



Honorary President: Pete Lucas

Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at Stourbridge Cricket Club

Apologies: Ruby Ooi. Phillip Dunn. Lynda Dunn.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

Matters arising – at last year's AGM a vote was carried to increase membership fees by £5, unfortunately this was not implemented. It is proposed to look at the fees separately.

A donation was made to the West Midlands Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer's Society, from the profits of the club races. It was agreed that we would support these two charities for another year and choose a different charity next year.

2. Chairperson's Review

We have seen a few changes this year and we have risen to the challenge. I would like to officially thank Ian and Joan Clark for all their work done over the years.

I would also like to thank all members who helped with marshalling the races. The Stagger, the Stumble and Bridge to Bridge. These races are critical to making the club finances' work. It also enhances the reputation of the club in the running community. I would also like to thank others who have helped with Club camps, quizzes, BBQ's and socials.

A special thanks goes out to those who week in and out act as run leaders. I speak for all club members when I say how truly grateful we are for what you do.

Finally I would like to thank those on the committee who give back to the club by making sure the club runs smoothly throughout the year. If I have missed anyone out please forgive me, it's not intentional.

As a committee we have tasked ourselves to review and overhaul the way the club works and is governed. This is not the focus of this year's AGM. It would take too long to be dealt with in one

meeting. However we do believe that we may need to call one, or maybe two, EGMs during the year so that members can vote on any recommendations the committee wish to make.

Turning to the activities of the last year, we have seen many positive things happening. Each member of the committee responsible will give a short review of the last year, what they plan more importantly what support they need from you to help make the club even better than it already is.

I have always said that you get the club you deserve. The club belongs to you all and it will only continue in direct correlation to how much effort each member is bothered to put into it. Please get involved by supporting the events. Please let us know if you think we are getting it wrong, could do it better or even a thank you for at least trying. I'm not saying that we will implement everything that is suggested but I do promise you that we will consider it.

This year in particular, I need to cover a couple of issues immediately. They are:

- 1, The issue of club affiliation to England Athletic. We need a vote.
2. Creation of a subcommittee for races the club puts on each year. We need your help.

Club affiliation

Athletic clubs are affiliated to England Athletics through financial payment. There is a flat fee of £100 and then £15 per person. For that you/the club get certain benefits. The benefits are as follows:-

Insurance cover (third party only)
London marathon places (1 only)
Coaching visits (3 per year)
Entry to E.A. races and leagues
Discounts on coaching courses, merchandise and education programmes
Reductions in race entry fees.

S.R.C have in the past affiliated everyone regardless of whether the club or individual members, benefited from affiliation. We spent over £2000 on affiliation fees last year. More than we pay in rent. **The question is do we get £2000 worth of value?** The straight answer is no.

Luckily, it's not a binary decision. It's not a case of 'all in or all out'. We can affiliate just part of the club and not all of it. We will still get some of the benefits.

This is my recommendation. I propose that for this year those who want to represent the club in the league races or will run a number of races throughout the year and will benefit from the reduced fees should be affiliated. For those of us who don't want to race or have seen better racing days should not affiliate.

We review our affiliation at the end of this month (April) and pay our fees then. So the question is how many runners should we affiliate? We took membership subs this year that, by implication, included affiliation. As a club we will honour this if people want. However, for many in the club it is just throwing club money away for next to nothing in return. We cannot provide a refund for this year but will next year restructure our fees to reflect on opt in for E.A affiliation. For this year I would like to propose a vote that allows members to opt out if they choose knowing that the club, rather than E.A. gets the financial benefit.

“My proposal is that the club should allow those not wishing to affiliate to E.A. put their names on a list and the club will not affiliate them for this year. No refund of this year's fees will be provided. If your name is not on the list you will be automatically affiliated to E.A. ‘For those who do not affiliate the club will provide third party insurance to cover this loss of benefit.’”

Race Organisation Team

At present we run three races throughout the year.

The Stagger

The Stumble

Bridge to Bridge

If you look at the accounts which Andy has kindly put in a picture form, you will see that the races play a vital role in the financial wellbeing of the club. Andy will explain this in more detail I'm sure.

In the past Ian took on the role of Race Director and ran it more or less very close to his chest, with folk like Stuart, Roy and others helping to lay out the course etc.

Recently Bob has created the Bridge to Bridge race which we as a club have committed to support for the next few years. Bob is Race Director of Bridge to Bridge.

All the races can only happen with the full support of the members.

I believe that we could change the way we organise the races in the club. I believe that we should form a subcommittee of three members who are responsible for organising the races. This subcommittee would report to the main committee.

Tonight I wish to appeal to the membership for people to volunteer. Those that have experience will help you in transitioning this year, so don't feel that if you do volunteer you will be dropped in the..... (turn page)deep end.

