ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of 2026 Annual General Meeting held
at Hunting Lodge on Tuesday 3rd November 2026

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 Jenny Hayes and seconded by Monica Bristow

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 which allows the club to run smoothly, and I'm grateful to every one of them.

Some particular thanks: to Sharon and Ruth for organising the Christmas party and awards evenings (both senior and junior); Helen Chapell for running the Club Championship, which returned again in 2026 and continues to provide some friendly competition within the club; to Peter Allen, Ruth Terry and Emma Lake for finding runners and building teams for our relays; to Becky Lee for her help with cross country; and to Chris Prall and Neil Moffatt for organising our fell race. Outside the committee, thank you to Dave Fox for producing the Harrier every month, to Ken Summers for kit sales, and to Keith and Jayne for all the help with club membership, affiliations and everything else.

Finally, thank you all for coming along on club nights, for representing the club at races near and far, and for helping out at the three events we host. We are very grateful for your support every time we put one on.

Remembering Paul Ross

It was very sad to lose our former chairman Paul Ross in June. Paul was instrumental in setting up the Erme Valley Relays over 20 years ago and was involved with many other local races. In recognition of his contribution to the club, we are arranging for two perpetual shields in his name to be presented each year to the winning women's and men's teams at the next EVH relays.

Cross country

The 2025/26 season began with some great turnouts, including an unbelievably muddy Exeter, which doubled up as the County Championships and where we picked up a number of individual and team awards. The winter then took us to the SW Championships near Yeovil, a bracing Westward Ho!, a very wet Redruth and a very muddy Central Park (where we also provided plenty of marshals and officials).

The new season has started well. The first Westward League race at Newnham Park on 11th October was a new three-leg relay format, and we had around 40 members taking part along with a lot of officials and marshals. As I am now part of the Westward League organising team I hope you enjoyed it. Cross country is great training and a chance to try something different, and I would encourage everyone to give it a go.

Relays, track and field

Last December's Armada Christmas Relays saw 11 teams representing the club including a couple of junior teams, and our senior men retained their title. The summer relay season started with some

great team and individual performances at our own relays, then continued with junior and senior teams at the Tavistock Town Relays and five full senior teams at the Torbay Relays. There were no prizes this time, but both were good club trips, and relays bring different groups from across the club together.

We have seen more people trying track and field. Our juniors turned out well at the Plymouth AC Mile Races and Spring Warm Up at Brickfields, with some excellent performances, as did several seniors trying the track for the first time. A strong junior group at the Devon County Track and Field Championships brought home lots of medals. The final South West Athletics League of the season at Exeter Arena saw us do well as part of the Armada composite team, with some members representing the team on the track for the first time. Do come along next season if you are interested; it is a very friendly atmosphere.

Our events

The Ivybridge 10k on 23rd May was a great evening with some great performances from our own members, including Luke winning the race overall. The feedback was very positive and we were able to donate to two local charities. As ever the 10k remains the foundation of our stable financial position.

The Erme Valley Relays on 26th June were another success. The senior men's team of Will Battershill, Nathan Brown, Matt Gilvear and Ben Holmes (three of whom joined the club as juniors) won the race and decimated the course record, with Will also taking a big chunk off the men's individual leg record. There were further wins for the V40 men, V60 men and V55 women, and the senior women finished second. Our fell race, the Ivybridge Three Tops, was held again in August as part of the Dartmoor Fell Series, thanks to Chris, Neil and our marshals. Chris is stepping down as Race Director after successfully establishing the race as a favourite amongst the local fell and off-road running community. Neil has stepped forward to take over the role which the committee are supporting him with and we hope the wider club continue to get behind the race.

Club trips and socials

We supported the organisers of the Flete 10k in September, and it was like an Erme Valley Harrier take over, with a huge number of juniors and seniors taking part and helping with organisation and timing. We also had an excellent club trip to the Torbay Half Marathon and 10k, sharing a coach with Plymouth Musketeers, with about 30 members running. I am always keen to hear which races you would like us to attend as a club, so please do get in touch.

In April we held our junior presentation evening, which senior members were also welcome to join, and the Plymouth AC Mile Races counted towards this year's Club Championship.

We also have introduced two intra club 3k relays at Filham Park, thanks to Peter Allen for bringing this addition, both events were really successful and was great to see people across the club joining in for some friendly racing on a Tuesday night. If anybody has ideas for club sessions or events then please do get in touch with anybody on the committee, we're open to ideas!

Finances and club developments

Lynne has covered the finances in her report, so I won't go into detail but in summary we maintain our strong financial position and we are pleased that we won't be putting up membership fees this year (despite the increase in affiliation costs to England Athletics).

