

MINUTES OF WHITE HORSE HARRIERS AGM 2014 24TH OCTOBER 2014, OLD MILL HALL, GROVE

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm. Gareth Smith (Chairman) welcomed all those present and thanked the rest of the club committee for their assistance in helping to prepare for the AGM.

1. Members Present

Sheila Bailey, Sharon Bedford, Angela Briscoe, Hayley Chaundy, Susan Christie, Becky Colliass, Castel Fairlie, Clare Hazell, Paul Jégou, Richard Jégou, Ian Lambourn, Simon Leech, Barbara Margetts, Andy Pixton, Ian Rees, Lucia Singer, Gareth Smith, Dene Stringfellow, Graham Wiggins

2. Apologies for Absence

John Bales, Kathy Boyce, Ros Burgess, Tom King, Jan McCabe, Dan Peace, Suzie Sheehy

3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

Gareth Smith asked if anyone had any queries or comments regarding the 2013 AGM Minutes.

No queries or comments were arising.

A proposal was made to accept the 2013 minutes:

Proposed by Barbara Margetts	Seconded by Sheila Bailey
For: 19	Against: 0
	Abstention: 0

The 2013 AGM Minutes were therefore accepted unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

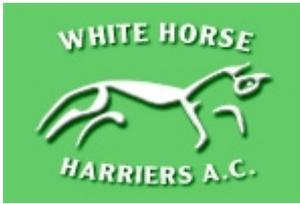
A full paper copy of the 2014 Chairman's Report was circulated to all those present at the AGM and a digital copy is available in .pdf format on the Club website at:

http://whn.ridgedale.co.uk/clubadmin/chmnrpts/2014_ChairmansReport.pdf.

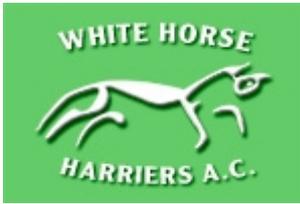
Before summarising his report Gareth took the opportunity to noted the sad loss and untimely death of Gareth Evans who had been an active competing member and who was heavily involved within the hockey community both at club and county level.

A brief summary of the 2014 Chairman's Report follows:

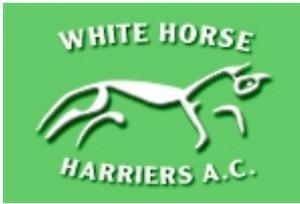
- Cross Country Season:
 - Overall there were solid performances.
 - Unfortunately the Banbury Oxford Mail League fixture had to be concealed and the Oxon Cross Country Championships rescheduled as a result of adverse weather conditions.
- 2014 Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships:



- Three of the club's athletes produced outstanding performances to become county cross country champions in their age group categories:
 - Josie Harrison (U17 Women)
 - Ian Lambourn (V50 Men)
 - Tim Hughes (V60 Men)
- Ridgeway Relay:
 - Congratulations to Paul Jégou for managing to enter two teams in this year's race..
 - The event continues to be a firm favourite amongst club members.
- Oxon Athletics Network:
 - The Young Athletes Development League remains a primary benefit of the club's membership to Oxon Athletics Network.
 - Thanks go to Jane Rennells for her contribution as Oxon Athletics Team Manager who has stood from that role at the end of the last season.
- Track & Field:
 - The single outstanding performance of the year and possibly ever, by a White Horse Harrier athlete was Ben Claridge's 2nd place in Intermediate Boys' 800m at the National Schools Track & Field Championships held at Birmingham in July recording a time of 01:53.56.
 - Off the back of that result Ben earned his first English national vest running for England Schools at Cardiff in the Home Countries International later that month. In addition to running the 800m he was part of the winning England 4x400m relay team!
 - The Veteran League has now become established within the club, with more Harriers competing, club records being broken, and the development of a great team spirit.
 - Thanks go to Richard Jégou for his work in managing the Veteran League men's team.
 - It is noted that the club still has no senior teams competing in track and field events.
- Club Athletics Championships:
 - The numbers were down this year despite the good weather.
 - It will be necessary to look at when is best to schedule this event next year.
- Sportshall Initiative:
 - The first Sportshall event of the 2014-15 took place last weekend.
 - Eight WHH children took part and with more interest for the next event the participation numbers should be even higher.
 - The team spirit was great and the future for the club's involvement in this event looks very positive.



