



Meeting Minutes and Notes

Annual General Meeting

prepared by Paula Stockton, Club Secretary

Date:	29 April 2009
Location:	Club HQ, Maidstone Hockey Club
Attendees:	David Hattersley, Club Chairman; Sharon Hawkins, Club Treasurer; Grant Woodman, Life President; Paula Stockton, Club Secretary; Bob Foster; John Brown, Graham Clarkson, Michael Gore, Sarah Brenton, Jo-Anne Creed, Paul Holland, Peter Foxall, Mike White, David Northcroft, Matthew Fraser, Karena Norton, Francis Amery, Janet Hattersley, Michael Murdoch, Ian Hoad, Derek Evenden, Mark Rawson, Sue Leighton, Kay Risby, Floyd Risby, Julie Foster, Gwen Moss, Sharon Barnett, David Thornby, Graham Pearson, Hannah Milford, Tim Erskine, Ron Carr, Mick Westwood, Emma Gilkes, Mailyenne Woolley, Christa Smy, Kerry Watson, Liane Foord, Sarah Bottle, Rosie McMahon, Janet Korten, Rob Korten, Geoff Coles, Alan Probert, Sarah Smith, Andrew Holness, Lynda Hall, Andy Hall, Ian Dawson, Cat Siggery, Jon Bond, Lizzie Cooper, Julie Stoppani, Craig Peake, Michael Orpin, David Hutchinson, Nigel Warren, Ian Garton,
Apologies:	D Wright, Russell Morling, Aaron Hughes, Amanda Wetz, David Davies, Kevin Elsdon, Andrew Burgess, David Hutchinson, Ian Forrest, Sue Wainwright.
Purpose of the meeting:	24th Annual general Meeting of Maidstone Harriers Running Club

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1. Apologies for absence

David Hattersley opened the meeting at 19:35. He referred the floor to the agenda and then went on to receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of 2008 AGM

The minutes were proposed by Peter Foxall, seconded by Michael Gore.

3. Matters Arising

David Hattersley apologised that he had not been able to organise some Wednesday Summer events as suggested at last year's AGM but this was due to other commitments he had.

4. Chairman's Report

Rather than read out a lengthy report, David Hattersley highlighted the following:

The club has performed well again during the year and is still recognised as one of the top clubs in Kent. This is highlighted by our current standings in the Kent Grand Prix. This was due, once again, to some excellent performances and commitment by members. Again during the year there have been countless individual trophies awarded and many pb's attained. Congratulations have usually been handed out to individuals on the Wednesday evening meeting following the event. Well done once again to everyone for their achievements.

We ran three very successful races in the year, the Weald of Kent 10, Maidstone Half-marathon and the Turkey Run. All three received positive feedback and were a success due to the support and help from Grant, Bob and fellow club members.

We continue to meet regularly on a Wednesday evening at Maidstone Hockey Club in Armstrong Road. We regularly have an attendance of about 50-60 members. The evening continues with a rotation of runs that is usually 6-7 miles around the streets of Maidstone in the winter and up to 8 miles in the surrounding countryside and along the river in the summer.

Enquiries are regularly received via emails from individuals about the club and how to take up running. During the past year 56 prospective new members have been introduced to the club of which 25 have taken up full membership.

David regularly puts a 'Chairchat' on the message board each week in which he highlights events that have taken place, forthcoming events and the Wednesday route for that week. He has also put the occasional chairman's question on there in the hope of promoting some lively debate amongst club members.

On the social side, we enjoyed a quiz night and an excellent firework display, in spite of the heavy rain, and we had a few good curry evenings during the year. The presentation evening was a great success with a buffet and top entertainment from a singer and guitarist.

David thanked the following for their work over the previous year: Grant Woodman, Sharon Hawkins, Paula Stockton, Bob Foster, Paul Holland, Michael Gore, John Brown, Michael Murdoch, Andrew Burgess Sarah Brenton and Jo-Anne Creed. He also thanked Janet Hattersley for her support at the cross-country fixtures. He went on to thank all the members for their continuing support.

(A full chairman's report is included as an appendix)

5. Treasurers Report

Sharon Hawkins talked members through the accounts. She started with the main account by highlighting the opening balance of £828.90 after adjusting for unpresented cheques and the closing balance of £4,561.46.

Sharon went through the breakdown of income and expenses, explaining that the figure for Annual Subscriptions had increased due to the number of members increasing and also the fact that subs were increased for 2008/09.

Fees paid for the year have increased significantly as we now have to pay £5 per member to England Athletics.

The Hockey Club has increased our rent from October 2008 to £2,500 pa.

Sharon explained that the Business a/c is kept as a savings account and hasn't been touched.