This time last year, we introduced a couple of new things; firstly Spond which has generally been a success but only for the people who have downloaded it and engaged with it which isn't everybody! I would encourage people to use it as it is a very effective way for us to communicate with people and a good source of information. Secondly, we introduced team captains, I'd like to thank them again for their efforts and the support they have given me and the wider committee.

Looking ahead

The committee remains focused on ensuring that every decision reflects the club's mission to provide a friendly running community here in Ivybridge. We are an inclusive, member-led club, and if you have an idea for training sessions, social events, volunteering or ways we can give back to the local running community, please let us know.

In the coming months we have the rest of the cross country season, including Newquay on 15th November, and the Armada Christmas Relays on Sunday 13th December.

More widely, we are very keen for more people to lead or help lead club runs, we still need more people to come forward, particularly in the winter when it is important that nobody is left behind. We have lots of people who know our club routes well, we are not expecting people to become qualified leaders, we're just looking for a bit of support on club night. Please also remember hi-viz on Tuesday nights, and to stop on the pavement before negotiating the entrance to the rugby club.

As mentioned last year, we are also looking for a couple of people to come forward and help with the organisation of the 10k and relays to take the load off myself and Keith a little bit. Anybody who is interested, please get in touch.

It has been good to see juniors out at track and field, cross country, the relays and the Flete 10k, and I would like to thank our junior coaches and parents for the great training environment they provide.

Thank you again for reading and I look forward to a successful year with the club in 2027.

Treasurers Report: (Lynne Whitfield)

The club's income for the year was £26,665 and its expenditure was £23,902, giving a surplus of £2,763. As of 31st October 2026 the club holds £14,259 in its Current Account, £32,677 in its Deposit Account and £20 in cash. Having increased membership fees this year to take into account increased costs and EA affiliation fees in particular we do not propose to increase membership costs next year.

The major income streams this year were, once again, 10k Race Entries and sponsorship, Junior training & membership and Senior membership. The interest on the Deposit Account and an EA Improvement Grant (used towards the cost of Coaching Courses) were also significant. Overall income was approximately £832 up on last year.
The major outgoings were EVH Race costs, EA Affiliation fees, School hire fees, Rugby Club hire and Coaching Courses. I think it is also worth noting that we have made donations of approximately £1400 this year, mostly to local charities. Overall outgoings were approximately £1448 down on last year.

This year the 10k Race made a profit of £3,761. This is £1,269 less than last year due to a slightly lower entry and increased costs.
The Relays made a profit of £513, an increase of £200 from last year due to slightly increased entries and lower costs.
The Fell Race made a profit of £146.71, however we have not yet been charged for the pasties. Once costs have been covered the remainders of the profits from this race are donated to charity. This year we were able to donate £175 each to the Harford Moor Erosion Fund and the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

The Club aims to support its members and the membership fee continues to provide excellent value for money along with many benefits. These include free entry for juniors into Sportshall events, for juniors and seniors into Cross Country races, selected track and field events, selected fell races (including Devon Championships) and relay events. Affiliation to EA also provides individual benefits to members including reduced race entry. Other benefits can be found on the EA website.
The Club also provides a fully paid for Junior Awards event, a subsidised Christmas party, buffet food at the AGM and great value Club kit.

The Club has good cash reserves with an overall cash balance of £46,956, which equates to approximately 2 years of current outgoings.

An independent check of the year's accounts is planned for December 2026.

On a personal note I would like to thank Chris Prall, our previous Treasurer, for patiently explaining the role to me and showing me how to run the bank accounts and record incomings and outgoings. I would also like to thank Keith and Tom for answering my regular questions and queries, and Ken and Sharon for sorting out and keeping me up to date with kit sales.
Finally, thanks to everyone for referencing exactly what their payments are for, it makes my job much easier.

Secretary's Report: (Keith Reed)

Introduction

It has been another busy and largely positive year for the club. Senior training has been well supported, junior winter training has been the busiest for some time, and all three of our club races went well.

It has not all been easy. We have had a very wet winter, a long hot summer that hit training numbers, and the sad loss of Paul Ross in June. The Harrier that month was a tribute to him, and his funeral was a real celebration of the life of a great man.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 236, almost the same as last year's 238. We have 137 seniors, of whom 8 are volunteers, and 99 juniors. That is one more senior and five more juniors than last year.

