

ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting held at IRFC on Tuesday 8th November 2022

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. There was a date error on the Subscriptions section, should have read 2022 not 2021. 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: (Tom Davies)

Hello Erme Valley Harrier members. Thank you for taking the time to read this report, my first as Chair since taking over 12 months ago.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Committee; Keith Reed, Paul Ross, Phil Warren, Phil Adderley, Chris Prall, Sharon Terry, Ruth Terry and Dan Francis. All of whom have personally helped me in my role of chair and who keep the club running smoothly. If anybody else would like to join the committee please do get in touch we would welcome input from the full spectrum of club members.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all of you for coming along on a club night, our numbers seem to be returning to pre-covid levels which is great to see. We're trying to keep the planned training sessions following a similar format each month but with variations to keep things as interesting as we can. If anyone has suggestions for routes or speed sessions etc then please let me know.

Keith has covered the aims of 2022 in his report, so I won't repeat here. However, to reiterate, we are still looking for volunteers to help with leading club runs on a Tuesday night. If anyone is interested in doing this, then let one of us know and we'll get things arranged. Likewise, Chris will cover the finances in more detail but in summary after a couple of rocky years the finances for the last year are healthy and we're in a stable position once again.

Looking back at the last year, a definite highlight for me as been the three races which we have hosted. Firstly, to get the 10K back up and running is a huge positive, it is the cornerstone of the club's finances and helps to keep the membership fees as low as possible. We received excellent feedback from runners and local clubs and I feel it was a great success. Secondly, the relays in July, with some challenges around having to hold the event midweek rather than the traditional Friday night, it was well attended by both running clubs and social running groups. There was a great atmosphere on the evening and again showcased how good we are as a club at hosting events. Finally, the Ivybridge Three Tops fell race, Chris Prall stepped up to direct a race for the first time and put on a superb event including 2 different junior races, which went down very well with the local fell running community. I think the icing on the cake was the fact that the men's race was won by our own Matt Gilvear

None of the above would be possible without the support of our members, can I say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped out in any way at any of these events, I and the rest of the committee, very much appreciate people giving us their time and supporting us when we host these races.

Other highlights of the year have been the continued success of the Summer and Winter handicaps, these are very well attended, and everyone seems to relish the challenge of the two different courses. A huge thank you to Monica, Donna and Shirley for the organisation and timing of these events. Thank you to Ken for running the kit sales and making sure that new members know how to get hold of the various bit of kit which are available.

As ever, Dave Fox has produced monthly editions of The Harrier covering all the races that club members have been getting to and usually including a not so flattering picture of me wading through some muddy ditch at one of the cross-country races! On the subject of cross-country, I'd like to thank Becky Lee for her management of the cross-country teams last season and continuing to do so this year. It was great to see so a good turnout of both seniors and juniors at the first XC race of the year at Newnham, it would be great to see a few more of you at some of the other races in the season.

Our regular couch to 5K programmes have been a great success, a big thank you to Sharon, Ruth, Paul and others who have been involved with organising these sessions. It's great to see the runners progressing on a week-by-week basis with many of them signing up to as members once they've completed the course.

A personal highlight for me this year has been around the club's social side, I'm thinking in particular of the regular meet up at various parkruns across the region including taking over the entire Haldon Forest diner following Ken's birthday parkrun and a great turn out at the Eden project to celebrate Ian and Sarah's wedding. Thanks also to Andy Trigg for his weekly parkrun roundups, with some fascinating info and stats covering all things parkrun. We also recently had a club trip to the Tavy 7, followed up with a get together at a local pub for some food which was well attended and people seemed to enjoy both the event and the post race refreshments. We've also had the regular away day runs on a Friday evening and the occasional breakfast run, thanks to Phil Warren for organising those. I think all of this perfectly demonstrates the club spirit and welcoming nature and I very much look forward to more of the same next year.

Looking ahead to next year, I have three main aims for the club, but would love to hear ideas from members on what they would like to see the club doing.

My aims for the club next year are as follows:

1. Recruit more run leaders to assist on club nights
2. Increase senior membership level to greater than 150
3. Increased engagement with club members and organisation of regular club trips to races etc

Thank you again for reading and I look forward to seeing you at club or a race soon.

Secretary's Report: (Keith Reed)

It has been far more of a normal year since the last AGM with the return of the Cross Country season, a full track and field season and a return of most road races including our own Ivybridge 10K which although not back up to 2019 numbers was a real success.

We have continued with using the Rugby Club as our base and have been back inside for the past year. Numbers at training have been good in general and the Couch to 5K programmes have brought in new recruits. We have had a number of new members joining but unfortunately have lost some of our stalwarts for various reasons.

Our membership currently stands at 213. The breakdown is 120 seniors (of which 10 are volunteers) and 93 juniors of which 41 are under 11.

This is slightly down from the previous year but is as expected with COVID. We have has a turnover of members which is a good thing in many ways.

Tom has taken on the role of Chair very well following in the footsteps of Dan Francis who had to stand down for job reasons. Chris Prall and has also done a great job as treasurer. We have returned to a more financial stable position after the losses of 2021

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

- Return membership to pre-2020 levels. – We are above 2020 levels through the success of the Couch to 5K sessions and increasing numbers of juniors, although theoretically down on 2021.
- Return to financial stability through income from races – This has been done

It was good to be able to put on the 10K again which went very well. We also staged the relays again which also went well. We also put on the 3 Tops Fell Race which was Chris's first time as Race Director. All these events require a lot of help from our members who do a fantastic jobs. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a great bunch of experienced volunteers.

