

ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on Monday 9th November via Zoom (8pm)

1. Apologies

These were received from Alison and Dave Engledew.
A full attendance is shown at the end of these notes.

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

Chair's Report: (Dan Francis)

Thank you for taking the time to read my report after my first year as EVH chairman. Without stating the obvious this year has been very different to normal and I will try and avoid using the most common word of the year 'Unprecedented'. However, it really has been.

Financially we have taken a hit, without hosting any races we have made a loss from last year of around 6k. Full details I will leave to our outgoing treasurer Liz Cane, who I must publicly thank on behalf of the club for her work this year. She leaves the club in a great place with everything having been fully digitalised for an easy transition and audit purposes. Thankfully previous committees have built up a large rainy day fund which has meant we as a club will still be able to operate even if we cannot race in 2021.

Training nights have been going well and I hope you have enjoyed the routes that I have set out. I'm always open to ideas for members about Tuesday routes, away days and breakfast runs. I think the introduction of the head torch run throughout the winter has been a success and it certainly makes running in the winter a bit more interesting. We have been limited to training sessions en masse due to numbers but I hope everyone feels we have had a wide variety of runs for all tastes.

Sharon, Paul and Phil to name a few have been doing great work with our couch to 5k and beginner runners. Providing a steady stream of new members to the club which in turn helps our finances and gets us closer to a second London marathon place.

Group leaders are being used more than last year which is great and that is a particular aim of mine, however I feel we can make this work more efficiently and safer. Attached to this report is a brief summary of what is required and expected as a running group leader for EVH. Another reminder that if you are interested in doing a LIRF (Leadership in runner fitness) or any coaching qualifications then please do speak to myself or Keith and the club will help fund these, where there will be a benefit to the club in return.

We have had a good uptake on club initiatives post lockdown in place of races and parkruns. Our 5K time trail worked well and we certainly took some lessons from this, mainly marshal postings, however we have designed this course to be almost marshal free to ensure we can run if we get no volunteers.

The virtual handicap worked very well during the first lockdown and thank you to Monica for processing the results for that, and continuing to run the handicap year after year. A double congratulations must go to Ruth Terry to winning BOTH the winter and summer handicaps for 2020.

The virtual London marathon was a great success nationally and throughout our club. Really bringing a sense of club spirit at a fairly bleak time of year for runners. Another thank you must go to all of the support runners and walkers for that day and a massive congratulations goes to all that completed the marathon, in particular Lindsay Lane who also wins EVH Athlete of the Month for October 2020.

I am willing to take on the role of Chairman again next year if voted in by our membership. I am excited about moving the club forward with fresh new ideas from members. I would like to think that all members feel that they can approach me with any ideas or concerns which I can in turn put forward to the committee. I have learnt a lot in this first year about the club and hope you feel I have done the job to the best of my ability

Secretary's Report: (Keith Reed)

Had I been writing this report in early March it would have been very positive as we had made real progress since last year's AGM. Dan Francis took on the role of Chair and Liz Cane took over as Treasurer. We set up the new bank account and everything was going well. Our juniors won the Devon Sportshall League once again and we had athletes doing well in races.

The 10K entries had opened and we were looking forward to another successful race. The relays were planned for July and the Track and Field season was due to begin April. We launched our new website courtesy of ex-member Dave Brett.

Then the disaster struck which was Covid -19. The country went into lockdown in late March and everything stopped.

It was a difficult time for all of us and it meant that we had to stop training as a club. It soon became obvious that the lockdown would carry on for a while. This meant cancelling the 10K. Thankfully we were able to refund everyone and we hadn't committed to any large spending on things for the race. However the cancellation would cost us some £4500 in profit. We hoped for a while that the relays could go ahead but eventually that was cancelled too. This meant another £1500 in profit was lost. At least we did put on the event as a virtual one raising £100 for NHS charities.

We were able to return to the Rugby Club in July and club sessions restarted. This was a welcome improvement and meant we could meet face to face under tight Covid 19 secure restrictions outside. Can I thank everyone for keeping to the rules and acting in a responsible manner? There have been no adverse comments from any members of the public which is good.