- Club Records:
 - With 20 club records being broken over the past season, it is clear the development of the club's athletes is on a strong footing.
 - Eda Onay has more or less re-written the records in her current age category.
 - Along with Ben Claridge's outstanding performances breaking both age category and senior records for the 800m, 400m and 300m, Zack Smith has helped to raise the bar with his contribution to age category and senior records as well.
- Road Race & Multi-Terrain Championships:
 - The Road Race Championships are ongoing and remain undecided.
 - For the record, the 2013 Club Road Race Champions were as follows:
 - Senior Men's Champion: Paul Jégou*
 - Senior Women's Champion: Suzie Sheehy*
 - Veteran Men's Champion: Ian Lambourn*
 - Veteran Women's Champion: Rachel Bennett*
 - Most of the races comprising the 2014 Multi-Terrain Championship have now taken place.
 - Although the ladies championship has been decided, the men's championship remains in the balance.
- London Marathon Update:
 - Suzie Sheehy and Ian Lambourn, as the winners of the 2013 Club Road Race Championships, were the two 2014 Virgin London Marathon club places.
- Road Relays:
 - Teams competed in the Teddy Hall Relays (March – 2 teams) and the Oxfordshire County Road Relays (April – 4 teams).
 - Thanks go to Paul Jégou for organising the teams and to Ian Rees for assisting with the marshalling.
- Oxfordshire Grand Prix Series:
 - The WHH Ladies Team won the 'Minor Clubs' Shield in the 2013 Oxfordshire Grand Prix Series.
- Half Marathon Update:
 - The new organising team lead by John Bales and Lee Barrett opened registration for the 2015 White Horse Half Marathon today.
 - The 2015 race is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 29th March.
 - Thanks go to all those who have stepped forward to help with the organisation of the 2015 race following Dene's standing down from the Race Director role after this year's event.



- JogWantage:
 - The introduction of a Facebook page has been a positive benefit to the participants and the organisers alike.
 - It has resulted better communications to among the participants as well as leading to a better follow-on after the end of the course. It was noted that there were 5 of this year's course participants present at training the previous evening.
 - Thanks go to Graham for both leading the organising team and for sorting out the course T-shirts for the participants after EA withdrew their offer.
- Park Runs:
 - The interest in the Park Runs remains high and this year the club was offered to the opportunity to manage one of the Abingdon Park Run events.
 - This proved to be a great success as well as an opportunity to promote the club.
- Communications and Website Update:
 - The introduction of social media into the club's communications mix has really taken off – particularly with respect to the Facebook page.
 - The redevelopment of the club's website is currently being addressed.
- Club Coaches & Officials Update:
 - Despite the newly qualified coaches (Hayley and Rachel) there remains too much reliance on too few people. The workload needs to be spread. More coaches need to be brought on-board.
 - Likewise, the lack of officials within the club is now becoming a hindrance to the club. It is a requirement to provide officials in certain competitions/events in order for athletes from the club to be allowed to compete.
- Membership & Committee Update:
 - The membership has remained broadly unchanged in its make-up and the club committee has remained exactly the same as for 2013. New initiatives to help increase the membership and new blood on the committee to help drive the club forward is required.
- Open Meeting Feedback Update:

The following feedback from the Open Meeting was confirmed for presentation at the forthcoming AGM:

 - **Increasing opportunities for senior athletes - training and competition**
 - Gareth approached Tom regarding a proposal for all club members to warm up together prior to training sessions, however there is no current interest.
 - The advent of the Oxford Open meetings has increased the opportunity for senior members to compete in track and field events.
 - Better integration of the JogWantage participants into the club training sessions has been achieved.
 - The aim to improve training facilities is ongoing.



- **Increasing opportunities for junior athletes - training and competition**
 - The Sportshall initiative led by Hayley Chaundy has had a very positive start with a good level of response both from the junior members and their parents.
 - Again the advent of the Oxford Open meetings has increased the opportunity for junior members to compete in track and field events.
 - The aim to improve training facilities is ongoing.
- **Promoting running and athletics in the local community**
 - Allocation of an annual advertising budget
 - Regular publicity in the local press should help to raise the profile of the club within the local community.
- **Encouraging greater participation in the management of the club**
 - It is hoped that parents of the junior members will be encouraged to become more involved in the running of the club off the back of the Sportshall initiative.
 - Increased social activity should also have a positive impact in this area.
- **Effective communication to and between members**
 - The use of social media has helped improve communication both from the club and among members.
 - A complete redesign of the website in all its guises is being progressed.
- ClubMark Update:
 - Clubmark Accreditation remains an important objective for the club. This will need to be finalised and submitted as soon as possible by the new committee.

