

ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th November 2013

An attendance list was taken

1. Apologies

These were received from John Lee, Linda Bracher, Andy Trigg, Dan Marks, Ewan & Emma Lake, Russ Mogridge.

2. Minutes of last AGM

These were proposed by Dave Fox and seconded by Steve Watson
The minutes were adopted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising which aren't covered elsewhere.

4. Officers Reports

The Chairman's and Secretary's reports as well as the Statement of Accounts had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Chairman's AGM Report 2013 - Paul Ross

At last years AGM I talked about the Legacy that was expected post Olympics. Did it deliver one - I am not sure. Some clubs have grown in members but nowhere near the expected growth of athletes coming into clubs. This may be because our governing body is focusing on the wrong target areas or are the clubs not offering the right mix? At Erme Valley we try and accommodate at all levels but have we got it right? We are lucky that we have got a good volunteer base at Erme Valley but as with most Clubs we could do with more volunteers to lighten the burden on the volunteers we do have.

Our Junior Section continues to be well supported at training sessions but the frustrations of our coaches and team manager's still exists given that is difficult to get some of the Juniors to support the Club in competition. We should also be looking at recruiting Senior's to lead groups at our Senior Sessions to enable us to structure our sessions better.

Club events this year brought their own issues with them. The 10K ran the smoothest, primarily due to the tireless work the Race Director, Ian Crossley, put into ensuring its success. The Relays were going well until one of the athletes was struck by a vehicle on the route. We reacted well as a club in getting one of our Medical Team to the site of the accident very quickly who gave a quick diagnosis and arranged for a transfer of the injured person to hospital. Unfortunately the injured person is still on the recovery pathway. Due to the dangerous condition of the pathway off the moors used in the Beacon Challenge we had to look at a new race to replace the Challenge. This brought a Challenge in itself given that time was not on our side to organise a new event. Thanks to McCauley's offering their facilities at Dinnaton we had a base to build on and the Hanger Up-n-Down was born. A lot of work was put in by club members to get the race, route, facilities etc sorted and agreed. Even more club members were needed to ensure the event went smoothly and safely on the day - we were in the spotlight of all the paying entrants. Thankfully all went well and we had a lot of positive feedback - well done all.

Again EVH members have been supportive of events put on by the Armada Athletics Network. Our athletes, coaches and officials support the Composite Team in the SW T&F League and other events in the locality

Our Ladies section continues to grow and are achieving some great results, they are now a force to be reckoned with in the South West. Numerous Club Records have been broken by the ladies in various age categories in the last 12 months although some have fallen in the men's categories also. The committee have discussed structuring the seniors sessions better and we would welcome your thoughts in the Open Forum part of this meeting.

On the Social side of the Club we have had some good events in the last 12 months. Our Christmas Bash was a great evening enjoyed by all that came along. The presentation evening in April was also very well supported by both Junior and Senior Members. The Away Days have also continued to be well supported with some new routes introduced this year. We encourage members to come up with new routes and venues - so please let us have some more new ones.

Club Headquarters are still a key agenda item at Committee Meetings but we have to ensure that any facilities we consider are fit for purpose. We keep an open mind on anything we hear about but the facilities in Ivybridge are limited.

Again as a club we should be grateful for the time and effort put in by our Coaches, Team Managers, Officials and Volunteers. Personally I would like to thank the Club Committee for their continued support and commitment. We are lucky to have the commitment of the likes of Jayne, Keith, Sharon, Monica etc.

Thanks also to Dave Fox for continuing to produce and distribute the Harrier.

Final thanks again to all our members for your support for the club and its activities

Secretary's AGM Report 2013 - Keith Reed

As I said last year in my notes, it was always going to be a tough year following the fantastic success of 2012. The predicted major changes at national level did happen. The UKA sponsorship deal with Aviva which has funded a lot of the initiatives like Startrack, Sportshall and QuadKids ended and although Sainsburys have put some money in to major events, the amount of money is much less. The funding given to England Athletics from Sport England was not as good as was hoped, so the need to raise money through the athlete and club registration fees became even more significant. At this time last year we thought that the fees would be as much as £20 per athlete, but following opposition from the clubs it was reduced to £10 for all. It was an interesting development and made England Athletics rethink the way they consult the clubs over key issues. Unfortunately the funding issues are still there.

There has been a small reduction in the club membership, which currently stands at a total of 206. This consists of 89 seniors and 117 juniors of which 62 are under 11 (up on 2012). Our senior membership has fallen mainly due to retirements and some changing clubs. We have some new recruits of late which is good, but we must aim to both recruit and retain our members. Friday training sessions have been quieter, which is maybe an indicator of lifestyles and the fact that people are doing other things. It would be interesting to get the opinions of the membership. Tuesday sessions remain popular and are well structured.

Our junior section continues to go well, with a higher percentage of athlete taking part in competition at all levels. It was possibly one of our best track and field seasons for some time. We have had some new coaches this year which we are very grateful for. We have had an influx of new U11 athletes but we are not getting many new U13 and U15's especially girls. The Sportshall and Cross Country seasons have started well so that is a real positive.

