

ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting held at Hunting Lodge on Tuesday 11th November 2025

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 Rayfield and seconded by Phil Warren

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers Reports

Chair's Report: (Tom Davies)

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.

There's a couple of people I would like to thank in particular; Lynne Whitfield who joined the committee last year and was instrumental in getting the internal Club Championship back up and running, this has been a great success and provides some friendly competition within the club. I'd also like to thank Emma Lake who supported Lynne with getting the Club Championship going and she has also taken on the organisation of the summer and winter handicaps including designing a new summer handicap route (twice!). Thanks also to Charlie Milward who along with Emma organise the weekly training routes including the popular speedwork sessions which Emma often leads

Also whilst not committee members I'd like to thank Dave Fox for his great work in producing the Harrier every month, Ken Summers for everything he does with kit sales and Monica, Ali and Liz Bristow for their ongoing support to the club with the supply of kit, race t-shirts etc.

Finally, 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, representing the club at local (and not so local races), parkun meet-ups etc. As has been said many times before but it is worth reiterating; thank you to all our members who helped out with marshalling etc for the three club events which we host. Your efforts are very much appreciated, we are very grateful to you supporting us when we host these events.

Looking back on my aims for 2025 we had three targets:

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

We have increased our senior membership compared to 2024 but we haven't achieved our stretch target of 150, we have ongoing ambitions to reach this number and we are keen to develop strategies for increasing both our senior and junior membership numbers and would welcome ideas from the wider membership as to how we achieve this.

We have a couple of additional people leading and supporting on club runs but we really could do with more people to come forward to support us on this part. Especially when we are running in the winter evenings it's important that we know people are sticking together and looping back as required and that nobody is left behind. We will be bringing this up regularly so please do get in touch if you are able to support on this.

We have seen an increase in juniors representing the club at track and field and cross country events over the last year, however, we hope that these numbers increase this winter for XC and into next years T&F season. The junior coaches provide a great training environment and it would be fantastic to see a larger number of juniors at local events.

My own personal highlights for the last year:

Hearing about the personal achievements for so many of our members; this ranges from people taking part in a race distance or event for the first time, people achieving PB's, representing Devon County at the inter-county championships, England Age group representation alongside team successes at several local races including Torbay relays, Tavy 7, our own relays, First Chance 10k, etc

Greater involvement from both our junior and senior membership at local track and field events; we had a great turnout of juniors at some local meetings and several of them came away with medals from the County Championships. We also had some of our senior members returning to race on the track including Sally Erith, Jeremy Westmore and Peter Allen (who's 'swim' as part of the steeplechase was a particular highpoint).

Keith receiving his England Athletics lifetime achievement award for his long service to athletics and running. I'm sure everyone will agree that it's well deserved and it's a wonderful way for his contribution to be recognised.

Chris has covered the finances, so I won't go into detail, but we have effectively broken even this year which given the increased number of events we have paid for members to enter, the additional club funded trips, social occasions, charitable donations alongside general inflationary costs I think is a good outcome. It is clear that the Ivybridge 10k remains the foundation of our stable financial position which does help us to keep our membership fees down to one of the lowest in the local area. As has been reported elsewhere, the England Athletics affiliation fee has risen by £3 per year and with other items of our expenditure forecast to increase it is necessary for us to propose to increase our membership fees accordingly. I would encourage everyone to make the most of your membership fee by taking part in the local league races for cross country, track and field etc, use the club funded minibus for the various events we attend, weekly training sessions, subsidised social events etc

As a reminder, the EVH committee is focused on ensuring that every decision we make reflects the club's mission to provide a friendly running community here in Ivybridge.

We're proud to be an inclusive club that welcomes runners of all abilities from those competing at the sharp end to those who are relatively new to running and looking to progress and those who prefer a steadier social run. We're also a member-led club, and that means you help shape what EVH becomes next. We always welcome new ideas and suggestions for how we can improve what we offer whether it's training sessions, social events, volunteering, or ways we can give back to the local running community. If you've got an idea, please let us know.

This year we are looking to introduce a couple of new roles to help support both the committee and the wider club membership and this is through the introduction of a male and female club captain. The remit of these roles is not constrained and will be flexible to allow the individuals to make the role their own. In general terms, the club captains will be a link between the committee and the wider membership, encourage participation at local league races and other events, co-ordinate teams etc.