Before I hand over to other committee members to give their reports I would just like to underscore the fact that this club will grasp the opportunity to modernise itself into something new, something better and more reflective of the club you want. The management team has committed itself to work hard this coming year to bring about change. You must also play your part if it is to be a success.

Thank you

3. Membership Secretary's Report

Steve Burch has been filling this role on a temporary basis and has been re-vamping the database.

At the end of 2017 there were a total of 130 members, 4 family members, 108 fully paid, 7 new and 4 social. There was 1 student and 6 unwaged. We had 74 men and 56 women.

At this moment we have 88 paid up members.

4. Treasurer's Report

See attached sheet.

Andy Bernasconi had prepared a chart to show the current accounts and this was handed out for members to read. Andy pointed out the importance of club races for the club finances.

He then invited questions from members.

A question from the floor was put forward as to why the club is still dealing in cash and cheques. Andy advised that this was going to be reviewed.

As a club we are now having to cover the additional cost of food provided on a Wednesday evening. The committee have proposed that they will discuss how to recover this cost at a future committee meeting.

A vote was taken and carried for JMC Accountants to carry on as auditors for next year.

5. Race Report

James and Grace –

Road Relays – Sutton Park, September

Men's team 68/100

Ladies 34/102

Not one we have done before.

Xc Relays – Aldersley Village, Wolverhampton

Men's 45 & 50/56

Ladies 11 & 17/24

Great turnout by the club – much fun had by all

Men's B'ham League – 4 races including 1 too many visits to Gloucester

Placed 12th out of 18 teams.

Well done to all who contributed and thanks for coming along.

Ladies Midlands League – 4 races

Placed 10th out of 19

Warwickshire & Worcestershire Champs – Warley Woods

Again a great turnout by the club – many new faces.

Men placed 6th (last)

Ladies placed 3rd (showing up the men)

We also had runners feature in the Midlands Championships in Nottingham and the National Championships in London.

Finally our very own Chloe Pearson represented Worcestershire County at the inter-counties in Loughborough in March.

The mid-week series is coming up.

Well done to all, and can I just say that anyone is welcome to join in the Cross Countries – all abilities are welcome, races are free and I promise to bring better cake this year.

Bob –

Bridge to Bridge

This was a new race last year consisting of 34 miles to be run either solo or as a 4 leg relay. The race was a great success and Bob thanked everyone involved. Ex SRC member Matt Giles won the solo event a team of SRC ladies won the team event.

It was confirmed that the event will be taking place again this year on the 22nd September and Bob said he had posters for members to give out if they were able to.

A small profit had been made thanks to the sponsorship of Sponmech and Enville Ale.

6. Election of Officers

Bob Hopkins resigned as Publicity & Marketing Officer, however he wished to stand for the role of Membership & Welfare Secretary, this was proposed by John Harris and seconded by Stuart Hannon. All other committee members were willing to stand for another year and were not opposed.

The committee are going to review the roles of Club Captain and Coaching Co-ordinator to see if these are still required.

7. Any Other Business

1. Helen informed members that there was lots of new kit now available and that she had also sold a lot of the older kit at reduced prices.
2. Karen thanked everyone for their support of the social events which she had organised during the past year. Paul Bradley thanked Karen on behalf of the club for the work she does organising the many social events.
3. It was proposed that the club cancel the Presidents Handicap, which has been held on Boxing Day, and revert to holding a social run, not a race. The motion was carried.

The Dudley Borough Trail is due to be held on Sunday 6th May and it was suggested that members take part as a social event. Some members expressed an interest.

4. Lyneth Williams read out a statement, which she had written. (See attached sheet).
The feeling from some of the members is that the club doesn't support the slower runners, namely those who run at a pace less than 10 minute miles. They are often referred to as beginners when in fact a lot of them are not. These runners are frequently left to sort themselves out when it comes to their club run.
One suggestion was that the club needs to look at maybe having a new committee position to tackle this.
John offered to take out the 'slower' group in the short term, and said that the committee would look into the long term solution.
5. Last year it was decided to stop the Anniversary League and Steve Burch asked if any club members would like this to be re-introduced. Following a show of hands it was agreed that this would be brought back for the coming year.
The first event will be the first race in the mid-week series, taking place at Hagley. Steve to make a list of the races and Pete Walters has agreed to help with the age grading.
6. Club members were invited to vote on the proposal of individuals choosing to be affiliated or not. There were 29 for, 2 against and 1 abstained. Therefore the motion was carried.
7. A subcommittee is to be formed to organise the club races. Volunteers were invited to fill the roles.

With no other business, the meeting was closed.