatim)

At the committee meeting dated 3rd March 2014 we had 516 members, which is just 4 up on this time last year. Of these 84 are new members and the others renewed from last year. That means we had over 40 fewer new members than last year. We have had a membership of over 500 for almost 18 months now. Currently 46% of our members are female, 2% lower than last year but I believe we do very well considering.

Our welcome rota has been going for a few years now and it makes it easy for people on their first night to sign up for their four weeks free entry to the stadium and to find which group to run with. We have recently added to this by recruiting Bedford Harriers Buddies (BHB's) who assist the welcome committee and make sure the new recruit not only knows who they should be running with but actually take them to that coach or group and keep an eye on them to make sure they set off with the right people. If you have been with the club for a few years and are au fait with the way things work feel free to volunteer as a welcomer or a BHB.

The idea of a buddy system came from one of our own members and it is worth remembering that if you do think there is a way we can improve things we would love to know.

An exciting thing to report is the transition of membership renewals to an online system. This will mean you can access your own record on the database, make your own changes and, when the time is right, pay on line to renew your membership. This has been worked on for months and is now at the testing stage. We really hope that we will have it ready for those renewing in May so please watch out for communications regarding this.

And, while we are the subject of communications, I am sure you may have noticed by now that I have changed from NTLWORLD to AOL for all club communications. NTLWORLD decided to change the system so that no one could send more than 250 emails in one period of 24 hours. With our membership at 500 plus this was not going to work for the club. Having transferred all of the emails address I have had a few issues. I am currently trying to compile correct and up to date groups for the use of club emails as some emails addresses did not export correctly initially and I may be sending some test emails later in the year to make sure all addresses are now correct.

That is all from me except to say thanks for your support with my role of membership secretary over the last 12 months and, if you'll have me, I look forward to the next 12.

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## 7 Team management report - Angie Kay (Verbatim)

Good evening everyone-

I am Angie Kay and part of Team Management along with Alastair Fadden, Anna Folland and Gary Finch.

Just thought I would let you know what we do – we organise the Team Events and by that – we decide what races to enter as teams, put up notices to get you all interested, enter you into the race and then work out the teams, get your numbers and then leave the running to you!! We do include all abilities of runners and as the club is financially well off – the club has so far been able to pay for all the entries in the team running events. A big thank you for that.

We decide the Club Championship races each year - taking into account all the major races i.e. London, the Grizzly, RNR and our own races then we try to fit them in throughout the year. The next championship race will be the Sandy 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> March. (There should be notices of the other races on your chairs)

We arrange the circuits on Friday nights and it will be the last one this Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – we then go into Friday night Track sessions which will start April 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 to 7.30 and Steve Gaunt will be organising these – he will need some support with time keeping and leading the occasional sessions.

Some of the races we arranged this year were:-

**Stevenage Relays** – a good turnout with 2 men's and 2 ladies teams

**Squeaky Bone** xc where the weather this time was much dryer than last year and we had 9 teams in all.

**Parliament Hills** xc which are the South of England xc Championships – it is a very tough hilly course and our ladies team finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 73 an excellent result. This is a race to do at least once!!

**Bedfordshire xc Championships** at Luton in the pouring rain this year – we had another amazing result from the ladies with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ladies and vets team.

In the men's we took 4<sup>th</sup> vets team.

**Round Norfolk Relays** has its own management team Richard Watson and Zoe Willett but we will be getting more involved this year.

**And finally The 3 Counties XC!** The results were not finalised at the last race and at the end of season meeting we were able to pick them up and will present them shortly along with the prized Beanie hats – these are awarded to those that run all 5 of the 3 counties races or 4 plus one of the other team xc races.

Gary can you come and present the trophies -

League results overall are

**Ladies, 1<sup>st</sup> team, winning team at all 5 races** – the team was made Kirstie Meeten Sally Cartwright, Sally Johnston, Gill Fullen and Anna Folland there is only 1 trophy for you all but well done.

Men's, 5<sup>th</sup> team.

Mixed, 5<sup>th</sup> team

Individual Trophies

Anna Folland – 1<sup>st</sup> open female

Sally Cartwright – 1<sup>st</sup> LV45

Kirstie Meeten – 2<sup>nd</sup> LV35

Adam Mills - 1st MV40

Norman Beckwith – 1<sup>st</sup> MV70 who has already received his trophy but well done.

Anna and Alastair can you come and hand out the Beanies.

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Thank you and now I would like to say a big thank you to Alastair as he is standing down from Team Management; it has been good fun, stressful at times but has enjoyed plotting and planning over the last few years with you and thank you for all your help.

## 8 Coaching and training report – Steve Gaunt

The meeting was presented with information on the number of coaching groups, number of coaches and coaching and training activity through the period in question.

## 9 Race management secretary report - Chris Capps (verbatim)

As road race secretary my role is to support the respective race directors to deliver the professional events for the running community to the high standards required by Bedford Harriers. This ensures the safety of runners, spectators and the general public.

It also facilitates the regular return of runners to our events and generates the profit already stated by our Treasurer.

To make this happen we rely on the commitment of our race directors,

Jerry Pullinger for DA5k, 2013 was his first race as Director, very well done.

Steve Gaunt for 10k

Steve Crane for Half

Chris Capps for Oakley 20.

I think we ought to recognise this commitment.

In turn these race directors can only deliver the quality of races Bedford Harriers requires, through the support of the membership, friends and family, so on behalf of the race directors a big thank you.

At the AGM in 2013 I announced that all our races in the previous cycle had for the first time surpassed 3,000 finishers. In the 2013/14 cycle all our race finishers were down, an average of just about 10%.

The highest reduction was DA5K 23%, and the lowest, the Oakley at just 5%.

To compound this, the Half did not fill up, which is a first since moving to Wootton.

The impact was that while it still made a profit, it was not as high in previous years.

Reasons, not sure, Wootton used to be the last half before end of year, there is now another one in Milton Keynes, and in 2014, it's on the same day. After 10 years, it is possible people want new challenges.

The race directors are reviewing all our costs and seeing where we can make reductions. Also looking to restrict the numbers of entries for 2014 to give places a scarcity value like St Neots.

One upside was the fact the HQ and start were not quite so congested so the runners experience was improved.

Finally the gantry bought last year has now been used on all 4 of our events and has added to the professional look of our finish areas.

## 10 Election of Officers and Committee

Chair-Steve Crane

Vice chair-Zoe Willett

Secretary-Zoe Willett

Treasurer-Richard Watson

Membership secretary-Jacinta Horne

Race management secretary-Chris Capps

Mark Taggart-Team management

Val Bird-Social secretary

Sarah Wanden

Sylvia Jones

Gill Fullen

Lorena Henderson

Lorraine MacCormack

Simon Forbes

Mark Taggart

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Norman Beckwith  
Alastair Fadden  
Ian Sturdgess

## 11 Annual subscription

The Treasurer proposed that the annual subscription be unchanged, seconded and accepted by the meeting.

## 13 Any other business

### Annual stadium use pass

Richard Watson proposed the continued use of the Bedford International Athletic Stadium as the home of Bedford Harriers AC that included the acceptance of the annual user card fess of £65.54/£32.77. The proposal was seconded and accepted by the meeting.

### Addition to AOB

Chair advised the meeting that a request to add an item for inclusion under AOB had been received after the date specified for receipt. A proposal was put to the meeting that an additional item be added to AOB. The proposal was seconded and accepted by the majority of the meeting.

### Publication of Committee meeting minutes

A member requested that committee minutes be published within 2-3 weeks of the meeting. The member accepted that the issued be discussed and reviewed at the forthcoming committee meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9:35pm.