Lastly, Gareth took the opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution during his tenure with particular thanks going to Dick, Bob and Dene.

No questions were raised.

Dene Stringfellow proposed a vote of thanks to Gareth both for his work throughout the year and for all his past contribution to the running of the club that was unanimously seconded.

5. Treasurer's Report

Paper copies of the Audited Accounts to the end of August 2014 were circulated to the assembled members at the 2014 AGM and a digital copy is available in .pdf format on the Club website at: http://whn.ridgedale.co.uk/clubadmin/accounts/2014_WHH_Accounts.pdf.

Sharon Bedford (Treasurer) presented a summary of the accounts to the assembled members as follows:

- The club made a surplus of £682 to the year ended 31st August 2014. The surplus was down compared to the previous year.



- Income from membership fees dropped by 11%, however this reflects the increased fees to be collected on behalf of England Athletics.
- The Half Marathon continues to make a very important contribution to club's strong financial position. A profit of £3,809 was made out of which £950 is to be donated to the 2014 nominated charity: Air Ambulance – Berks | Oxon | Bucks. The remainder of £2,659 is available for the use of White Horse Harriers AC.
- Again it is worth noting that the Half Marathon continues to carry the club. Without the revenue from the race the club would spend more than it receives.
- The race committee has once again an excellent job of promoting and managing the race and deserve thanks for their efforts.
- It is worth noting that Lucia's urgent appeal for assistance in helping to organise the 2015 Half Marathon has been met with a very positive response, following the standing down of Dene Stringfellow as Race Director after this year's race. Approximately a dozen members and non-members have stepped forward to increment the race organising committee.
- The club has a healthy cash position of £15,081.46 as at 31st August 2014. It is the Treasurer's view that the surplus built up now goes beyond the contingency against a cancellation of the Half Marathon. The issue of how best to utilise the club's funds will need to be addressed by the new committee.
- There were also significant receipts from the running of the JogWantage and JogDiamond courses as well as donations as result of assistance provided to other local races.
- The benefits significantly from the efforts of volunteers.
- Areas of expenditure of note are as follows:
 - The St. John Ambulance First Aid Course, funded by the club and organised by Bob Harrison, was attended by some 16 members.
 - Hayley Chaundy and Rachel Bennett have attended coaching courses funded by the club.
 - The club has also been able to help fund British Milers Club coaching weekends for aspiring young athletes.
 - A revised and updated club leaflet was produced this year.
- It is recommended that Maxine Thomas is re-appointed as auditor for next year, if she is willing and available to help. As ever, Maxine's assistance is greatly appreciated.

Following the Treasurer's report questions were invited. The following point was raised:

- The club does not appear to sell much kit. – *Ian Lambourn*
 - All competing members should be required to wear a club vest.
 - Hayley suggested more effort should be made to sell kit to the youngsters.
 - Hayley offered to investigate further kit supplier avenues – Wasp, for example.



- o Purchase order quantities and storage are currently an issue. Low order volumes mean expensive kit prices and the higher the order quantities the more storage capacity is required.
- o The issue of providing a comfortable women's vest has been investigated by Suzie Sheehy with an alternative supplier to the current kit supplier but the results were not positive.

A proposal was put forward to accept the accounts

Proposed by Dick Jégou

Seconded by Angela Briscoe

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

The 2014 club accounts were therefore accepted unanimously.

6. Appointment of Auditor for Next Year

It was proposed to again ask Maxine Thomas, who has no connection with the club, if she would be prepared to audit next year's club accounts. For the record, Maxine Thomas is treasurer of several local organisations (Friends of Millbrook School and Grove Scout Group) and an accountant. The proposal was unanimously supported.

A small gift has been presented on behalf of the club as a thank you for Maxine's support.

7. Proposed Membership Subscriptions Change

It was reported that England Athletics (EA) have again increased their affiliation fees. This time the rise has been from £10.00 to £12.00 as well as the club affiliation fee rising from £50.00 to £100.00.

