

# ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

## Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting held at IRFC on Tuesday 2nd November 2021

### 1. Apologies

A full attendance and apologies are 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)

Hello Erme Valley Harrier members, friends and family. Thank you for taking the time to read this report either in person at the AGM or via the Harrier produced by Dave Fox.

2021 has been a far better year than the one that proceeded it and EVH has gratefully managed to return to most of our pre-covid activities. I will leave the financial details to our treasurer Chris Prall, who I must publicly thank for taking on the role following the AGM 20. I can tell you that we are in a positive position compared to last year and a lot of that is down to Chris' hard work.

Membership is growing and I'm extremely proud of the diversity in our recruitment. From our Couch to 5k groups, expertly organised by Sharon and her team, consisting of Jo, Paul, Phil, Ruth, Lindsay and many more I'm sure. Apologies if I have missed anyone! To our new members who are very established marathon runners, and all abilities in-between. I believe this shows the welcoming nature of our current members, including new faces in all of our activities. Mass Parkrun outings, large race gatherings, X-Country (Thanks to Becky Lee, our new Team manager) have all been a great success this year. In short, EVH is a club for all and that is entirely down to you, and on behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all!

Training nights have grown in numbers and this is fantastic to see. We are really desperate however, for more 'Run Group Leaders'. This, as you probably know, is a real aim for myself and has been a massive improvement in the last 2 years. This really hinges on the willingness of members to step up and take on the role of a leader. Being the person responsible for the route knowledge, checking people out and back to the rugby club and dealing with any issues or injuries on the run, to the best of your ability of course. The club has always been happy to cover the cost of a LIRF (Leadership in Running Fitness) course, which is a great introduction into group leadership and brief coaching.

#### 2020-21 Aims

1. Improve safety for all of our members - Partially achieved
2. Help new members feel included, especially on their first few sessions - Achieved

3. Get out on the route in good time and reduce any uncertainty of members prior to leaving the rugby club - Partially achieved

### **2021-22 Aims**

1. To recruit more group leaders of ALL abilities to aid and assist our safety goals of training nights
2. Return to our 10k event as per 2019

As many of you know, I am unable to stand as Chairman for 2022. The inevitable has happened at work and I am being drafted away from home to the Royal Marines School of Music as the Percussion instructor in Portsmouth. Although this is a new and exciting challenge for me work-wise, it means I will be leaving my family during the week for the foreseeable. It will be unworkable to continue as chair for you all, as I will be unable to attend Tuesday training sessions, as-well as meetings. I am more than happy to stand as chair until my draft in January or to act as co-chair with someone after the AGM, again until January.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for making my life and tenure as chair so easy and putting up with me for the last two years. A massive thank you also goes to the committee for all their help, particularly during the lockdown months. I have really enjoyed being part of EVH in a more involved way, and will of course remain a member of the club during my time based in Portsmouth! Hopefully seeing a lot of you on Friday evenings, at Parkruns or weekend races.

### **Secretary's Report: (Keith Reed)**

It is hard to believe we have come through another year since the last AGM. At that time we were just coming out of what we thought was the end of COVID. As we know now it wasn't. We ended up with more lockdowns and were faced with more cancellations (including the entire cross country and Sportshall seasons) plus many other events.

We were eventually able to return to club training at the end of March albeit in a COVID safe way. We were able to put on a number of 5K time trials on a Saturday morning to replace the cancelled Parkruns.

From then on it has been a gradual return to a more normal situation with road races returning and a "normalish" track and field season. We were able to put our own EVH relay race on in July which was a massive success.

Junior training continued using Filham Park and the Station Car Park until the facilities at ICC re-opened in April. Numbers have been gradually increasing but we still not at pre-pandemic levels. We have so many new young athletes which is great but we are lacking the experienced ones.

We have continued with using the Rugby Club as our base, but have only recently gone back inside on training nights. The numbers attending training have been very good and there have been many new recruits. The recent successful launch of the latest Couch to 5K group could boost numbers even more. Well done to Sharon for setting this up.

Our membership currently stands at 231 (up from 204 last year). The breakdown is 134 seniors and 97 juniors of which 44 are under 11. We are continuing to grow in both areas and we expect the numbers to go up further in 2022. This is a similar situation with most clubs and we are in many ways better off than many.

As predicted we have lost income in 2020/21 but we were able to hold the relays and begin charging training fees for juniors from April. Chris Prall took on the role of treasurer at the last AGM and has done a great job. Although on paper we do have a lot of reserves, it is most important that this money is spent wisely going forward.

We hope this coming year will be more stable and we can continue to grow.

Last year we had three main targets which were mostly achieved.

- Return membership to pre-2020 levels. – This has been largely achieved with the seniors but work with the juniors is still required.
  - Increase numbers at Couch to 5K sessions. – Done well.
  - Return to financial stability through income from races – Partly done and plans are underway for the 2022 10K.
- I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work in this very difficult year. Dan Francis has done fantastically well as Chair but is unfortunately having to move jobs. We hope we can resolve this by having a co-chair role as Dan will only be around at weekends. As I said Chris has done a great job 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 handicap and Dave Fox for producing more fantastic Harrier magazines. 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.