She explained that there was no profit from the Weald of Kent 10 last year, as the race wasn't held in 2007/08. All 3 Harriers' Races did very well last year due to increasing the race fees but also because we were able to keep the supplement paid by each unattached runner. This has arisen as we now pay a set fee to England Athletics depending on the number of runners taking part in a race rather than an amount per runner.

In the past there has been a separate account for the Maidstone Half-marathon but it was decided by the committee that it would make sense to for all three Harriers' races to be dealt with through one account from now on. Graham Clarkson has volunteered to be Race Treasurer.

6. Review Of Members' Subscriptions

Sharon Hawkins said the committee felt that the subscriptions should stay at the same level as last year:

Single membership	£35
Joint Membership	£50
Second Claim Membership	£25

After 1st October the subscriptions would be reduced for any new members to:

Single membership	£20
Joint membership	£30

It was decided that new members would be allowed 3 free sessions with the Harriers after which they must join.

Michael Murdoch asked what could be done about people who enter races as Maidstone Harriers but aren't members. It was agreed that there is nothing we can do at present.

7. Election Of Officers

David Hattersley stated that all officers were happy to stay in their positions for another year but that Kay Risby has also offered to stand as Chairman.

Michael White proposed Kay Risby for the position of chairman and Jo-Anne Creed seconded the proposal. Steve Wing proposed David Hattersley for the position of chairman and Matthew Fraser seconded the proposal. Both Kay and David gave their reasons for wanting to stand and then ballot slips were handed out to each member to vote.

Bob Foster withdrew from the room to count the votes.

After the votes had been counted Bob returned to announce that there had been 58 votes and although the result was close, David Hattersley had been re-elected Chairman for the year.

Kay congratulated David.

Nominations and seconders were sought and received for the remaining posts as below.

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded By
Secretary	Paula Stockton	David Hattersley	Peter Foxall
Treasurer	Sharon Hawkins	Kay Risby	Michael Gore
Events Secretary	Bob Foster	David Hattersley	Graham Pearson
Social Secretaries	Joanne Creed/Sarah Brenton	Floyd Risby	Kerry Watson

David Hattersley explained that Andrew Burgess has taken over the Club Championship. Paul Holland is continuing with maintaining the website, Michael Gore will continue producing the newsletter. Paula Stockton has taken over as membership secretary from John Brown as most of this is now done on the computer but John Brown will continue to be responsible for club kit and reflective vests. Graham Clarkson has taken on the role of Race Treasurer.

8. Club Constitution

Members were given a copy of the current constitution and a draft copy of the proposed constitution, the latter based on the recommended constitution from the English Athletics website with some minor adjustments to suit the club.

David Hattersley pointed out that we need to address matters like insurances, trustees and auditing the accounts. He asked the members to read through the new constitution in their own time and give the committee feedback, as the new constitution will need club approval.

Floyd Risby asked if the differences between the two constitutions could be highlighted and sent to members. Geoff Coles suggested that members should send their feedback to the committee before a meeting is held on changing the constitution. Both of these points were agreed to.

Kay Risby pointed out that according to the constitution, club officials need to be re-elected every two years.

(Both copies of the constitution are attached as appendices).

9. Allocation of London Marathon Places

Bob Foster explained that currently we get 7 places in the London Marathon, 3 of these for having over 100 members and the other 4 places for providing marshals for the marathon.

David Hattersley talked members through his proposal for allocation of Club London Marathon Places. He said he wanted to get a fairer distribution of places and reward people for marshalling, especially as we get a payment for marshalling so we need to encourage people to marshal the London marathon. He explained that other clubs have a similar process for allocation of places.

Steve Wing said that all members have paid their membership so all should have an equal chance in the ballot. Graham Pearson pointed out that all members would still have a chance of a place in the proposed fourth draw.

Michael Murdoch said he thought we should distinguish between members who ran in the previous year with a place through the Marathon ballot and the Club ballot as opposed to those who had a charity place. He also said he didn't agree with the current 18 month rule.

A discussion followed as to how long someone should be a member for before they can enter the club ballot and 12 months was the popular suggestion.

The proposal was put to the vote with two amendments - "To have been a club member continuously for at least 12 months prior to the date of the draw" and that if the club member ran the previous April with a charity place then this shouldn't exclude them from the Third draw. The majority of members were in favour of the proposal.

(The proposed allocation is shown in an appendix)

10. Club Running Events and the use of MP3 Players

Peter Foxall stated that many people wear MP3 players in our races, this makes marshalling difficult as runners may not hear instructions and this can be dangerous at some points in our races, especially the half-marathon. In other events they are either banned or runners are encouraged not to use them.

Grant Woodman said they are likely to be banned in races in the future.

Kay Risby said this is an area that is very difficult to police but it could be put on an entry form as a disclaimer and an announcement could also be made at the start of the race.

It was agreed that this will be included on our race entry forms in the future and, since the entry forms for the Half-marathon and Weald of Kent have already been printed, a printed slip discouraging the use of MP3 players will be included when race instructions are sent out to runners.