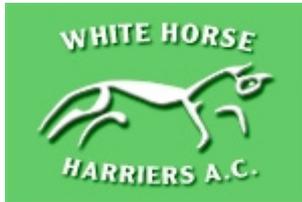
It was also pointed out by Sharon Bedford that there had not been sufficient time to review the WHH component of the membership fee and that this will be looked into by the new committee.

Simon Leech also raised the point that there should be an undertaking from the new committee to better publicise the benefits of membership.

Paul Jégou stated that he was happy with the fee payment structure remaining as it currently stands.

With the meeting quorate it was put to the vote that the increased EA affiliation fees are to be passed on directly to members via a commensurate increase in the membership fee in line with previous AGM decisions and as detailed below.

	Current	2013/14 EA Affiliation Fee	Proposed WHH Fee	2014/15 EA Affiliation Fee	Proposed Total for 2014/15
Family:	£40.00	n/a**	£20.00	2 x £12.00***	£44.00
Senior (19 & Over):	£25.00	£10.00	£15.00	£12.00	£27.00



Student & Under 19:	£15.00	£10.00	£5.00	£12.00	£17.00
11 & Under:	£5.00	Nil	£5.00	Nil	£5.00
Associate:	£5.00	Nil	£5.00	Nil	£5.00
Joining Fee (New Members Only):	£5.00	Nil	£5.00	Nil	£5.00

** WHH pays the England Athletics fee of £10.00 out of the £40.00 family membership fee for each family member as appropriate.

*** It is proposed that Family Membership is made up of the WHH fee (£20) plus 2 x England Athletics affiliation fee. As before WHH will actually pay England Athletics the appropriate fee for the number of members in the family.

The proposal to increase the membership fees as outlined above was put to the vote:

Proposed by Sharon Bedford
For: 19 Against: 0

Seconded by Dene Stringfellow
Abstention: 0

As a result, the new membership fees come into force with immediate effect.

8. Election of Officers

Gareth Smith reported he had received no new offers from members to stand for any of the available posts, The follow candidates stood unopposed and were duly elected.

Chairman: Simon Leech

Proposed by Paul Jégou
For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Dene Stringfellow
Abstention: 0

Secretary: <vacant>

Proposed by n/a
For: n/a Against: n/a

Seconded by n/a
Abstention: n/a

Treasurer: Sharon Bedford

Proposed by Lucia Singer
For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Sheila Bailey
Abstention: 0

Membership Secretary: Clare Hazell

Proposed by Hayley Chaundy
For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Sharon Bedford
Abstention: 0

Cross Country Secretary: Ian Lambourn

Proposed by Dene Stringfellow
For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Castel Fairle
Abstention: 0

Road Running Secretary: Paul Jégou

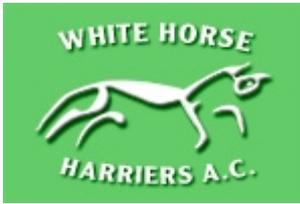
Proposed by Simon Leech
For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Sharon Bedford
Abstention: 0

Track & Field Secretary: <vacant>

Proposed by n/a
For: n/a Against: n/a

Seconded by n/a
Abstention: n/a

**Publicity Officer:** Dan Peace

Proposed by Dene Stringfellow

For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Simon Leech

Abstention: 0

Volunteer Officer: <vacant>Proposed by *n/a*For: *n/a* Against: *n/a*Seconded by *n/a*Abstention: *n/a***Welfare Officer:** Castel Fairlie

Proposed by Lucia Singer

For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Angela Briscoe

Abstention: 0

General Committee Member: Gareth Smith

Proposed by Dick Jégou

For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Simon Leech

Abstention: 0

General Committee Member: Dene Stringfellow

Proposed by Castel Fairlie

For: 18 Against: 0

Seconded by Lucia Singer

Abstention: 0

In the interests of the club as well as the members it is agreed that no single member should take on more than one committee role. It was noted that 3 committee posts again remain unfilled.

It was noted that Lorimer Fellingham has indicated an interest in becoming involved with the administration of the club. This needs to be dealt with as soon as possible. Simon Leech will follow this up.

Lastly, the point was also made that service in posts on the club committee should be confined to a limited period. This is to be addressed by the new committee.

9. Charitable donations from the 2016 White Horse Half Marathon

Regarding the question of charitable donation from the profit of staging the 2016 White Horse Half Marathon, the first matter to be settled was whether or not the assembly agreed to support a donation to charity. The question was put to the vote with the following result:

Should a donation be made to charity from the profits of the 2016 half marathon?

