

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES – 19.09.2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at The Old Crown, Paganhill, Stroud on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.45pm

Present: Committee members: Jim Adams (Chair), Clive Rogers (Treasurer), Julie Walford (Secretary), Chris Bourne, Ian Cutler, Terry Hefferman, Penny Howard, Helen Hurn, Ryan Major, Dermot Mullen, Martin O'Connor, Michael Stevenson

Other Club members present: Tricia Adams, Steve Andrew, Peter Brook, Chris Brown, Jane Brown, Sarrah Case, Bill Chandler, Jan Chinnick, Fadi Dahdouh, Mark Dyer, Nick Hitchcroft, Martin Low, Julie Nelmes, Peter Law, Rob Lewis, Sabrina Pace-Humphreys, Devon Phipps, Alan Pitt, Alan Price, Alison Robinson, Hayley Stockwell, Jane Townsend, Gill Tavner, John Tierney, Geoff Trueman, Alan Venn, Martin Wood

Apologies: Rob Case, Rose Case, Kerrin Cox, Chris Coombs, Richard Crampton, Sue Crampton, Graham Englefield, Darren Jewell, Geoff Langston, Colin Oberlin-Harris, Mollie Mills, Paul Reeves, Jackie & Jane Stanford, Jo Stevenson, Sharon Stevenson, Helene Woodham,

### 1) Chairman's welcome and introduction (Jim Adams)

Hello everyone, good evening and welcome to our Annual General Meeting. We have tried a new venue and evening this year so it is very encouraging to see so many of you here. Thank you for coming. It has been a good year – membership is up, we have had some excellent performances and results at all levels (including a World Champion triathlete in Gwen Kinsey, a GB U-20 representative in the European Championships and two groups of beginners who have set off on their running adventure in Stroud colours) and our accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure.

When I became Chairman last year my priority was to encourage more of our members to bring their skills and enthusiasm to expand the management team of the club. Dermot challenged me to get more younger people and, in particular, more female members, involved and I'm delighted to say that we now have a good balance of youth and experience willing to give up their time to help the club run smoothly. I am very grateful for all their support and hard work. If I can introduce the team from left to right (names as detailed above).

In addition to the main committee we also rely heavily on our Road Race sub-committee, who organise and run our club races. The income from those races and the Half Marathon accounts for more than half of our club income which is why we are able to keep our annual subs so low. Chris will be telling us more about the RRC but on behalf of the club I would like to thank Chris, Richard and all his team for everything they do.

I am delighted that we have had a large number of new members this year (so a special welcome/back to you all) and the breadth of activities undertaken by our members, from Parkruns to Ironman triathlons, from Track & Field to Ultramarathons and all the muddy obstacle races in between means that we don't often get together as a club to socialise and share our successes. For that reason we have arranged an Awards evening at 7 pm on Fri 6 Oct with Ben Smith of the 401 Challenge as guest speaker. I hope we will see you all there.

Enough from me, we now have to sign off the minutes from last year's AGM, and we will then hear brief reports from committee members and try to answer any questions you might have. The committee will then stand down, as required by our Constitution, and Bill Chandler will take the Chair so that you can elect your committee for the year ahead.

We then have a couple of formal items to let you know how we are progressing with a new constitution document and an update on our Welfare procedures. Finally I want to throw open an

ideas forum so that you can feed in any ideas you might have to help us improve as a club and then we will close with any other business. Thank you.

- 2) Adoption of Minutes from the 2016 AGM: These had been circulated via email, displayed on website and at Archway School, Chris Brown proposed, seconded Dermot Mullen and accepted as a true reflection of the 2016 AGM. Matters arising: none.

- 3) Membership Report (Martin O'Connor)

In the competition year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March the Club had 348 paid up members across all categories. At today's date the Club has 340 paid up members, of which 24% are Junior/U11. We have a very even (50/50) split of female/male members. These statistics are a great compliment to the Club, the committee and all club members as it affirms our policies for fairness, openness and equality whilst recognising the welcoming and friendly environment the Club offers to its members. The membership renewal rate continues to improve as a result of some new initiatives, which includes

- Electronic PDF membership forms and email submission (41% success rate)
- Volunteer category for non-training/non-competing coaches, assistants and helpers
- New family membership categories and rates
- Definition of U11 category separated from Junior
- Coaching list brought up to date with many coaching licence renewals (DBS)

It is essential that all athletes who either train and/or race with the Club are registered members. In April next year Club membership fees and categories will remain unchanged. However, the England Athletics licence fee is likely to increase by +£1 (subject to confirmation). Any increase to the EA licence fee will be passed directly on to affiliated members with the licence component of the membership fees increasing accordingly. The EA licence is optional for all Adult & Senior members and the licence fee is passed directly onto England Athletics via the club membership process. – *John Tierney expressed thanks to MO for all his work and this was reaffirmed by committee and those present. JT asked "what can we all do to encourage membership?"*

Chair announced that MO would be standing down as membership secretary, giving one year's notice. Any offers to take over this essential role would be very much appreciated. Again thanks were expressed for the all the work MO had done over recent years.