The new even-year age groups came in on 1st April, so the junior breakdown is not directly comparable with 2025:

Age group	Members
U10	8
U12	36
U14	33
U16	17
U18	5
Total juniors	**99**

The winter season uses age on 31st August 2027, so we have had a lot of new U12s to register with England Athletics for the first time. The numbers at the youngest and oldest ends are still small. Only 8 members are U10 and only 5 are U18, so recruiting younger juniors and keeping our older ones remain priorities.

Committee and officers

Lynne Whitfield has completed her first year as Treasurer, having been elected at last year's AGM. She took over from Chris Prall, and thanks again to Chris for his five years in the role and for staying on the committee to help with the handover. Helen Chapell has taken over the Club Championship and she has been posting updated standings every month.

Tom has continued to do a great job as Chair. On top of that he is now leading the new team running the Westward League, which started its season with the relay at Newnham on 11th October. Emma has again organised the handicaps and the weekly training routes.

After 17 years, Jayne and I stood down from organising the Westward League at the end of last season. We would like to thank everyone again for the lovely gifts and kind wishes we received.

The year in review

Our club races

The Ivybridge 10K on 23rd May was a huge success, with over 500 finishers and only one minor casualty. Runners praised the organisation, the marshals and the T-shirts. It was great to see Luke Hayes win the race. We donated £500 from the race to the WATER charity.

The Relays on 26th June went very well. The EVH men's team smashed the course record, and Will Battershill ran very fast. The 3 Tops Fell Race on 15th August also went off fine. We are reviewing it, as last year's casualty showed the higher risk of a fell race.

All three events depend on our members, who once again did a fantastic job. We were short of helpers at times, so please do come forward if you can.

Juniors

Junior training has been busy, with new recruits most weeks, and winter training has been incredibly popular. In the Devon Sportshall League we led for much of the season and went into the final fixture just a few points behind Plymouth but managed to overhaul them on the last day. Thirteen of our athletes represented Devon at the Regional Sportshall, and some ran in the Inter Counties Cross Country.

Five new coaches qualified on the Assistant Coach course in Plymouth in the spring, which is a real boost. The junior presentation evening in April was a great success, and our Funetics event was featured by England Athletics.

The disappointment has been the track and field season. Despite our efforts, numbers competing have been very poor. We would still welcome feedback on why.

Seniors

Senior training on Tuesdays has gone well, with a steady stream of new faces. We introduced a 10-minute warm-up, now led by the coaches. We also asked everyone to stick to the planned routes so we know who is where, especially for new members. The fun relays at Filham were a massive success, with juniors and seniors training together.

Friday training never really recovered, so it is suspended until the spring. We are looking at a senior session on Thursdays at ICC instead.

Highlights

- Simon Fitze broke Alan Ryder's club marathon record in Valencia in December, running 2:39:26. Alison McEwing broke her own record there in 2:46:31.
- Ben Holmes then broke the club marathon record in London. Simon Fitze, Helen Chapell and Dave Rayfield set age-group records.
- The senior team retained its title at the Armada Christmas Relays, with Ben Holmes running the fastest leg.
- Emma and Sally won gold at the Devon Cross Country Championships, and Ben Holmes was 2nd.
- Chris and Pete Allen represented Devon at the Inter Counties Fell Race.
- Ronnie Haynes won the Cornwood 10K.
- We entered teams in the Tavi and South Devon Relays, and in the first South Hams Relay.
- Seniors have started competing in track and field again, helped by adding those fixtures to the Club Championship.

Looking ahead to 2027

We face challenges as always, but if we all work together I am sure we can overcome them. The main ones are:

- **Coaches and volunteers.** The five new assistant coaches are a great start, but we still need more, along with run leaders and race helpers. We need a succession plan so newer volunteers can take over from our older ones.
- **Juniors in competition.** We need more juniors at track and field and cross country fixtures, and better communication with parents.
- **Recruitment at both ends.** We need more U10s coming in and more U16s and U18s staying on.
- **Supporting the Westward League.** Now that Tom leads it, the club needs to get behind it, especially with marshals.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work again this year. Particular thanks to Sharon for all she does for the club, and to Lynne for taking on the Treasurer's role. Thanks also to the coaches, who have again done a great job.

A huge thank you to Dave Fox for producing more fantastic Harrier magazines, and to Ken and Sharon for the kit. Thanks to everyone who marshalled or helped at our races and to those who led groups on club nights. As always, I would like to thank Jayne, who does such a valuable job helping the club and me.

I hope you all enjoy the AGM. It is an opportunity to put your views forward, so please do. The club will continue to go forward in a safe, sustainable way in line with the requirements of the governing bodies and our members.

