Meeting Minutes and Notes

Annual General Meeting

Prepared by Gwen Moss, Club Member

Dated: 25 April 2012

Location: Club HQ, Maidstone Hockey Club

Attendees: Bob Foster, Club Secretary; Sharon Hawkins, Club Treasurer; Grant Woodman, Life President; Paula Stockton, Membership Secretary; Sarah Brenton, Social Secretary; Graham Clarkson, Race Treasurer.

Julie Stoppani, Craig Peake, Graham Pearson, Steve Wing, Julie Wing, P Foxall, David Hattersley, Janet Hattersley, Gerry Reeves, Mick Westwood, Paul Moss, David Thornby, David Northcroft, Hannah Erskine, Tim Erskine, Diana Harrison-Murray, Yvonne Campbell, Sharon Krause, Gerald Krause, Kay Banfield, Lauren Whelin, Nigel Warren, Adam Palferman, Derek Evenden, Diane George, Liane Foord, Sonia Watling, Sophie Ravenscroft, Matt Fraser, David Walsh, Michael Nicolaides, Laura Moreno, Rachel Smith, Sarah Smith, Gary McKinnon, Amanda Rogers, Suzanne Walberton, Mel Paszkowski, James McNamara, Kerry Watson, Brian Holmes, Paul Holland, Aeron Hughes, Meg Hughes, Darren French, Ollie Stride, Shelley Thwaites, Julie Foster, Mark Hewett, Nick Lake, Russell Morling, Alan Probert, Stewart Wing, Robin Dearle, Sebastian Charlery, Gwen Moss.

Apologies: Floyd Risby, Kay Risby, Dave Keeling, Andrew Burgess, Stella Trench, Ian Hoad, James Dodd, Mike Pitcher, Cate Slade, Ben Durman.

Purpose of the meeting: 27 Annual General Meeting of Maidstone Harriers Running Club.

1. Apologies for absence

Club Secretary, Bob Foster, opened the meeting by commenting on what a good day was had by all at the London Marathon with good results in particular Dave Northcroft was 11 place in his age group. The first Harrier home was James Dutton and then Ian Forrest. 32 Harriers finished the race and 51 Harriers marshalled. Bob then went on to welcome members and opened the meeting at 19.40.

He then went on to receive apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 2011 AGM

One error, Graham Clarkson missed off attendees.

The error was noted and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2011 AGM. Proposed by Peter Foxall, seconded Stephen Turpie.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman’s Report

Bob read out a report the Chairman’s report in Floyd’s absence:

This will be as short as I can make it. Two years ago I set out to improve the club; my vision was for the club to be more beneficial to all runners. I never realised what a fantastic team would evolve.

First of all there is the Committee of Paula, Bob, Sarah, Sharon and Dave who I must say have made my job enjoyable and worthwhile, I thank them for all their hard work and commitment.

It never crossed my mind that the membership would grow to an incredible 204 (probably wrong) but just shows that we must be doing something right. This is mainly due to Liane and her team who have done a brilliant job of keeping new members and looking after them in the early weeks of joining us.

Boot Camp has been a tremendous success and I thank Nigel for all his efforts and wish him well with his new ventures.

A big thank you to Club Captains, Dave Hattersley and Sharon Barnett, Steve T and Adrian P, Sharon B and Hannah Erskine who have inspired the Club to its best year ever.

Sarah and her social team have done another great job in catering for all aspects of the club with some wonderful events.

Grant and Matt together with all their helpers as ever have put on excellent races in both years. Paul Holland and Traviss have completely changed our website. Andrew has done another great job in the Club Championships, however, I cannot see how he can make me champion 3 years on the trot given the present circumstances.

A big thanks to Rachel and Hannah for their newsletters throughout the year.

Mike White has taken on yet another great commitment in starting up and getting nearly 50 members interested in Triathlons. Early Birds is another great success, Dee W and her team deserve a big round of applause for all their commitment and effort.

Coaching staff headed up by Alan Probert and his team of 15 have brought a new era to Maidstone Harriers with their training sessions. Tim and Hannah have really put in some hard work to get the best out of KAN and we are now reaping the benefits with the Sutton Valence track, something this Club had been promised for over twenty years.
KPG Cross Country, I cannot thank Dave and Jan enough for all the hard work they have put in over the last couple of years and one of the main reasons for our recent success.

The Club as I see it is one massive team of some extraordinary people from world record holders that are inspiring a sudden marathon madness, incidentally it cannot go unmentioned David Northcroft’s success last Sunday at aged 73 eleventh in his category.