We were able to bring some of our juniors back to training albeit using Victoria Park

and the Station Car Park. The facilities at ICC have still not re-opened. We have been looking at providing an indoor venue for our younger athletes who have not been able to train this summer. We also hired the track at Tavistock on a Saturday. Some of our juniors were able to compete at events this summer on the track and have done very well setting many new pb's.

Because of the lack of facilities it was decided not to charge training fees which meant a further decrease in income of some £3000.

Our membership currently stands at 204 (well down from the 251 from last year). The breakdown is 110 seniors and 94 juniors of which 35 are under 11. This has been affected by Covid and shows how many, juniors in particular, join throughout the year. There are also a lot of members we have not seen this summer so we should expect the numbers to be lower in 2021.

Overall all the above present a gloomy picture but there have been positives and we have a recovery plan in place.

Some of the positives have been as follows.

- Maintained communication to all members through website, social media and email.
- Continued to hold club committee meetings though Zoom.
- Provided links to virtual sessions and supported athletes in their training.
- Offered virtual events like our monthly handicap and the relay event.
- Once training could resume we ran sessions from parks etc. in line with EA Guidelines.
- Used the track at Tavistock to provide an additional session for 2 hours on a Saturday, at additional cost to the club.
- Encouraged new members to senior sessions especially those who were previously on a Couch to 5K programme.
- Encouraged athletes to take part in Covid safe competitions.
- Started a Saturday morning time trial.
- Increased numbers allowed at junior sessions.

We have continued with using the Rugby Club as our base which has many advantages but some issues. Apart from the Covid situation, things have been OK but we must continue to work with them. The new housing developments will have to be monitored and we also continue to look at alternatives if those become attractive.

We have always been in a healthy financial position but this year we have probably lost some £9000 in income.

It is hoped that the 10K and the relays will take place in 2021 but this is by no means certain.

England Athletics will not be increasing their affiliation fees in 2021 so we feel we should maintain our membership fees at 2020 levels especially because we have less to offer in the way of facilities at the moment.

We have put in an application to Sport England to help our recovery in 2021

A summary of our plans are shown here:

- Return to training at Ivybridge Community College for 2 hours per week at a cost of £20 per week.
- Book a one hour session at Ivybridge Tennis Centre at a cost of £25 per week.
- Start a new Couch to 5K group on a Tuesday.
- Hold 5K Time Trials on a Saturday morning every other week.
- Resume track session on a Sat morning at the newly refurbished facility in Plymouth.
- Hold virtual AGM.
- Encourage coaches and officials in the club to continue CPD.
- Plan 10K for May and relays for July.
- Set up online membership form with direct payment into Club account and resume training fees in January.
- Encourage club athletes to take part in road and cross country events.
- Make contact with any lapsed members when membership is due in January.

All this is of course subject to any restrictions which may be put in place by the Government.

Targets

- Return membership to pre-2020 levels.
- Increase numbers at Couch to 5K sessions.
- Return to financial stability through income from races

I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work in this very difficult year. Particular thanks to Dan who has done really well as Chair and to Liz who is standing down as treasurer. We have continued to meet both face to face and by Zoom. I would also like to thank the coaches who have done a great job in working together under difficult circumstances. Can I also thank Monica for running the virtual handicap and Dave Fox for producing some fantastic Harriers this summer? We have tried to keep in contact via Facebook, Twitter, emails and the website. Thanks to Dan and Ruth for doing a great job with this.

Treasurers Report: (Liz Cane)

Liz shared the summary of the clubs finances this year which as already outlined had taken a considerable hit due to the pandemic

We were able to take the loss of income because of the healthy financial state the club was in at the start of 2020. It clearly shows the value of putting on races like the 10K and the relays.

Dan thanked Liz for all her hard work this year and proposed we accept the accounts for the year. This was seconded by Jayne Reed.

5. Newsletter

It's been particularly strange and increasingly difficult to put together a Harrier this year as there have been few races to report on or interesting photos to look at. Two races which did feature were the First Chance 10K and a very tough Grizzly.