Although not a regular annual occurrence, it has been felt there were certain long standing members of the Club who were worthy of life membership. The following had been proposed by Julie Walford: Dermot Mullen for his many years of service to the Club as Road Race Secretary and Chair, Steve Carr and Dave Peart – who many of you here tonight will not know personally but who have put their heart and soul into the creation and general maintenance of the Jumps and Throws field in Stonehouse. Proposer: Julie Walford, a unanimous vote in agreement by those present.

- 4) Treasurer's Report (Clive Rogers)

A statement of income and expenses for year ended 31.08.17 was presented. (Appendix A). Clive summarised as follows: half marathon profit less, but benefits in relation to work needed by Club has reduced immensely. We receive £2.50 per entry from Fullon Sport. Majority of Club expenses are for hire of facilities at Archway School, use of Victory Park has reduced. Dramatic increase in personal accident insurance, we have never claimed, but essential that the Club has this cover. Administration costs include drinks this evening, sponsoring of coaching courses, first aid etc., all of which benefit the Club. Team transport includes bus to London and five other trips this year. Income up by 6%. Total costs up by 8%. Bank balance £119,689. Unseen benefit to charities who have benefited hugely over many years from our races. Chair asked for accounts to be signed off. Proposed Peter Brook, seconded Bill Chandler.

5) Road Race Committee Report (Chris Bourne)

Chris Bourne is Chair of Road Race Committee which looks after the organisation of the Club's races. Over the last 12 months we have:

- Assisted with the organisation and put on the 2016 Stroud Half Marathon
- Beer Race
- Frampton
- Standish Woodland Chase
- Woodchester Park

In addition we organised the very successful Club race at Cherington in July.

The Committee meets around six times a year and I would like to thank everyone who has served on that committee. I will not list all the names however, but must give a mention and special thanks to Richard Crampton, who has done a great deal behind the scenes in getting each race set up including sorting the marshals for the smaller club races. You will see from the Club finances the importance of the races, which, as well as helping keep subscription levels down, are a great advert for the Club. I would also like to thank all Club members who have come forward this year and helped at each of the races, it has been good to see so many of you. All of the races have been a great success this year and a great deal of positive feedback has been received. The next race in the Club calendar is the Stroud Half on Sunday 22nd October. This is now the third year of our involvement with Fullon Sport. Our main input covers the provision of marshals, assistance on race weekend and running the very successful refreshment stall. Requests have gone out for help and please, either respond to Jim for marshal duties, or Richard for other help. I am sure a note will come about cakes from the refreshment ladies, if not tonight, very soon.

I am sure I made the same comment last year, but new blood on the Race Committee would be most welcome. We need to plan for new members so that race organisation can move forward and expand. Change is good, and along with some experience from existing members, will mean the races can continue and perhaps new ones will be added.

As a final thank you, to all those who supported the Club's entry into the 2017 Castles Relay and to Richard Crampton, Jo Fifield and Alan Pitt for organising the teams for this year's Cotswold Way Relay.

6) Cross Country Report (Geoff Trueman)

Meeting dates were distributed and will be available on the Club website shortly.

The Club takes part in two leagues, Gloucester and Gwent, both of which we have been participating in since the Club's inception. Gloucester League covering Gloucestershire and surrounding counties. Gwent League covers the South West and mid Wales. Last year's highlights: Gloucester League – SL top individual and top team, U15g top team. County Champs – one county champion, three team champions and many medal places. Area Champs – one champion (u20m). GBrepresentation - one athlete in u20m race in Italy. Last year 31 juniors and 32 seniors competed in cross country leagues and champs. We have the talent to do even better but we need a more consistent turnout from all members.

Looking ahead: The season kicks off with Gloucester and Gwent League meetings unfortunately on the same day this year, 14<sup>th</sup> October, at Gloucester and Cardiff. There is a new venue, Charlton Park near Malmesbury (Gloucester League, 4<sup>th</sup> November). Much loved return to Pontypool (if you like hills) in the Gwent League in February.

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Entry details: Online (reduced rate entry) for Gloucester League up to 30<sup>th</sup> September. Entry as an individual by pre-entry or, on the day. Gwent League is team entry (paid for by the Club) via Geoff Trueman or nominated other. You can enter (via GT) on the day, but would welcome notification of intent. County Champs – individual entry by pre-entry or on the day. Area Champs – see your cross country coach.

A note for the over 65s amongst us, Gloucester League now auto enrolls V65m to run, typically 6k, within the SL race. You can elect (for the whole season) to run 10k in the SM race instead, but why would you!! This is inline with Gwent League, where I can vouch for it's benefits!!

Finally, Gloucester League asked and the Club has offered to host the County Champs this year, at Old Down Country Park, west of Bristol on 6<sup>th</sup> January. We will need volunteers to help, mainly marshals, probably 20 people. Please contact GT in advance with your offers to help with this. If anyone has any future venue ideas, nominations would be welcome.