We have tried to develop a better relationship with the Rugby Club this year and we are resuming regular meetings with them. We hope that facilities for our members can improve and especially if the new developments go through.

We may have to pay more to use the venue, but as long as there is an improvement in the facility then we would not be adverse to this. This will be discussed at the AGM.

I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work again in this transition year. Particular thanks for Sharon for all she has done in taking the club forward this year. I would also like to thank the coaches who have again done a great job. Can I also thank Monica for running the handicap and Dave Fox for producing more fantastic Harrier magazines. Ken has also done an excellent job with the kit. We continue to try and keep in contact via Facebook, Twitter, emails and the website as well as meeting up face to face on a more regular basis.

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 an improvement on the previous year mainly due to the success of the 10K race.

Phil Warren expressed a vote of thanks for all his hard work.

The accounts will be independently verified by Emma Beckwith (club 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 once a month and appears on the club website. I also send out the newsletter by email to members on my distribution list. The Newsletter puts in place what is happening in the club from race reports, training information, photos etc. and is a good reference guide.

I would like to thank in particular your Chairman Tom Davies and Secretary Keith Reed for their regular reports. Also many thanks to anyone who has sent me various photographs and reports.

Thankfully this year was more normal as most races reappeared. I was able to attend various races and take photographs. I did from time to time delve back into the archives, which next year will be 35 years from when I produced the first Harrier.

Apart from attending various Cross Country events I could be seen at the Grizzly, the Cornwood Challenge, the Plymouth Half Marathon and 10K, the Totnes 10K and most recently the Tavy 7. Some of those events were particularly hot!

Cross Country events often provide the most interesting photographs but the Grizzly this year was particularly memorable. I and Chief Cheerleader Carol Hansen had a great time, as apart from taking photos we were handing out jelly babies and mini mars bars. The latter often being a small treat which finishers in Cross Country events will be aware of.

If anyone has an interesting trip away or does something unusual then I should be pleased if you could send me a report so everyone can be aware of your adventure.

Due to Covid and the lack of races I had to stop producing club rankings for the year. These were last produced for the year of 2019 but with many events returning to normal I will produce the road rankings for the 10K, Half Marathon and Marathon for this year. They will appear in the 2023 January Harrier. I and Keith have tried to keep up-to-date with events you have ran but if for some reason you have done an event which hasn't been mentioned in the Harrier and falls within the rankings then can you let me have some details over the next few weeks.

Hopefully you have continued to enjoy the Harrier.

5. 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 proposed Tom Davies as Chair. This was nominated by Phil Warren seconded by Ken Summers.

Secretary – The committee had proposed Keith Reed. This was nominated by Russ Mogridge and seconded by Dave Rayfield.

Treasurer – The committee had proposed Chris Prall. This was nominated by Ken Summers seconded by Becky Lee.

Volunteer Co-ordinator - The committee had proposed Sharon Terry. This was nominated by Tom Davies and seconded by Chris Rickard.

All posts unanimously elected.

Sharon and Ruth Terry are the elected Welfare Officers

6. Adoption of the Committee

The other members of the committee are Phil Adderley Paul Ross, Phil Warren, Dave Rayfield, Chris Rickard and Charlie Milward. The committee was elected en bloc. This was agreed with no exceptions.

8. Subscriptions 2023

Despite the difficult financial situation it was proposed that the membership rate remain at 2022 levels i.e. Senior is £31, 12-18 Years £16 and Under 11's £10.

The EA affiliation fee will rise by £1 in April but it was felt we could absorb the increase. This was unanimously agreed

9. Open Forum

Russ Mogridge said he hoped the members would be consulted about any increased fees for using the Rugby Club. He felt that we were not getting value for money. It was stated that we had held constructive meetings with the Rugby Club and we were hoping to get a resolution to the shower issues and also to get an update on future plans. We intend to draw up a contract and agree a price for the next year.

It was made clear to the meeting that we didn't really have an alternative venue if needed.

Russ also raised the idea of including Parkruns into the Grand Prix. This will be investigated.

The London Marathon draw will be held at the Christmas do on Sat 10th December. Tickets are now on sale.

Charlie Milward asked about a specific cross country training session prior to an event. This will also be looked into.

Tom thanked everyone for attended and the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Attendees (43)

Monica Bristow
Tom Davies
Keith Reed
Chris Prall
Paul Ross
Sharon Terry
Ruth Terry
Phil Warren
Dave Fox
Lindsay Lane
Richard Lane
Dave Engledew
Alison Engledew
Denise Willman
Julia Ameer
Bryan Short
Russ Mogridge
Katy Mogridge
Becky Lee
Mike Lee
Dave Rayfield
Donna Brown
Nick Baker
Steve Watson
Shirley Watson
Nick Bristow
Ken Summers
Matt Gilvear
Dave Gilvear
Val Wookey
Yvonne Eastmond
Kate Medicott
Chrissie Milward
Charlie Milward
Kay McDowell
Chris Rickard
Andy Trigg
Emma Lake
Nick Bristow
Emma Beckwith
Stafford Williams
Sue Blacksell
Andrea Mitchell

Apologies – Dan Francis, David Lloyd, Carol & Mike Hansen., David Church, Liz and Alistair Bristow, Andy McDowell, Andrew Mitchell