11. Club Championship Categories

Paula Stockton explained that currently we have 3 categories in the Club Championship for men and only 1 for women but currently our membership is made up of about 40% women. It was suggested that we have an additional category for women, possibly "up to 45" and "over 45".

Michael Murdoch produced some statistics from the previous 3 years demonstrating that not enough women took part in the Club Championship races to make it worthwhile having an extra category. This was also illustrated in the current year's club championship, with only a few women having taken part in the 3 races so far.

The ladies at the meeting were asked if they would be more likely to take part in the races if there was an additional category. Liane Foord said she would but there was no other support so it was agreed to stay with just the one category.

Michael Murdoch suggested that we could, however, consider awarding a few extra trophies for the ladies, for example, an overall award for ladies over 45 and over 55. David Hattersley said that this would be considered.

12. New Club Kit

Paula Stockton explained that several members had asked if we could have club T-shirts and long sleeve tops as well as the current vest. Many members had also expressed an interest in having additional items of club kit, for example, hooded sweatshirts and waterproof jackets. It had then been suggested that if we are to have new kit items, we could also change the design. This would need to be approved by England Athletics.

Paula had been in touch with a few suppliers and said that the approximate costs were £14 for a vest, £16 for a short-sleeved T-shirt, £17 for a long sleeve top. All of these would be in a technical fabric.

Rosie McMahon asked if we have to wear club colours. Paula Stockton said that if a member is running in a race as a Maidstone Harrier then they should wear the club vest. This is especially important when entering a team, as the team can be disqualified if they aren't all wearing club colours.

Floyd Risby said he thought members would be unwilling to buy new kit due to the cost.

It was then suggested that as we currently have sufficient finances, all members could be given a new running vest. David Hattersley said the committee would look further into this option.

David Hattersley asked members what their preferred design was if we were to change kit. Option 5 was the clear favourite of members.

John Brown said that we currently hold about £800 worth of vests and shorts but that several of these are in unusual sizes.

Steve Wing suggested a list of current stock is made and put on the website.

(The kit design options are shown in an appendix).

13. Club Social Events

Grant Woodman and Floyd Risby said that members should pay up front for the fireworks evening next time as many people decided not to attend due to the bad weather last year. It was agreed that a message would be put on the website if the fireworks evening had to be cancelled next time.

Michael Murdoch said that all of the social events in the last year had been excellent.

Jo-Anne Creed and Sarah Brenton said they are planning to organise another ten pin bowling evening soon but they asked for any other ideas for social events.

Steve Wing suggested another night at the dog races.

14. Any Other Business

Reflective Bibs

Paula Stockton said that we have been spending a lot of money on reflective bibs in the past and that some people haven't been returning them at the end of the Wednesday evening run. It is important that all members running on a Wednesday evening should wear a reflective vest/bib when it is dark so we will continue to hold a stock of bibs for new members to borrow or for members to borrow if they have forgotten theirs.

Floyd Risby asked if bibs need to be worn on summer runs. David Hattersley suggested they should, especially when running on public roads.

Rosie McMahon asked if we should consider supplying a reflective bib to all new members but it was decided we would look into holding a stock of these to sell to new members instead.

Gazebo

The committee are looking into purchasing a gazebo that could be used at Harrier races, especially at cross-country fixtures as a place to meet and also to keep members and their kit dry. Nigel Warren offered to look after the gazebo and transport it to events when we have bought one.

Speed Sessions

Nigel Warren told the meeting that he would be starting new speed training sessions on a Thursday evening at 7.15 for about 40 minutes. These will be held on the field behind the Club House starting on 30th April.

Vice-Chairman

David Hattersley suggested that we have an additional position of Vice-Chairman. This person would assist the Chairman and would possibly take-over from the Chairman in the future.

Floyd Risby said he didn't feel this was necessary and that there were already enough members on the committee.

A discussion was held and it was decided that the position of Vice-Chairman shouldn't be created.

Race Training

Floyd Risby said he would like to help members train for their first race, especially the London Marathon and also to help women running the Race 4 Life. This would be done in conjunction with Matthew Fraser. The committee said they are happy to back Floyd with this plan.

The Herb Krause trophy

Kerry Watson asked what had happened to her Grandfather's trophy.

Herb Krause was the club's President prior to Grant Woodman and the Herb Krause trophy was awarded to an individual within the Maidstone Half-Marathon.

David Hattersley explained that the trophy had been awarded one year and we never got it back. Kerry asked if the trophy could be replaced. David Hattersley said we will look to reintroduce this and consider whom it should be awarded to.

Steve Wing ended by saying that Julie Wing will be running her 200th marathon in at the Thanet marathon in September and he would like to invite all Harriers to celebrate with her at the end of the race.

David Hattersley closed the meeting at 21.40.