I hope you all enjoy the AGM and that you gain a lot of understanding of how the club works. It is an opportunity for you to put your views forward. The club will continue to go forward in a safe, sustainable way in line with the requirements of the governing bodies and our members.

### **Treasurers Report: (Chris Prall)**

Chris shared the summary of the clubs finances this year which was his first in the role. Overall it had been a successful year with some of the losses from the previous year being made up partly due to the return of the EVH relays and the EA grant. Phil Warren expressed a vote of thanks for all his hard work.

The accounts will be independently verified by Emma Beckwith (cub member) in the next few weeks in line with our constitution.

It was agreed that the finances should be adopted.

## 5. Newsletter

The Newsletter for the benefit of new members is issued online on a monthly basis and puts in one place what is happening in the club from race reports, training information, photos etc.

I would like to thank in particular your Chairman Dan Francis and Secretary Keith Reed for their regular reports.

The last year has been much the same as the previous one as due to covid I have had to look 'outside the box' to make the Harrier interesting as there has been no races until the last few months to report on. I wondered in the circumstances whether I could issue a Harrier at all but by looking through previous Harriers I have delved into the history of the club in various events. I produced the first Harrier in 1988 and have a copy of everyone, so perhaps I am the best person to do this.

I usually like to report on what would have happened during a particular month and over the last year I have covered in detail:

The Cross Country scene over the years.  
When we made Athletics Weekly in 2015.  
The First Chance 10K.  
The Plymouth Hoe 10.  
The Grizzly.  
The London Marathon.  
The Yorkshire Three Peaks Race.  
The Dartmoor Discovery  
and the Haytor Heller.

Various issues of the Harrier can be found on our website and for new members in particular I suggest you have a look at these over the last two years as you will get a good idea on the Erme Valley Harriers running scene.

The Dartmoor Discovery was really the first race this year after a long break and I didn't take any race photographs until the Haytor Heller and Totnes 10K, almost 18 months since I last took photos at the Grizzly 2020.

Many thanks to Paul Ross and Richard Lander-Stow for their reports on 'the story behind the picture at the 27<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Marathon in Washington in 2002' and the Cape Wrath Ultra. Please continue to send me reports and photos of your exploits as they make interesting reading.

I hope you have enjoyed the Harrier and with a bit of luck hopefully I will be reporting on races rather than delving back into the clubs history in the future.

Dan thanked Dave for his superb efforts in producing the Harrier magazine during all the lockdown. Ken Summers said he was in awe of how Dave was able to produce anything at all with the difficult situation we were all under at times.

## 6. Election of Officers

As Monica Bristow in her role of President was absent, Dan maintained control of the meeting as he was standing down as Chair  
Monica thanked everyone for their hard work in a difficult year

**Chairman** - The committee had nominated Tom Davies as Co-Chair with Dan Francis. This was seconded by Shirley Watson

**Secretary** – The committee had nominated Keith Reed. This seconded by Ken Summers.

**Treasurer** – The committee had nominated Chris Prall This seconded by Shirley Watson.

## 7. Adoption of the Committee

Carol Hansen gave her intention to stand down and was thanked for her service. Sharon Terry will continue as Volunteer Co-ordinator and Ruth Terry as Welfare Officer. The other members of the committee are Phil Adderley Paul Ross, Nathan Brown, Michelle Peters, Chris May. Phil Warren expressed a wish to join the committee and with that addition the committee was elected 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 2021 levels i.e. Senior is £31, 12-18 Years £16 and Under 11's £10. Proposed by the Committee and seconded by Bob Jeffery. This was unanimously agreed

It was hoped that Mike the Rugby Club chair would be in attendance to give more details on the benefits of being a member of the Rugby Club. Sharon was able to give some details. All EVH members to be sent the application form link..

## 9. Open Forum

Phil Warren mentioned safety in the Rugby Club car park and 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 Rugby Club Chair once again.

There were a lot of comment from new members (including some from the Couch to 5K group, on how positive and supportive the club is to them.

Discussions took place on Groups and role of leaders. It was agreed to look further at this. We need to identify more leaders and train them.

Becky Lee thanked the clubs for supporting her sponsorship for the London Marathon.

Dan thanked everyone for attended and the meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

Attendees (40)

Dan Francis

Jenny Francis

Keith Reed

Paul Ross

Sharon Terry

Ruth Terry

Nick McMahon

Bob Jeffery

Michelle Peters

Carol Hansen

Dave Fox

Lindsay Lane

Richard Lane

Phil Warren

Phil Adderley

Chris Prall

Russ Mogridge

Linda Bracher

Becky Lee

Mike Lee

Dave Rayfield

Dinah Wakeley

Paddy Wakeley

Donna Brown

Nick Baker

Steve Watson

Shirley Watson

Lianne Spampinato

Nick Bristow

Ronnie Haynes

Ben Vleminckx

Ken Summers

Dave Gilvear

Emily Faircloth

Tom Davies

Dave Church

Yvonne Eastmond

Sue Blackhoe

Liz Lavares

Kate Medicott

Apologies – Monica Bristow: Jo Jayes; Alison & Dave Engledew; Andy Trigg; Andy Bartlett; Mike Hansen: Emma & Anna Lake: Bob Jefferies; Chris May; Jemma Cooper: Saskia Hogbin; Jackie Frewin