To the individual who just wants to go somewhere and achieve their own bit of success albeit a 5K, 10K, 10 mile half or full marathon, everybody is at home at this Club and they should always feel part of it; that is why we are where we are now.

On that note, it would be easy for me to say see you in a couple of months, business as usual, but as you well know I never take the easy option and I would not be happy for someone to stand in and make do. I am not leaving for the sake of it and I know there is someone sitting out there that can take this Club on further, they will have my full support.

One last thing, the only thing I set out to do that never got done was the Club cupboard but I am sure Darren will have that sorted before I get back (no pressure Darren).

Lastly I would like to again thank all the Committee, in particular for Dave Keeling for standing in for me for the last two months.

All the time we remain equal and respect each other’s abilities we will maintain our standards and will continue to succeed. Someone said to me a couple of weeks ago, it’s only a running club! I said NO its Maidstone Harriers the best running club in the country. See you soon, I will be back, thanks for two wonderful years.

5. Treasurers’ Report

Sharon Hawkins explained the income and expense account for 2011/2012 and that they include a comparison to the previous year.

Sharon explained that there were four bank accounts, the main working bank account which is a current account, a second account which is a no notice account not essentially used. There is also a race account which is for income and expenses and a small race account which again is not used. The opening balance at 31 March 2011 was £662.55 and the end of year closing balance was £2,226.24, making a profit of £1,563.69. The main income being annual subs totalling £6,915 and the main expenditure is the rent to the Hockey Club of £3,090.

There is stock worth £1,558. The rent due to the Hockey Club is going up by £90 with £1,590 next instalment due.

Question was asked why the Village was shown as blank. Sarah Brenton explained that attendees paid her cash and this was then paid direct to the Village and did not go through the Club’s books.

Graham Clarkson then presented the race accounts and explained that the races are funded independently from the main Club accounts.
Graham went on to explain that a small loss was made on the races, mainly due to low number of entries. This was put down to not enough publication. Loss was also made due to the fact that there was an excess of medals. Support and promotion is needed this year as the half marathon is a Grand Prix event, hopefully this will bring in more entries.

There was an extra expenditure for floor covering used for the Turkey run which can, of course, be used again.

Question was asked if the medals could be reused. Grant explained that the medals were usually changed each year and did not feel there would be sufficient to use in another race. They could be used for the BBQ.

To also try and offset any future losses there will be an increase in the entrance fee for races.

Question was also raised regarding the Weald of Kent race and the fact that this would not be taking place this year would it be a plus or minus. Grant felt it would be a minus and went on to explain the reason why it was not being held this year. The work involved in organising a race takes up a lot of time and requires a dedicated team. Unfortunately, although the response for help on the day has been good Grant has found a lack of help in the run up to the race. If anyone can put together a team to organise the Weald of Kent Grant would be happy to assist them.

6. **Review of Members' Subscriptions**

Sharon Hawkins advised that she did not feel it was necessary to increase the membership rates for the forthcoming year and confirmed the rates to remain at £40 for single membership, family membership of £40 for the first member and then £20 for every subsequent member. The second claim membership rate will stay the same at £30. Sharon had looked at other clubs and Maidstone Harriers' rates were average. The Club is looking into paying subscriptions on line, members who do pay via their bank are asked to remember to give their name as a reference,

Question was asked why there was an odd amount, this was because members joining partway through the year were not charged the full amount and also second claim members.

Approval was asked for from the floor, it was agreed by a majority for subscriptions to remain the same.

7. **Election of Club Committee**

For the Committee positions nominations and seconders were sought and received as below. + remain in place without the need for nomination.

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Hannah Erskine</td>
<td>Rachel Smith</td>
<td>Paula Stockton</td>
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Paula thanked Bob for all his contributions as Club Secretary.

9  **Election of Team Captains, Vice Captains and Kent Grand Prix/Cross Country Coordinator**

**Mens Team**: Steve Turpie - Captain; Adrian Perkins – Vice

**Ladies Team**: Penny Holden – Captain; Sharon Barnett – Vice

**KGP**: Dave Hattersley

10. **Club Events, Helping at Harriers Events**

Matt explained that the entries to the Half Marathon had opened and asked for volunteers to distribute leaflets and extend advertising. It was stressed that help was needed.

Hopefully there would be a Weald of Kent race next year if a race director could be found. The Half Marathon was well marshalled last year, although they struggled with delivering leaflets. Brian Holmes to speak to Matt regarding photos.

11. **Club Coaches**

Alan Probert said that there were at present 12 qualified coaches and the expertise varies. Alan hopes that future sessions could be tailored for different events such as marathon running. Looking at extending the track sessions from 6:30 p.m. They currently start at 7:30 p.m.
Alan was also keen for members to run in groups on a Wednesday and felt this would be a benefit to runners, although he was aware that a number of members were not keen.

