

ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on Tuesday 12th November

1. Apologies

These were received from Sharon Terry, Steve and Shirley Watson, Dan Marks, Bob Jeffery and Jo Jayes.

2. Minutes of last AGM

The minutes were adopted as a true record. They have been on the club website for the last year.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers Reports

Chairman:

As the club at present doesn't have a Chairman (Mark Livermore had resigned recently) Paul Ross gave a brief summary of events as the Secretary's report covers matters more fully.

Membership had gone up – both for Junior's and Senior's.

A break-down of races was given.

A vote of thanks was given to Ian Crossley for all his hard work in connection with the Ivybridge 10K. Ian is standing down after next year's race. Hopefully he can mentor someone to take over the 2021 event.

Secretary's Report:

It has been a difficult time in recent weeks after what was a good year for the club. Mark has taken the decision to stand down as Chair and Shirley is standing down as treasurer along with Steve. Jo Jayes has also stood down. I would like to thank Mark for all he has done as Chair and hope he will continue to be a valued club member. Shirley has done a magnificent job as treasurer for many years and she has put the club in a sound financial position. Along with Steve they have both done such a lot for the club and we hope they will continue to do so where they can.

We now hope that you the members will come forward to serve on the committee and take on the vital roles that the club needs. We cannot do it without you so please volunteer.

Our membership currently stands at 251 (up by 32 from last year). The breakdown is 127 seniors and 124 juniors of which 62 are under 11. The increase in membership is very welcome and shows that we still have a lot to offer to members. It is interesting to see that although we recruited 50 new

juniors and 28 seniors we had 41 juniors and 16 seniors who did not renew their membership in 2019.

One major success has been the successful Couch to 5k programmes. We moved the session on a Wednesday to a Tuesday and increased publicity. This has produced some excellent results. The Monday morning sessions has also continued. Thanks to Sharon, Paul, Steve and others for the hard work and also thanks to Cleo and Jo Jayes for all they have done with the Monday group. We have improved further the structured approach to groups at training and hopefully now can cater for all abilities even more and have a more attractive offer for new runners.

The 10K was another outstanding success with race director Ian Crossley doing a fantastic job. Ian has said that 2020 will be his last year as Race Director so it would be good to have a volunteer to shadow him this time, with a view to taking over in 2021. Paul was the race director for the massively popular relays which went well with a record entry. Paul is standing down from this role, so we will need someone to take this on in 2020. The races would not happen without the help of a number of key personnel and of course all the members who help on the day.

Coaching has continued to go forward with Liam qualifying as an Athletics Coach. Numbers at our junior sessions have increased and the Tuesday evening junior endurance sessions have gone very well. The Gamechangers project (whereby volunteers in the 14 – 25 age group are encouraged to get involved) has really gone well. We have been funded from England Athletics which has rewarded the young people and bought some new equipment. We now have a regular young team helping at training sessions.

Club competition has again been good with lots of impressive performance by our athletes at all levels. We won the Devon Sportshall League again last year had a good cross country season where we were awarded the Team of the Year trophy. The track and field season again was not as good with not enough taking part. The ones who did however enjoyed a lot of success. The growth of Parkrun continues to be massive and we have a lot of our members who take part regularly. It does seem to be bringing new runners into the sport and also they are starting to join clubs. At the moment they are not affecting existing competitions, which was always a fear from some of us.

Communication is still key. We have encouraged the use of Facebook and set up new groups and pages. Thanks to Ruth Terry for taking on the role of social media editor. We will still use email as well. Dave Fox produces the fantastic Harrier magazine each month which is again sent out by email. We are looking at revamping the website early in the New Year, so watch out for that.

We have continued with using the Rugby Club as our base which has many advantages but some issues. We have tried to reduce the issues but we still have some challenges. We continue to work with the Rugby club to develop the offer to our members. The new all-weather pitch has increased the footfall

on training nights but will hopefully hasten developments around the changing facilities. There is also likely new housing developments which may have an effect. We also continue to look at alternatives if those become attractive. We will of course consult the membership before making any moves. We are in a good financial position but we must ensure we always have the reserves to deal with changing situations. The fees from England Athletics are increasing for each athlete in 2020 by £1. We have also had to pay more for the use of the facilities at Ivybridge Community College for our junior training. This is why we are looking at a small increase in the membership fees for 2020. I hope you can see your way to support this.

