

## ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

### Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting held at IRFC on Tuesday 12th November 2024

#### 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. Proposed by Dave Fox and seconded by Nick Baker

#### 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 my annual report.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Committee for all of their efforts over the last year, a lot of work goes on unseen by every member of the committee which allows the club to run 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. Also whilst not a committee member I'd like to thank Dave Fox for his great work in producing the Harrier every month.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all of you for coming along on a club night, it's great to see so many people turning up regularly on a Tuesday night. Thank you to Emma Lake and Charlie Milward who have taken over the scheduling of club runs this year; the mixture of speed sessions and other runs are very popular.

Looking back on my aims for 2024 we had three targets:

1. Increase senior membership level to greater than 150
2. Encourage even more club members to participate at some of the races available to them as part of their membership
3. Increase entry numbers to the 10k, our relays and our fell race.

We have increased our senior membership compared to 2023 but we haven't achieved our stretch target of 150, we still have ambitions to reach this number and we are keen to develop strategies for increasing both our senior and junior membership numbers. We have had a successful year with club trips to local races such as the Tavy 7 and Bridgewater 10k and Half marathon. Numbers were up for all 3 of the races we host, so thank you again to all our members who helped out with marshalling etc for these events including on quite a cold wet evening on the moors. Your efforts are very much appreciated, we are very grateful to you supporting us when we host these events.

Looking back at the last year, a few things stand out as highlights for me:

Successes both individually and teams at the Westward League cross country including winning the combined team award for the first time in many years. Thanks to Becky Lee for her organisation of the cross country and it was also great to see so many members give cross country a go for the first time or make a return to it.

The success at our own relays with our men's team winning the race for the first time in 20 odd years along with a sterling effort from our mixed team almost claiming that particular title for the first time in the club's history.

Finally, the general camaraderie among club members at training, meeting up at local parkruns and other races. It's great to be part of such a welcoming club, so I'd like to thank you all for making the club what it is.

Whilst the year on a whole has been overwhelmingly successful we acknowledge that we must continue to monitor and review our club policies and grievance procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our members.

Chris has covered the finances so I won't go in to detail but we have made a reasonable profit this year which given the increased number of events we have paid for members to enter, , social occasions alongside general inflationary costs I think is a good outcome. Our 10k remains the bedrock of our finances and helps us to keep our membership fees down to one of the lowest in the local area. However, we recognise that as a club we have a surplus of cash and we want to give our members the best value for money. As such, next year the club will pay for all Devon County Championship race which includes the cross country race at Exeter, the county fell race championship, the track and field championship and the road race championship (the Ross Shield / Tavy 7).

My aims for the club next year are as follows:

1. Increase senior membership level to greater than 150.
2. Encourage more people to lead / help lead club runs now.
3. Support the junior coaches and parents both at training nights and competitions (track and field and cross country)

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 another very good year for the club and most things have continued to go well.

The senior training sessions have been well attended, and the junior numbers at sessions have increased massively since the late summer.

Unfortunately there has been no real change with the facilities at the Rugby Club which is down to finance, but we have developed a better overall working relationship with them. We will continue to work towards offering our members a better experience if we can. We have recently tried to survey our members and parents of juniors to find out what people want from us. We are looking at the findings of both these which will be used to look at our development plan going forward.

Our membership currently stands at 243 which is up from 2023. The breakdown is 136 seniors (of which 8 are volunteers) and 107 juniors of which 53 are under 11. This is an increase from 38 which has been achieved without the need to actively recruit. It does of course put pressure on our coaches and on the facilities.

Tom has continued to do a great job as Chair, running the Handicap as well which has gone well. Chris Prall has continued as treasurer keeping us on a sound financial footing, which he will share with us at the AGM.

The 10K went very well with slightly increased numbers. We will have to look at the route for 2025 in view of building developments near the start, but hopefully all will be OK. We staged the ever popular relays again (which also went well). We also put on the 3 Tops Fell Race again with increased numbers. As I said before 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.

I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work again in this year. Particular thanks to Sharon for all she does for the club. I would also like to thank the coaches who have again done a great job. I would also like to thank Jayne my long suffering wife who does such a valuable job

helping the club and me. We are struggling with just a small band of coaches and it is a major area of concern going forward. Also a huge thank you to Dave Fox for producing more fantastic Harrier magazines. Ken and Sharon have done an excellent job with the kit. We continue to try and keep in contact via Facebook, Twitter, emails and the website. Looking ahead to 2025 we face challenges as always but I'm sure if we all work together we can overcome.