*Peter Brook asked why the clash of dates in October?, GT advised difficult to diarise with all the school cross country dates as well, an impossible task to get right. Peter Brook also asked why the Club doesn't pay for juniors to enter Gloucester League?, GT/CBr confirmed that junior members benefit a great deal from Club input and reward such as free buses to team events around the country during the year.*

### 7) Report on Junior Members (Chris Brown)

Disappointing from many angles, a very demanding year, lost a couple of coaches, replacements found and now in place and doing an excellent job. Current groups: Fundamentals (youngest), Middle Distance and Throwing. There is a gap in hurdles and sprints and we have a waiting list for all groups. There has been a significant switch to younger female members which can be intimidating for the boys! This is a big role reversal from the past 5/6 years.

Significant achievements: UK U20 teams Zoe Wassell, junior members participating in all events.

### 8) Social (Terry Hefferman)

Meet together – eat together – share ideas, for the future of the Club.

Last year's Christmas meal was great, thanks to Sabrina Pace-Humphreys for her help with this.

Family Fun Day, good team effort, lots of families.

Awards Evening – 6<sup>th</sup> October at Stroud Cricket Club, look forward to seeing you at events

#### Questions from the floor

- a) Bill Chandler – will there be another Family Fun Day? JA responded: hope to make annual event
- b) Bill Chandler – expenses for Family Fun Day? CR responded: included in admin costs of financial report
- c) Peter Brook – mentioned the BBC Countryfile walk for Children in Need – club walk suggestion? – will be minuted and considered

### 9) Communications & Website (Ian Cutler)

Content makes the Newsletter, please contact me, JA or JW (via secretarysadac@gmail.com) with information. Runner of the month is very proving popular. New Club website expected to be launched by end October, including social media aspect

#### Questions from the floor

- a) Bill Chandler – paper copy of Newsletter on the noticeboard at Archway? IC will action this
- b) Geoff Trueman – would like to see Club moving away from Facebook, to be more inclusive and accessible?

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### 10) Triathlon (Michael Stevenson)

Earlier this year it was suggested that the Triathlon section be given a new lease of life as there had been interest amongst members. The first stage was to register SADAC as an affiliated club with the British Triathlon Federation, regulations dictate that affiliated clubs must have a BTF representative and I volunteered for this post. BTF affiliation means Club members may train and compete in Triathlons under the colours of the Club. The affiliation also gives them insurance for these activities and reduced rates for entry in some cases. Most Triathletes are also individual members of the BTF which provides them with a race licence.

After this initial development it was decided that a sub-committee should be formed to further improve the facilities and training for Club members to enter triathlons. This sub-committee has recently met and will bring its initial ideas to the main Club committee in November.

The sub-committee consists of Lewis Saunders, Penny Tuck and myself all of whom are happy to answer any questions from current or future triathletes in the club. Our main aim is to encourage members new to Triathlon and to support them in their development. Existing triathletes tend to have their own training structure and regimes but may welcome the chance to compete for Stroud.

#### Questions from the floor

- a) Peter Brook – can junior members join? MS: this will be discussed
- b) Martin O'Connor – will Club provide bikes? MS still in its infancy, most Tri people will have spares that can be borrowed. Secondhand bikes always available on internet.
- c) Jane Townsend – Club name change? – No, Stroud Triathlon Team within Stroud & District Athletic Club – just another aspect, such as Cross Country, Road Running, Track & Field etc.

### 11) Election of Honorary Officers & Committee

Jim Adams (Chair), Clive Rogers (Treasurer), Julie Walford (Secretary)

Other members of the Main Committee: Dermot Mullen (Road Running), Chris Bourne (Road Running), Martin O'Connor (Membership standing down September 2018), Ian Cutler (Comms & Website), Terry Hefferman (Social), Michael Stevenson (Tri), Ryan Major (Welfare), Penny Howard (Welfare), Helen Hurn

Proposed Fadi Dahdouh, Seconded – Bill Chandler

### 12) Constitution (Jim Adams)

After displaying proposed new Constitution at Archway and via email and website, Committee had received good feedback and helpful comments. Therefore more time needed to finalise. JA confirmed we will work on new document until Committee can come to a mutual agreement to present at next AGM or EGM.

### 13) Welfare (Ryan Major)

Recently appointed and will be ably assisted by Penny Howard. Aim is to provide support for all members and assist Committee in setting up policies, procedures, visibility, etc.

### 14) Ideas forum

Hayley Stockwell – marshalling for races provided with free entry for following race as an incentive? (FullonSport (Half Marathon providers) do offer a free place at another FullonSport race.

Peter Brook – In the 30 odd years the Club has been going it has always been difficult to recruit volunteer coaches, could the local journalist write a piece for the Club?

Steve Andrew – social event for family and friends etc., open and friendly?

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Bill Chandler – display list of current coaching volunteers at Archway? MO confirmed Club has list of qualified coaching volunteers, but some DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) certificates had expired. Could this be published on website and Archway noticeboard?

Sabrina Pace-Humphreys – best practice session for members?

Bill Chandler – offer made to help anyone wishing to improve their running

Terry Hefferman – notice road running members in attendance, but not many track & field members, including other social events?

Jon Tierney – Club has a large amount of money, future discussion on what to do with it?

Meeting closed 9.30pm