We will also be rolling out an additional way of communicating with members as well as hosting information such as upcoming training sessions and races through the use of Spond; the sports team management app. Full details and joining instructions to follow and I will provide a brief demonstration at the AGM. I would encourage everyone to engage with using Spond as the more people who use it the more effective it will be. This won't be a replacement for other sources of

information such as the club website or announcements on club nights but helps us deliver information without the use of emails or social media posts.

Secretary's Report

It has been another positive year for the club and most things have continued to go well.

The senior training sessions have been well attended, and we have also had a steady influx on new members. The junior numbers at sessions have not been as good and we are looking at ways to recruit.

There has again been no real change with the facilities at the Rugby Club, which is still down to finance, but we have continued to have an overall good working relationship with them. We are really keen to improve the member experience and would welcome any views that anyone has.

Our membership currently stands at 238 which is pretty much the same as 2024. The breakdown is 136 seniors (of which 8 are volunteers) and 94 juniors of which only 38 are under 11. This is down on the previous year when we had a large influx in September. This has not occurred this year for some reason.

Tom has continued to do a great job as Chair also thanks to Emma for taking on the Handicap which has gone well.

Chris Prall has continued as treasurer keeping us on a sound financial footing but is now standing down.

The 10K went very well after a slow start, numbers were good in the end. We will have to look at the route for 2026 in view of the 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, there were a few issues but on the whole it went well. These events require a lot of help from our members who do a fantastic job. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a great bunch of experienced volunteers. We are always looking for people to take on roles for our races. If anyone is keen to get involved then please speak to one of us.

I would like to thank all the committee for all their hard work once again this year. Particular thanks to Sharon for all she does for the club. Also well done to Lynne Whitfield for her work with the Club Championship. I would also like to thank the coaches who have again done a great job. I would also like to thank my wife Jayne (as always) who does such a valuable job helping the club and me. We are still struggling with just a small band of coaches despite the return of Matt Hoey and it is still a major area of concern going forward.

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. We hope to look at the use of the Spond App for seniors. Looking ahead to 2026 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 still not ideal despite some improvements.
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.

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 we made just over £4k profit, we decided to absorb the increase in EA membership fees by not to increasing our own membership fees. This year, we made a profit of just under £600, so only just breaking even. However, we are aware of further rises in EA Fees, together with general cost increases, so are proposing to increase membership costs for seniors and older juniors to avoid making an overall loss next year. The major contributing incomes in the year were 10k Race Entries and Sponsorship, Junior Training and Membership, Senior Membership, and Reserve Bank Account Interest. Overall income at £25.9k was very similar to last year, but this was achieved with increases in both 10k Entry Fees and Senior Membership, balanced against reduced income from Junior Membership and Training Fees, Company Sponsorship, plus Relays and Fell Race Entry Fees. The major outgoings were for EVH Race Costs, England Athletics Fees, ICC Hire (for juniors training), Rugby Club Hire (for senior training), subsidising of Club Kit, the Juniors Awards evening, the Christmas Party, Transport to Cross Country events and other Selected Races, Entry Fees for members, and Website costs. Overall outgoings at £25.4k were up by £3.5k since last year, due to a number of factors including increased EA Membership Fees, increase in ICC rates, plus payment of delayed ICC invoices from 2024, early payment for this year's Christmas Party DJ, paying for more Transport and Entry into Selected Races, and general cost rises including for Kit. When broken out separately, the 10k Race made approximately £5.0k profit (£850 more than last year, with increased Entry Fees more than compensating the reduction in Company Sponsorship and increased Costs). The Relays made a small profit of £300 (less than last year due to reduced Entry Fees and increased Costs), and the Fell Race made a small loss of around £200 (a turnaround since last year due to reduced Entry Fees and purchasing Pasties for helpers). Combined, our Club Races made a similar contribution to the club compared to last year. Without the races, the remaining club activities would have made a notable loss of approximately £4.5k. The seniors, and to a lesser extent the juniors are subsidised by the profits from the 10k Race, emphasising its importance to our finances and the EVH committee are hugely grateful to your help with the 10k, as well as the other races. The races also do a great job of promoting our club locally. Aside from putting on great races that are a credit to the club and appreciated by non-EVH runners, we have donated £500 to Moor Trees, and £200 to Devon Freewheelers from the 10k profits, whilst the Fell Race donated £200 each to Dartmoor National Park, the Harford Moor Erosion Fund, and this year to the Ashburton branch of Dartmoor Search & Rescue to thank them for their great response on the night. To club members, we continue to offer great benefits, including free entry for juniors into Sportshall, free entry for juniors and seniors into Cross Country, selected Track & Field, and Fell Race events (including Devon Championship races), and free entry for seniors (and juniors where applicable) into Relay events. We also provide a fully paid-for Junior Awards event, a subsidised Christmas Party, LiRF (Leadership in Running Fitness) and Coaching courses fully paid for, (increasingly) subsidised Club Kit, and buffet food / venue hire for the AGM. The club has good cash reserves, with an overall cash balance of £44.2k, which approximately equates to 1.7 years of current outgoings. An independent check of the year's accounts is planned for December 2025. From a personal side, I will shortly be stepping down as Treasurer, having performed the role of 5 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the spreadsheets but increasing work commitments have made it harder to dedicate the time necessary. I will still be around on the committee to help transition over to the new Treasurer.