5. Newsletter (Dave Fox)

I managed to issue 12 Newsletters over the last year. The January and February editions had 15 pages, which were the fewest, whilst the August edition had a massive 43 pages, mainly due to several races such as the Cornwood 10K, the South Devon Relays and the Totnes 10K. However, this year the South Hams 100 Mile Relay added significantly to the size of the edition. Four other editions were over 30 pages, including the July Harrier where several pages were allocated to pay tribute to our former Chairman Paul Ross, who had sadly passed away.

The Harrier keeps you up to date what is happening in the club and 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 Helen Chapell for their regular reports. Several of you have sent me photos and interesting reports. Particular thanks go to everyone who ran in the South Hams 100 Mile Relay for submitting their own reports and photos on ‘their trials and tribulations’. There were also some great reports and photos from Peter Allen at the British Inter Counties Mountain Races in Sedberg, Cumbria, Jenny Hayes demanding ‘Dartmoor Beast’ race and the Chapells at the Otillo Swimrun World Series in Cannes.

Our athletes are always prepared to travel ‘far and wide’ and are continually up for a challenge. Marc Rinagl completed the Black Beacon 80km Ultra, Simon Fitze and Alison McEwing ran brilliantly at the Valencia Marathon, whilst the Chapells took on the 100km Triathlon in Qatar. Barry Neal enjoyed the Lisbon Half Marathon, whilst Jeremy Westmore, Lindsay and Richard Lane and Lynne Whitfield completed the Berlin Half Marathon. Most recently Nick Bristow had a good run in the Chicago Marathon.

My favourite photographic spots are at the Cornwood and Totnes 10K but this year the Torbay races produced some great 'action shots'. When I attend races I usually try and get photographs of everyone but for one reason or another it isn't always possible.

I hope you find time to read the Harrier and enjoy the contents. I always need your input and are pleased to get your reports, photos and information you send me about races – keep them coming so I can produce more interesting Newsletters in the future.

The reports were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Peter Allen and seconded by Richard Lane

6. Election of Officers

At the request of Monica Bristow Tom acted as Chair for this part of the meeting

Chairman - The committee had proposed Tom Davies as Chair. This was nominated by Phil Warren and seconded by Andrea Mitchell.

Secretary – The committee had proposed Keith Reed. This was nominated by Monica Bristow and seconded by Ken Summers.

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Treasurer – The committee had proposed Lynne Whitfield. This was nominated by Andrew Mitchell and seconded by Emma Lake.

Volunteer Coordinator – The committee had proposed Sharon Terry, This was nominated by Ross Busby and seconded by Jenny Hayes

All posts unanimously elected.
Sharon and Ruth Terry will continue as the elected Welfare Officers

7. Adoption of the Committee

Phil Warren is standing down and Tom thanked him for his services.
The current committee of Dave Rayfield, Chris Rickard, Emma Lake, Barry Neal, Ruth Terry, Chris Prall and Charlie Milward plus the officers The committee was elected en bloc.
Trudi Rowe has requested to join the committee
This was agreed with no exceptions.

8. Subscriptions 2027

The proposal was £40 for seniors £25 for juniors and £10 for U10's The proposal was proposed by Richard Lane and seconded by Barry Neal. The new fees were accepted unanimously.

9. Open Forum

Ken asked about the independent review of the accounts which will be done in December
It was done at the end of 2025 by Ross Busby
We discussed some of the issues with the Rugby Club
Becky Lee asked about the Boxing Day run which is scheduled for 29th Dec this year because of clashes with Parkrun. Keith agreed to discuss with the Armada Clubs.
it was mentioned that the Filham Relays had been good.
Chris Prall suggested that holding the AGM on a Thursday may attract more parents.
The new Thursday sessions were discussed as Fridays have now stopped.

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

Keith Reed
November 2026

Attendees (35)

Monica Bristow
Tom Davies
Keith Reed
Chris Prall
Sharon Terry
Ruth Terry
Phil Warren
Kevin Paull
Gillian Paull
Richard Lane
Trudi Rowe
Barry Neal
Becky Lee
Dave Rayfield
Ken Summers
Justin Frost
Chris Rickard
Emma Lake
Andrea Mitchell
Andrew Mitchell
Peter Allen
Jenny Hayes
Luke Hayes
Allister Bristow
Liz Bristow
Jayne Reed
Adabelle Davey
Ross Busby
Stuart Witty
Ben Bristow
Nick Bristow
Alasdair James
Neil Moffatt
Helen Chapell
Andrew Chapell

Apologies – Lynne Whitfield, Dave Fox, Lindsay Lane, Nick McMahon, Dave Engledew
Alison Engledew, Steve and Shirley Watson, Val Wookey
Charlie Milward, Carol Hansen, Ronnie Haynes