For: 19 Against: 0 Abstention: 0

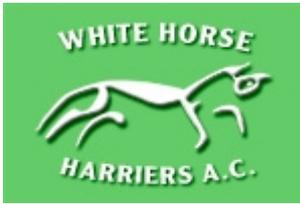
Following outcome of the donation to charity vote Gareth asked the assembled members if anyone had a charity they would like to add to the list of proposed charities presented on paper that had been circulated to all those present at the AGM. A digital copy is available in .pdf format on the club website at:

http://whn.ridgedale.co.uk/clubadmin/charities/2016_WHHM_Charities.pdf.

A short discussion ensued regarding the merits of supporting a local charity as opposed to a national body.

No other charities were proposed and the matter was put to the vote with the following result:

Flexicare Oxford & Abingdon	17
Grove Scout Group	6
Independent Advice Centre Wantage	11



The Mo Farah Foundation	0
Wantage Group Riding for the Disabled Association	9

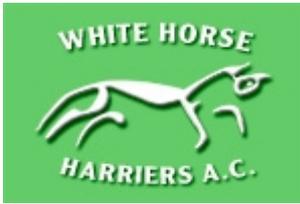
As a result Flexicare | Oxford & Abingdon is the charity nominated to receive a donation from the profits of the 2016 White Horse Half Marathon.

10. Any Other Business

- Before a short interlude for food and drink a presentation was made to Gareth, Richard and Dene, who were standing down from their posts on the committee, for their service to the club.
- As outgoing chairman, Gareth donated a trophy (The Chairman's Trophy) to the club to be presented annually to a member who has made a significant Contribution to the Club.

The trophy was awarded to Tom King for his unstinting services as club coach to the junior members over some 25 years

- After the interval the meeting resumed under the guidance of the new Chairman (Simon Leech) and the following points were raised by members present:
 - a. Club London Marathon Places
 - i. Currently these places are offered to the Senior and Veteran Club Road Race Champions, if declined – a rare event – they go into a ballot. For those members who are not among the leading competitors in the Club Road Race Championships those places are realistically completely out of reach.
 - *Ian Rees*
 1. It is not possible to do anything about this for the 2015 places as the ruling on the awarding of the London Marathon places was set out in the details of the Club Championships at the start of the 2014 season.
 2. The point was raised that it is possible to gain more club places by offering to help marshal at the London Marathon.
 3. How the club places are distributed for the 2016 London Marathon will be reviewed by the new committee ahead of the 2015 road race season.
 - b. Lighting Issues – Thursday Night Winter Training
 - i. The current lighting conditions are woefully inadequate for the juniors on Thursday evenings during the winter months.
 - *Castel Fairlie*
 1. The current system of using portable lights and lighting sticks to mark obstructions unreliable.
 2. Graham Wiggins suggested that there are portable retractable lighting systems available that would provide ample lighting in the park. The only issues being how portable they are and where to store them.



3. It is hoped that the development involving the move of Wantage Tennis Club to the Memorial Park will result in better lighting that the club can utilise.
- c. Sportshall Training Facilities & Assistance
- i. Currently there are no facilities for the young athletes to train and prepare for Sportshall events. In addition, Hayley needs more help.
 - *Castel Fairlie*
 1. The club has the funds to invest in any equipment as required.
 2. A suitable training venue will need to be addressed:
 - a. Speak to Wantage Leisure Centre about the possibility of regular bookings. The Sportshall training sessions don't necessarily have to be on a Thursday evening.
 - b. Investigate alternative venues such as the Civic Hall or Scout Hall, for example.
 - c. Investigate the possibility of training with other clubs who do have the facilities.
 3. It is hoped that the development involving the move of Wantage Tennis Club to the Memorial Park will result in better lighting that the club can utilise.
- d. Sportshall Medals & Certificates
- i. Currently medals are awarded to junior club members who compete in cross country events during the course of the season. Would it be possible to offer the same as well as certificates to the juniors participating in Sportshall events?
 - *Hayley Chaundy*
 1. There was unanimous agreement to go ahead with this.
 2. Dene offered to design and produce the certificates.
- Jan McCabe is to be approached to see if she will be happy to organise the 2014 Xmas Social.
 - The next committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 10th December.

Simon thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:45pm.