About 60 members currently attend the various training sessions and Alan encouraged members to try one of them. He believed the Club now had a number of good and very enthusiastic coaches with good ideas and the Early Birds was an example of what the coaches have achieved.

12. Kent Athletics Network

Tim Erskine explained the benefits of KAN and the setting up of coaches. The first year the Club paid nothing to KAN, the second year a payment of £400. There were three workshops and coach training and a refund of £315 was received. The fee for the next year has not yet been paid.

Tim has three project proposals: 1. flying coaches, track sessions, 2. cross country in Mote Park and 3. training day at Camber Sands. The cost would be £620 shared 50/50 between KAN and Maidstone Harriers.

There was first aid training which 2 coaches attended, the cost of which was covered by KAN.

KAN work with top coaches and there a number of benefits the Club can obtain from this.

A question was asked if the coaches were being used by the Club. Out of the 12 coaches 50 - 60% help regularly. There are three coaches helping out with Early Birds, others help with track and coaching sessions.

Anyone can volunteer for training as a coach but the Club will only put forward those who are willing to show commitment.

Approval from the floor was requested for staying in KAN. The floor agreed.

13. Early Birds and Tri Section

Dee was unable to attend the meeting, as she was at a coaching session. Russell said the Early Birds was going from strength to strength and a number of regular people, some having moved on to become club members and attending the longer runs. Some do 2K and some 5K. There are 16 to 17 regular attendees. Russell encouraged Club Members to help out with Early Birds.

One member of Early Birds is a bare foot runner and a discussion was held as to whether bare foot running should be permitted or should shoes be compulsory. It was agreed that a disclaimer should be signed with anyone wanting to run bare foot doing so at their own risk.

Mike spoke about the Tri membership having a first good year with 50 people most of whom were fairly new to tri with one or two belonging to BTF who have been able to give advice to new tri athletes. In the process of obtaining a sample kit with logo design.

Swimming in Leybourne Lakes is to start again in a few weeks time. If anyone interested in joining please give your email address to Mike.
14. **Allocated of Guaranteed Virgin London Marathon Entries**

There are currently 7 guaranteed places for the London Marathon, 3 through UK Athletics and 4 from marshalling, marshalling places could possibly increase to 6 next year.

Sharon read through the suggested proposals. There were various discussions and proposals but no unanimous decision. It was proposed from the floor that some ideas be put together over the next few weeks which would then be emailed to members for them to vote.

The following rules would apply: (a) have been a first claim club member continuously for at least 12 months, and b) produce a rejection slip from the London Marathon in question.

1. A bucket draw.
2. By marshalling in previous year's draw.
3. Points system by marshalling at various events.

Question: Should a caveat be added that if a member has run in previous year by other means, charity place etc, they would be excluded in the following year's draw.

The Floor was asked for approval to the deferment of the decision on the London Marathon places. The Floor agreed to defer as follows:

1. 6 for.
2. 27 for.
3. 25 for.

The Committee would work on two proposals and email out to Club Members with a deadline. Anyone unable to submit an email response would be allowed to submit a paper one.

15. **Club Championship**

Another successful Club Championship. Andrew Burgess was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no report from him.

Dave Hattersley gave out trophies to recipients who were unable to attend the Trophy evening.

16. **Social**

Sarah spoke about the events which had taken place over the past year which was a full and successful year and passed on her thanks to those who organised and helped with the various events.
Many events have been planned for the coming year to include the B-B-Q, curry nights, dog racing, theatre trip and children’s Christmas party and other events. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help or organise events for the forthcoming year please speak to Sarah.

The sum of £328.00 has been raised for Breast Cancer over the past year.

17. Club Newsletter

Hannah and Rachel stepped down due to taking up new positions within the Committee. Help now required for Newsletter also contributions to articles please.

18. Any Other Business

Graham Clarkson mentioned that the Hockey Club would not be available on a Wednesday evening during the Olympics and wondered if members would be interested in holding a mini Olympics on the track to be marked out at the back of the Hockey Club rather than not holding a meeting.

Suggestion also made to hold a treasure hunt, handicap relay.

The gazebo/kit requires a new home. Suggestion made to rent a lock up. Gwen and Paul were happy for it to be stored in their garage.

The Kent Wildlife Trust has 12 places on offer for the London 10K at £35.00 each as a fund raising event.

Paula reminded those attending the meeting that membership renewal was due and also that a new form needs completing because of the new insurance disclaimer.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:30.