

ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on Tuesday 4th November 2014

An Attendance list was taken.

1. Apologies.

These were received from Jo Edwards, Mike Lee, Mike & Carol Hanson, Russ & Kate Mognridge Mandy Plummer & Liz Bowden.

2. Minutess of last A.G.M.

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

3. Matters Arising.

Since the last AGM the club have now purchased a new computer and printer.
After last years meeting Simon Powell approached Paul, about the club providing a wreath for this years 100 years remembrance service in Ivybridge.

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 2014 - Paul Ross

During the last 12 months the club and its member athletes further developed.

We continue to attract new members into the club and our athletes have has some great results at various events.

We have recruited some new coaches who are now developing within the Club Structure but we could always do with more leaders, coaches, officials and volunteers.

Our Club events over the last 12 months have met with differing support. Our popular 10K event continues to get good support and is held in high esteem by the local running fraternity. This is our major fund raising event in the year and its success is primarily down to the hard work and time that Ian Crossley, as our Race Director, puts into ensuring that it is a quality, value for money event. Jo Edwards in her first year as Race Director delivered our Road Relays with a record entry and already has plans to increase the numbers in 2015. Nick McMahon put a lot of work to deliver the Hanger Up-n-Down Race and was well supported by Ian Crossley. Unfortunately entries were down on the previous year. This event is very labour intensive using a lot of club volunteers to ensure a safe and well marshalled event for participants. Given the time and effort put into organise and control the event and the payback over the last two years the committee have decided to draw a line under it and concentrate on the 10K and Relays. I would like to thank all those that have supported the Clubs events during the past 12 months in whatever roles you fulfilled.

Looking back at our Juniors Season we have to be grateful for those that have supported the Club events. There are some good developing Competing Juniors within the Club and hopefully other Juniors will look up to these and start supporting the club in forthcoming competitions. Pride of place from our Juniors (almost a Senior) this year has to be Will Battershill in winning an International vest and being ranked Number 1 in the UK for 1500M Steeplechase in his age category.

The Clubs Ladies Section has continued to grow in numbers and strength. More Club Records have been broken again this year and numerous PNB's have been set. The culmination of a great season for the Ladies Team was taking 3rd place in the British Athletics Half Marathon Championships held in Cardiff. As some of our men move up through the age categories new Club Records are also being set. We have some new Lirf Coaches in the club who are planning and leading sessions at club and also with new beginners and community groups.

We have tried to improve communications within the club with the use of our Harrier, Website, e mails and Facebook. I am indebted to Dave Fox for continuing to [produce the Harrier, Keith Reed for looking after our website and Cleo Andrews for leading on our Facebook page Thanks also to all contributors for updates.

Socially we have tried to provide a variety of activities. Unfortunately we had to cancel our planned 30th Anniversary Run and Barbeque. There were concerns over the weather forecast for the day of the event. As it turned out the run would have been held in good weather but the BBQ would have been a bit of a washout.

Our Christmas Party was again a success and hopefully will be again this year as we are holding it at a different venue. Again our Presentation Evening was very well attended particularly by our Junior Members and their families. The attendance at our Away Days this year fluctuated a little but we still had some good evenings and some interesting runs - including the Moorhaven Up and Upper!

We would welcome new ideas for Away Day routes and venues and any ideas for Social Events. We have supported Local Community events this year with assisting Ivybridge Community College to manage events. We also were high profile at Ivybridge Fun Day and were on site for The Big Sporting Event in Ivybridge Town Centre although this was a bit of a wash out. We are active members on the Ivybridge Community Sports Forum, a group set up to look at the future needs of sports clubs in the area and how to satisfy those needs. A key issue for us is a Clubhouse or somewhere to call home!!!

The Club Members also commit to supporting events put on by the Armada Athletics Network in various roles for which I am grateful.

We are fortunate at Erme Valley to have so many people committed to supporting the club such as Coaches, Officials, Team Managers and Volunteers. We are Lucky to have the commitment of people such as Keith, Jayne, Sharon, Monica, Louise and others.

I would like to thank the Club Committee for their continued support for the club. They are very hard working in trying to steer the Club in the right direction and manage its affairs. We are however looking to recruit some new members to the Committee and to fill a few vacancies to ease

the burden on our existing Committee. Hopefully some of you will consider helping out as we try to grow and develop the Club further.

Finally-thanks to you-our members, coaches, officials volunteers, parents etc for your support for the Club and its activities.

Secretary's Report 2014 - Keith Reed.

As predicted it was a tough year for the sport in general and this is continuing. Finance within the sport is a major concern and this will not get any better. England Athletics has advised us that there will be a small increase in the affiliation fee in 2015 of £2. Not a major increase but it has still provoked some opposition. We hope that all of you appreciate what you get for the money. If you haven't already taken advantage of the offers available to you then you should. This can be done using your membership portal. Club membership numbers have stayed very much the same and currently stands at a total of 215. This consists of 92 seniors and 122 juniors of which 67 are under 11 (up on 2013). The really positive thing has been the influx of new seniors who have done so well. We are very much a club of performers and this is particularly the case with our ladies who are some of the best in the South West. We continue to encourage beginner running through sessions on a Wednesday and Monday morning but we don't always get those new runners attending training sessions on a Tuesday. We must ensure we do not put off the slower runners who may find the Tuesday runs too competitive. I would like to thank Steve Watson for all he has done with planning routes and coaching our seniors this year.