We are still financially secure, but it is interesting that we have only really broke even this year on expenditure against income. We have been frustrated with our attempts to find an alternative training venue ,but we continue to search.

Our club races have been a success but we now need two new race directors. There was also the unfortunate incident at the relays where an athlete was involved in a collision with a car and trailer.

We should be extremely grateful for the work that the committee do and we are grateful for the commitment shown by all of them. We are hoping to bring some new blood in to follow Cleo who has recently joined. She has got very involved with the ladies team and the Facebook page. I would like to thank my family for the help they give me as secretary particularly Jayne who does such an excellent job behind the scenes.

On a personal note, I have now finished my post with Plymouth City Council which has allowed me to work self-employed as an athletics coach. I am doing a lot of work with the local schools which I hope will benefit the club as well. If anyone in the clubs needs coaching advice then please let me know.

Treasurers AGM Report 2013 - Shirley Watson

Club in a very good position with a healthy balance.

This would not be possible without the profit from our club races.

Juniors training fees cover the expenses of hiring the school for Thursday night training. We also cover cost of entry fee for sportshall and Devon League in the summer.

We also have put on several social events with the club subsidizing.

We would also look at subsidizing transport for athlete's to travel further afield for competition.

Looking to buy new computer and printer.

5. Newsletter

Dave thanked everyone who had submitted articles for the newsletter, which has now been in electronic format for the last two years.

Dave produces the newsletter, the weekend after the committee meetings are held, so he can update everyone.

Dave still produces a few paper copies.

Still wanting lots of photo's which can be used at a later date if needed.

He plans to look for old articles for the 30th Anniversary edition.

Dave also writes articles for the Ivybridge magazine and would welcome articles and photo's from all.

6. Election of Officers

Paul introduced Monica as President who took the Chair and thanked the present Officers for all their hard work over the last year. Then asked them to stand down.

There had been no new nominations received for the Officers positions .

Paul Ross (Chair) was proposed by Dave Fox and seconded by Ken Summers.

Keith Reed (Secretary) was proposed by John Hladkij and seconded by Steve Watson
Shirley Watson (Treasurer) was proposed by Steve Watson and seconded by John Hladkij

Sharon Terry (Volunteer Coordinator) was proposed by Dave Fox and seconded by Ian Crossley.

all were re-elected.

Monica Bristow then thanked Ian Crossley for all his hard work with the Ivybridge 10K and what a brilliant job he had done with the event.

7. Adoption of Committee

Cleo McKinley and Steve Watson willing to continue of committee.

Paul then explained what new committee members were required.

1. Welfare Officer, 2 needed 1 x male and 1 x female.

2. Team Captains, Male and Female to support athletes.

3. Leaders of Running and Fitness - needed to structure training. Courses available on how to lead and what is required. Also covered by Insurance.

4. Race Directors for both the Relays and Hanger Up n Down.
Alister Bristow asked with the Hanger Up and Down making a loss, was it worth putting on. Ian Crossley replied that as this was its first year, we had to try again.
Will look at number of marshals required.
Alister also asked would it be a problem if we didn't have a Race Director.
Jo Edwards asked what the role of Race Director meant. And Paul Ross explained.

8. Subscriptions 2014

Committee discussed at last meeting, that we didn't see any reason to increase subscriptions for 2014. There were no objections.

9. Open Forum

Mike Lee asked if we had given up on looking for new club premises. Paul Ross informed him we were still actively looking. The Cricket Club is still a possibility but still has no street lighting.

Kate Mogridge asked about the loss of the fun run, which was held on the same day as the Beacon race. Keith Reed answered two cross country's were being put on for the schools.

Nick McMahon asked about the clubs 30th Anniversary. Paul informed him he had had two suggestions.

1. A 30 hour relay.
2. Summer Event, BBQ or Party

Nick suggested perhaps a club run "Trace the Erme River Trail" ending with a beach BBQ.

Everyone liked this idea, Nick to look further into it.

Paul Ross suggested an away weekend, or target a race.

Polo shirts or tee shirts had been suggested. Cleo McKinley suggested perhaps vest for training. Possibly water bottles for juniors with 30th Anniversary logo on.

10. Presentation of Awards

Paul and Monica presented awards for first three places in the Summer Handicap series, 1st. Simon Powell 2nd. Sharon Terry 3rd. Andy Reed/Steve Watson
also the first three in the Grand Prix series. 1st Emma Lake 2nd. Kevin Paull
3rd Neil Holmes

11. London Marathon Places.

This year we were allocated 2 places for the London Marathon.

3 members asked for there names to be put forward. Kevin Paull, Nick McMahon and Neil Travers. The three names were put into a hat .

1st. Nick McMahon 2nd. Neil Travers

Paul thanked the Girls Brigade for the refreshments and John Hladkij, for the use of the church hall.

Paul thanked everyone for attending the AGM. And the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.

Simon Powell came up to Paul after the meeting. He went to the Ivybridge Remembrance Service the Sunday before, and Ivybridge football club had put a wreath forward. Simon thought it would be a nice gesture for us to go with this idea, as next year is 100 years since the start of the 1st World War.