I was grateful for regular articles by Dan Francis and Keith Reed. Many thanks also for contributions from Ken Summers, Andy Trigg and Russ Mogridge. I also need to thank all of you for your stories and photos for the London Marathon Challenge.

I felt it was time to 'look outside the box' by looking at some of our promising young athletes and delve into the history of the club.

We got a great insight into what it takes to become a top athlete with superb articles by Will Battershill and Sam Trigg, whilst Nathan Brown and Sam Swift were good enough to take on the 'WHO'S WHO' challenge.

I had a look back at the history of the original London Marathon i.e. the Polytechnic Marathon and did an enjoyable feature on the history of the Plymouth Marathon, where several of you helped me with some material.

I hope members also enjoyed feature articles on the club's involvement at the London Olympics of 2012 and the Beacon Challenge, which newer members said they had not heard of. There was also a detailed look at relay races.

It was also good to get Ian Crossley, the Race Director of the Ivybridge 10K to let you know what it was like to organise such a prestigious event.

There were also some 'light hearted' articles on a 'French Trip', an 'Unforgettable trip to Leeds, even a story of my marathon exploits and an article about the 'Sponge'!

Hope you all enjoyed the Harrier despite the somewhat unusual mix of stories this year. It will be good when racing returns.

6. Election of Officers

Monica Bristow in her role of President took virtual control of the meeting. Monica thanked everyone for their hard work in a difficult year

Chairman - The committee had nominated Dan Francis. Confirmation of this appointment was proposed by Phil Warren and seconded by Carol Hansen.

Secretary – The committee had nominated Keith Reed. Confirmation of this appointment was proposed by Phil Adderley and seconded by Paul Ross.

Treasurer – Chris Prall expressed interest in the role and was proposed by Keith Reed. This was seconded by Sharon Terry

7. Adoption of the Committee

Other Posts accepted by 'the floor'

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

Welfare Officer – Ruth Terry

Carol Hansen, Phil Adderley Paul Ross, Nathan Brown and Michelle Peters are all willing to remain on the committee

Chris May is willing to be adopted in additions to the above. If anyone else would like to volunteer after the meeting then they could be adopted at the December meeting.

Bob Jeffery suggested all the above appointments should be agree en bloc. This was agreed with no exceptions.

8. Subscriptions 2021

Despite the difficult financial situation it was proposed that the membership rate remain at 2020 levels i.e. Senior is £31, 12-18 Years £16 and Under 11's £10. Proposed by Keith Reed and seconded by Bob Jeffery. This was unanimously agreed

9. Open Forum

There would be no formal Christmas function this year due to the virus. As agreed last year any future Social events would be committee lead.

Thanks to all those who took part in the survey about the allocation of the clubs London Marathon place. The ballot method will be continue to be used but will be delayed until February next year due to the race taking place in October not April.

Some discussion took place on the 10K in 2021. Ian Crossley will not be directly involved but has send info to Chris May. Keith Reed has formulated a plan which would use 3 starts of 250 runners at 2 hour intervals. It was felt that this was far from ideal and would make it a very long day.

It was suggested we scale the event back to 250 max and perhaps charge a higher fee.

It was agreed to discuss further at the December committee meeting.

Phil Warren mentioned safety in the Rugby Club car park. The light on the entrance does not work plus parking is very haphazard made worse by some speeding vehicles. It was agreed Dan would contact the new Rigby Club Chair

Dan thanked everyone for attended and the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

Keith Reed
November 2020

Attendees (30)

Monica Bristow
Dan Francis
Jenny Francis
Keith Reed
Jayne Reed
Paul Ross
Sharon Terry
Ruth Terry
Nick McMahon
Bob Jeffery
Ewan lake
Emma Lake
Michelle Peters
Carol Hansen
Mike Hansen
Dave Fox
Nathan Brown
Lindsay Lane
Richard Lane
Chris May
Phil Warren
Phil Adderley
Chris Prall
Liz Cane
Andrew Trigg
Ian Mant
Russ Mogridge
Kate Mogridge
Linda Bracher
Neil Moffatt