Our junior section continues to go well but we still face a dilemma of getting athletes to compete. Our first cross country race of the season at Plymouth was good but the turnout at the first Sportshall was disappointing. The track and field season was in general good with Carie Robertson and Will Battershill the standing performers. The coaching structure for the juniors is good and we have recently added a specific cross country session on a Tuesday for the juniors.

We maintain our excellent financial position but we have still not been able to find an alternative training venue despite a lot of effort. We are part of the newly formed Ivybridge Sports Forum who are trying to look at provision of indoor and outdoor facilities in the town. We hope that we can come up with some form of ideas early in the new year.

We have held our three club races again this year and all have gone well. It was good to get Jo Edwards and Nick McMahon on board as race directors this year and they did extremely well aided by Ian Crossley who does such a fantastic job with our 10K. It is getting much harder to attract runners to races now as there are so many events on every weekend plus the growth of Parkruns which take place very Saturday. We do attract runners to our races, I believe because of the professional way they are organised and that is down to everyone in the club working together as a team. Let's hope this can continue.

The committee work tirelessly on your behalf and we are always looking for new people to get involved. Cleo has done really well in her short time setting up the Facebook pages and encouraging the ladies teams. It would be great if we could find someone who could do the same for the men's teams. Paul is an excellent Chair and we should be very grateful for all he does.

As always I could not do my job without Jayne who does such an excellent job behind the scenes and keeps me organised.

I am now a self-employed coach in athletics and get involved in all schools/universities helping with events and putting on sessions. I hopefully can still find the time to put into the club which I do totally as a volunteer. Please feel free to approach me for any coaching advice, I am here to help.

Treasurers Report 2014 - Shirley Watson

Club in a very good position with a healthy balance.

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

Junior training fees cover the expenses of hiring the school for Thursday night training. We cover cost of entry fees for Sportshall and Devon League in the summer.

We also put on several social events throughout the year.

Nick McMahon questioned our balance, Paul responded and informed the meeting how we are actively looking for a new home for the Club, which may need some cash input from the club.

John Lee asked if there was the possibility of using the Rugby Club, to which Paul also responded.

5. Newsletter

Dave thanked everyone who had submitted articles for the newsletter. The newsletter is produced the weekend after committee meeting.

Dave also writes articles for the Ivybridge Magazine. He also keeps the Club records up to date.

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 Phil Warren and seconded by Ken Summers

Keith Reed (Secretary) was proposed by Nick McMahon and seconded by Ken Summers

Shirley Watson (Treasurer) was proposed by Phil Warren and seconded by Nick McMahon

Cleo McKinley to become Volunteer Co-ordinator and Sharon Terry to be Welfare Officer there was a unanimous show of hands.

7. Adoption of Committee

Steve Watson willing to continue on committee.

Cleo McKinley proposes two new members who were willing to stand. Liz Bowden and Laurence Harris. Both were welcomed to the committee.

Looking for Social Secretary and Kit Manager, as Ken Summers wishes to step down from this post.

Cleo volunteered for this position.

8. Suscriptions 2015

Committee discussed at last meeting and proposed that the club would absorb the £2 increase levied on competing athletes for 2015. Put to the vote there was a unanimous show of hands in support. The meeting was advised that Competing Athlete EA affiliation fees would be increased to £14 in 2017 (An increase of £4 from fees at 2014 rate) The meeting advised that the Club Affiliation Fees were to be increased from £75 to £100 for 20`

Phil Warren questioned why the increase in the England Athletics Affiliation fee, to which Paul responded.

Ewan Lake asked if fees could rise if we had our own Club house. Paul responded.

9. Constitution

The Committee proposed an amendment to Item 18a of the Clubs Constitution which read that "Notice of a general meeting shall be sent by post or sent to each member at least 4 weeks before the date of the meeting, The Committee proposed that we shall sent to each member 2 weeks prior to the meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

10. Open Forum

John Lee questioned whether the club was happy to support an away trip again for next year.

Paul responded that it would be taken to next committee meeting.

John Lee then informed the meeting that he was happy to stand as Social Secretary again.

Richard Welch asked why was there no voice for young athlete's.

Paul responded We would welcome ideas from the Junior section, Louise Bristow mentioned that Ben may be happy to take on this role.

11. Ian Crossley on 10K

Ian informed the meeting that the date had been set, and he would be sending out an email in January 2015 to all members.

The Ivybridge 10K is one of the Major Road Running Events in the South West.

Hoping that the race will be chip timed. Ian also asked if anyone had any other ideas on how to improve the race.

The event is also looking for additional sponsors, this helps to keep the cost of the race down. Ian would be pleased to hear from anyone who thinks they have a potential sponsor.

12. Presentation of Awards.

Monica presented the first three places for the Summer Handicap

1st. Mark Livermore 2nd. Richard Lane 3rd. Owen Parkin

Also first three in Grand Prix Series.

1st. Ken Summer 2nd. Emma Lake 3rd. Linda Bracher

13.London Marathon

This year there are 2 allocated places for the London Marathon. 4 members asked for their names to be put into the hat.

1st place to Neill Travers and 2nd Place to Phil Lord.

Paul then referred to a discussion he had with Sy Powell at the end of last years meeting, Re the 100th Anniversary of the 1st World War. The Committee agreed to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal of £100, to which Paul make a presentation of a the cheque to Richard Lane, who is Vice Chairman of Ivybridge British Legion. Richard is also going to purchase a poppy wreath for us that Paul will take along to the Remembrance Service in Ivybridge on Sunday morning.

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. The meeting closed at 8.55pm