The main ones are as follows:-

- Facilities as both the Rugby Club and Ivybridge College are not ideal and we do need a plan going forward.  
We need to offer our members a good experience in every way.
- Encouraging the juniors to take part in club competitions particularly track and field.  
Improve communication and understanding of parents.
- Recruit and train more coaches (particularly junior ones) and volunteers in general. We need to have a succession plan to replace our older volunteers whilst maintaining continuity. This is a particular priority for us.
- Look at the results of the surveys and revisit the club's development plan.

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)**

After last year, when there was a relatively small surplus, coupled with the rising EA Fees and general inflation, we took the decision to increase senior and older junior membership fees by £4 each to £20 and £35. This year, we made a profit of just over £4k, meaning our membership prices and junior training fees will not need to be increased this year, and hopefully for the next few years as well. The major contributing incomes in the year were 10k Race Entries and Sponsorship, Junior Training and Membership, Senior Membership, Relay Entries, and Reserve Bank Account Interest. Overall income at £26.0k was up by £3.3k since last year, due to a variety of contributing factors, including an increase in senior membership income (due to the fee rises), an increase in junior fees income (mainly due to increased junior numbers), an additional sponsor for the 10k, an increase in Fell Race entry fees, and an increase in Club Kit sold this year. The major outgoings were for England Athletics Fees, Rugby Club Hire (for senior training), ICC Hire (for juniors training), EVH Race Costs, purchase of Club Kit, Entry Fees for members, Transport to Cross Country events, the Juniors Awards evening, the Christmas Party, and Website costs. Overall outgoings at £21.8k were up by £800 since last year, due to a number of factors including increased EA costs, delayed 10k costs from 2023, an increase in the purchase of Club Kit, more Charitable Donations (including those made from the 10k and Fell Race funds), higher costs for the Christmas Party and this year, Transport to several cross-country races. These were in part offset by a reduction in Coaching Courses and General Membership costs this year, no Anniversary Celebration this year, and ICC school hire fees which are pending and will now come out of next year's finances. When broken out separately, the 10k Race made approximately £4.2k profit (similar to the final amount for last year) whilst the Relays made around £700 (slightly more than last year) and the Fell Race around £100 again. Without the races, the remaining club activities would have made a loss of just under £1k. The seniors are subsidised by the profits from the races, in particular the 10k. This emphasises the importance of the 10k race to our finances and the EVH committee are hugely grateful to your help in 10k and the other races. The

races are also important to the club in other ways. The 10k fund was able to donate £500 to the charity Moor Trees, and the Fell race fund was able to donate £500 to the Harford Moor Erosion Fund and £220 to Dartmoor National Park. All three of our races do a great job of promoting our club locally. The benefits that club members already receive include free entry into Sportshall for juniors, free entry into Cross Country and Relay events for seniors (and juniors where applicable), fully paid-for Junior Awards event, a subsidised Christmas Party, LiRF (Leadership in Running Fitness) and Coaching courses fully paid for, subsidised Club Kit, and buffet food for the AGM. Next year, we plan to cover the cost of entries into more events for juniors and seniors, including selected Road, Track & Field, and Fell Race events, including Devon Championship races. The club has good cash reserves, with an overall cash balance of £43.6k, which approximately equates to 2.0 years of current outgoings. An independent check of last year's accounts was carried out in December 2023, with no major findings. The plan is to do the same again with an independent (non-committee) member.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting along with the other officer reports

Proposed by Barry Neal

Seconded by Becky Lee

## **5. Newsletter**

I managed to issue 12 Newsletters, known as the Harrier over the last year, with no Harrier in January as I was away for some 3 weeks. The September Harrier had some 15 pages, which was the fewest, whilst the August Harrier was the largest with some 31 pages!

The Harrier is issued once a month and is sent out by email to members on my distribution list and also appears on the club website. It is a good reference guide as to what is happening in the club and includes race reports, training information, photos etc. 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 photographs or reports. I even had a video clip from Charlie at the Westward Ho! Cross Country as you had to decide whether when jumping the stream he cleared it or fell in!