Finally I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work. It is not always easy having the responsibility of running a club, and we can only do it with a strong group of people committed to the club.

I am happy to continue as club secretary if you still want me to. I hopefully try to keep everyone up to date and help to drive the club forward.

Treasurer's Report:

Covered by Paul due to the absence of Shirley Watson.

Ken Summers queried whether someone audits the accounts. Paul said the accounts are self-audited and this had not been raised before. It was agreed that someone independent should audit the accounts in future.

Phil Warren expressed a vote of thanks for all the hard work by Steve and Shirley Watson who are both standing down from the committee.

Phil Warren proposed acceptance of the accounts. These were seconded by Ken Summers.

5. Newsletter

Dave thanked everyone who had submitted articles for the newsletter, particularly regular contributors Keith Reed and Mark Livermore. Dinah and Patrick Wakeley had also submitted an article on their race at Lundy Island.

Interesting references in the newsletter had been made to an old photograph taken at the Plymouth Hoe 10 in 1996.

Dave referred to the July 2009 relay races where 91 teams had competed. This has now risen to 155.

The best Harrier in May was also unfortunately considered to be the sadist as tributes were paid to Ed Perks. There was also much material in the press about Ed as well. The May newsletter also contained the best headline with Dan Marks report on the London Marathon referring to 'You'll never run alone'.

The best photograph was in the August Harrier where Allister and Nick Bristow were caught on camera running together at the Cornwood Challenge. The Ivybridge Magazine also liked this photo as it virtually took up a page!

Dave reminded everyone that he's still looking for photographs for the t-shirt competition.

There was a vote of thanks for all Dave's hard work throughout the year. Ken Summers said he would also like to thank Dave for his attendance at Cross Country events.

6. Election of Officers

Monica Bristow in her role of President came to the front of the meeting. There had been nominations for the Officers positions.

Chairman - the committee had nominated Dan Francis. All 'the floor' accepted this nomination.

Secretary – Keith Reed indicated that he was prepared to stand again. He was proposed by Carol Hansen and seconded by Dave Church.

Treasurer – the committee nominated Liz Cane. Mike Lee seconded the proposal.

7. Adoption of the Committee

Other Posts accepted by 'the floor'

Volunteer Co-ordinator/ – Sharon Terry is happy to continue.

Welfare Officer – Ruth Terry

Linda Bracher, Carol Hansen, Kate Medicott and Phil Adderley all accepted as new members to the committee. Paul Ross and Michelle Peters to remain on the committee as well.

Ken Summers said he's willing to take over dealing with the kit as this was previously shared with Mark Livermore.

8. Subscriptions 2020

We need to match the increases made by England Athletics. Therefore proposed that Seniors is £31, 12-18 Years £16 and Under 11's £10. Family membership will have to increase as well. Proposed by Linda Bracher and seconded by Emma Lake.

9. Open Forum

Kate Medicott said that she felt the Christmas Meal should be more heavily subsidised. Vary views were expressed. It was mentioned that Plymstock Road Runners pay £1 a week towards such an event. The new committee will consider further for next year's function. A vote of thanks was expressed to Linda Bracher for all her hard work in organising this year's Christmas Meal.

No one came forward to take up a specific role as Social Secretary. Ken Summers suggested that the committee lead. Perhaps a trip away watching an athletic event could be considered.

Various views were expressed on the allocation of the London Marathon place. The committee will discuss further for next year's allocation.

Dave Fox said he's looking to see whether race video clips could be 'put somewhere' on the club website.

There was some discussion on the Grand Prix as to whether there were too many races. Carol Hansen and Richard Lane felt there were too many. Dave Church felt it was about right. Possibly age grading could be considered. Carol Hansen also suggested possibly including Park Runs.

Thanks were expressed to Monica for her work on the Handicaps.

The new Chairman Dan Francis said he would be aiming for the committee to consider advertising the club through a leaflet drop.

Ray Male had won the Winter Handicap and would nominate Street Vets as his chosen charity. Runner Up Mark Livermore nominated St Lukes. Lindsay Lane had won the Summer Handicap and nominated a Pony Charity.

Richard Lane thanked the club for their donation to the British Legion and the laying of a wreath by Jenny Francis at the Remember Day Parade in Ivybridge.

10.London Maraton Ballot

The name 'drawn out of the hat' was Lindsay Lane. Allister Bristow was 'drawn out' as a reserve.

Dan thanked everyone for attended and the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.