5. Newsletter

I managed to issue 12 Newsletters over the last year. The February edition had some 19 pages, which was the fewest, whilst the August Harrier had a massive 41 pages. This was mainly due to their being four races in less than two weeks. I was at all of the races, which were the Cornwood 10K, the Torbay Relays, the Totnes 10K and the 3 Tops Fell Race. The Harrier keeps you up to date what is happening in the club and is always a good reference guide. I send out the Harrier by email to members on my distribution list but several back dated issues are always available to view on our website. Many thanks in particular to your Chairman Tom Davies, Secretary Keith Reed and Lynne

Whitfield for their regular reports. Several of you have sent me photos and interesting reports. John Riley sent me reports on the Cardinham Woods 10K and a race at Rame Head, whilst Charlie Milward and Ronnie Haynes produced the best reports and photos of the last year. Charlie ran in the Salamanca Half Marathon, where he obtained probably the 'best t-shirt of the year', whilst Ronnie Haynes report on the Ironman Wales is outstanding. My own favourite photo of the year was of Lynne Whitfield and Lindsay Lane at the Looe 10, whilst I found the Haytor Heller great for taking photos. Despite the hot summer there was one day when I gave up taking photos as I was 'drenched to the skin' at the races in Plymouth. There must be something about Plymouth as such a similar deluge of rain took place at the Newnham Park Cross Country in 2023! Members living locally will have seen numerous photos I have taken in the IMAG, otherwise known as the Ivybridge Magazine but unfortunately I have to announce that this publication is no longer continuing. This is a great shame as it has been a good source of publicity for the club. I hope you have enjoyed the Harriers and hopefully I can produce more interesting Newsletters in the future.

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 Dave Fox and seconded by Ken Summers.

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

Treasurer – The committee had proposed Lynee Whitfield. This was nominated by Chris Prall and seconded by Liz Bristows.

Volunteer Co-ordinator - The committee had proposed Sharon Terry. This was nominated by Barry Neal and seconded by Jayne Reed.

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, Barry Neal, Ruth Terry and Charlie Milward plus the officers and also Chris Prall will continue to be on the committee. The committee was elected en bloc. This was agreed with no exceptions.

7. Subscriptions 2026

Unfortunately due to the £3 increase in EA member fees the committee felt we would need to increase the fees. The proposal was £40 for seniors £25 for juniors and £10 for U11's The proposal was seconded by Dave Fox. The new fees were accepted unanimously.

8. Open Forum

Tom gave a presentation on Spond and asked everyone to take a look and sign up. It is a very useful communication tool.

Discussions were held on Friday training which have declined in numbers. We have decided to review again in the new year.

It was suggested also that we should follow up with new members by email when they attend as we seem to lose a few after just attending once.

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

Attendees (48)

Monica Bristow
Tom Davies
Keith Reed
Chris Prall
Sharon Terry
Ruth Terry
Phil Warren
Lynne Whitfield
Dave Fox
Lindsay Lane
Richard Lane
Dave Engledew
Alison Engledew
Barry Neal
Becky Lee
Dave Rayfield
Nick Baker
Steve Watson
Ken Summers
Val Wookey
Charlie Milward
Chris Rickard
Emma Lake
Andrea Mitchell
Andrew Mitchell
Peter Allen
Jenny Hayes
Luke Hayes
Allister Bristow
Liz Bristow
Jayne Reed
Dave Gilvear
Ross Busby
Sue Blacksell
Louise Creber
Stuart Witty
Alan Gatling
Steph Rogers
David Lloyd
John Griffiths
Nigel Grottick
Neil Squires
Ben Bristow
Nick Bristow
Alasdair James
Neil Moffatt
Richarrd de Salis
Helen Chappell

Apologies – Dan Francis, Bob Jeffreys, Nick McMahon, Nick McMahon. Russell Gibson, Becky Prall