I have taken numerous photographs at races such as 'The Grizzly', where there was a monster on the course, many photos at the Plymouth races and some good ones at the Ivybridge 3 Tops Fell Race. Members living locally will also have seen some photos in the Ivybridge IMAG. Occasionally I also contribute photos to the excellent Plymouth Sports Gazette.

My favourite photos of the year were of Ronnie Haynes putting in a sprint finish to be 1<sup>st</sup> male vet 40 at the Ivybridge 10K and a very 'cool' looking Matthew Gilvear at the Totnes 10K.

I am always looking to receive reports and photos with many thanks going to Tim Steere and Craig MacAlpine.

Tim completed the Abbott World Marathon Majors and submitted some great reports and photos from his races in Tokyo and Boston.

I have been pestering Craig for some time to submit a report on one of his fantastic adventures. Craig has competed in the 14 peaks ultra in Wales, the Wasdale Horseshoe Fell Race in the Lake District and more recently the Ultra Tour Monte Rosa trail race in Switzerland and Italy. In the September Harrier Craig finally submitted me a 9-page report, with some great photos. It is worthwhile checking you tube for videos on these races as sometimes photos don't do the races justice and you get a better picture of the events.

I hope you have enjoyed the Harriers and I can produce many more interesting Newsletters in the future.

Ken Summers thanked Dave for all of his efforts not just with the Harrier but for his all-round good work and support.

## 5. Election of Officers

As Monica Bristow was absent Tom acted as Chair for this part of the meeting

**Chairman** - The committee had proposed Tom Davies as Chair. This was nominated by Emma Lake and seconded by Ken Summers.

**Secretary** – The committee had proposed Keith Reed. This was nominated by Richard Lane and seconded by Simon Chapman

**Treasurer** – The committee had proposed Chris Prall. This was nominated by Ken Summers and seconded by Jenny Hayes.

**Volunteer Co-ordinator** - The committee had proposed Sharon Terry. This was nominated by Phil Warren and seconded by Val Wookey.

**All posts unanimously elected.**

Sharon and Ruth Terry will continue as the elected Welfare Officers

## 6. Adoption of the Committee

The current committee of Phil Warren, Dave Rayfield, Chris Rickard, Emma Lake and Charlie Milward plus the officers and Welfare officers will continue. Barry Neal and Lynn Whitfield were accepted on to the committee as new members. The committee was elected en bloc. This was agreed with no exceptions.

## 7. Subscriptions 2025

The committee felt that there no reason to increase fees for 2025

An acceptance of the fees was proposed by Becky Lee and seconded by Dave Fox.

The new fees were accepted unanimously.

## 8. Open Forum

Richard Lane felt that the use of the Marquee was not ideal for the meeting as it was cold and noisy. It was explained that we only found out on the evening that there was a double booking. The Rugby Club had done their best. We are trying to work with the club in general to improve our relationship. We could look at an alternative venue next year.

Barry Neal said that the entrance to the Rugby Club was still a potential danger when cars are coming in. Tom said the light had been fixed and runners should not congregate there after runs.

Ken asked that more people should help with the handicaps and also that we need more group leaders. It was agreed w would try to recruit.

Becky asked about the future of the Westward League once Keith and Jayne stand down, It was confirmed that the club would still support the league whoever takes it on.

Tom thanked everyone for attended and the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

Keith Reed  
November 2024

## Attendees (43)

Tom Davies  
Keith Reed  
Chris Prall  
Sharon Terry  
Ruth Terry  
Phil Warren  
Dave Fox  
Lindsay Lane  
Richard Lane  
Dave Engledew  
Alison Engledew  
Louise Creber  
Barry Neal  
Becky Lee  
Dave Rayfield  
Nick Baker  
Steve Watson  
Nick Bristow  
Ken Summers  
Val Wookey  
Kate Medlicott  
Chrissie Milward  
Charlie Milward  
Chris Rickard  
Emma Lake  
Andrea Mitchell  
Andrew Mitchell  
Peter Allen  
Jenny Hayes  
Allister Bristow  
Liz Bristow  
Jayne Reed  
Sue Blacksell  
Julia Ameer Ali  
Alan Gatling  
Oliver Wright  
Dave Gilvear  
Emily Faircloth  
Deborah Bond  
Kelly Barraclough  
Ming Min Teh  
Georgina Chapman  
Simon Chapman

Apologies – Dan Francis, Stafford Williams, Monica Bristow, Bob Jeffreys, Nick McMahon, Alistair James, Tanya Newman