

## **COVENTRY GODIVA HARRIERS**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Club House on Monday 2 July, 2018

25 members of the Club were present (details held on record)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Pete Banks, Julie Beckford, Sally Eldridge, Colin Jacks, Myshola Kirkham, Elaine Minshull, Dave Moorcroft, Phil Ramsden, Keith Richards and Ann Smith.

### **2. Chair's Report**

The Chair, Aaron Bodycote, opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Aaron referred to the challenging circumstances of last year which had led to him undertaking the role of Chair, in a caretaker's role, following the vacant position of a number of key members of the Committee.

He indicated that the activities of the Club had been delivered by a small reliable team of dedicated volunteers. The Club house and weights room had operated smoothly, with improvements and repairs managed for the financial and service benefit to members. Technical Officials had supported a full calendar of events and secured investment in photo finish equipment. Teams had been managed to support almost all of the events that the Club traditionally partakes in, although in some cases, with weaker teams. The Committee had worked to accommodate the requirements of GPDR, which would have subtle changes to membership details at renewal.

Financially, the Club remained in a strong position, however Aaron pointed out that this was largely due to a nest egg, sponsorship and grants that had been well managed over the years. Income from membership fees had only just covered running costs.

Aaron thanked everyone who had helped to run the Club and manage and develop athletes. He concluded by indicating that he hoped that the Club could move forward and return to a time when Coventry Godiva Harriers were at the forefront of local and national athletics.

### **3. Secretary's Report**

Bill Adcocks presented a report, attached as Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

John Greatrex expressed his thanks to Bill for the work undertaken by him and for the support given to him in his new role as Club Secretary.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2015/16**

Iwan Jones presented the accounts for the year, copies of which were available at the meeting. The accounts showed a surplus of income over expenditure. Iwan responded to questions on the accounts relating to:-

As part of the discussions on the Accounts, consideration was given to the following issues:-

- The loss of income following the decision not to hold the Autumnal 5 last year.
- The lack of support from Club members in using the Club house, which had seen a reduction in income.
- The reduction in entry fees – it was noted that this was partly due to better management of teams and entries only being made for those athletes who were likely to compete. It was noted that there were further improvements to be made in this regard to achieve best value for the Club.

The following issues were identified to be progressed by the Committee, possibly by the establishment of a Working Group(s):-

- The identification of problems that had led to the Club's current challenges and possible solutions to those problems
- The promotion of the Club and the recruitment of new members and volunteers
- An analysis of the current membership and engagement with members to encourage the use of the Club house

The Accounts for 2017/18 were subsequently unanimously accepted and the Chair thanked Iwan Jones for all of his work on the accounts along with Tom Bark (Internal Auditor).

#### **5. Club House Report**

Gordon Horne, Club House Coordinator, presented a report on behalf of both himself and Chris Horne for the year and thanked all those who had worked as volunteers in the Hungry Harrier, particularly Cat North. Gordon also thanked Scott Eburne for all the work undertaken in relation to the Conditioning Room. The report is attached as Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

The AGM noted that a number of the roles currently undertaken by Gordon and Chris would be advertised and volunteers sought for these roles.

The Chair thanked both Gordon and Chris Horne and Scott Eburne, together with all the volunteers, for all of their hard work.

## 6. Officials Coordinator's report

Bill Adcocks presented a report on behalf of Colin Jacks, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3. The AGM recognised the importance of recruiting new volunteers as officials.

The Chair thanked Colin and all officials for their significant contribution to the Club.

## 7. Election of Officers

The AGM noted the Club's Patrons, Pat and Roger Medwell.

The following were duly elected as below, having all been duly proposed and seconded at the meeting:-

President:	David Moorcroft
Chair:	Aaron Bodycote
Vice Chair:	Roger Medwell
Secretary:	John Greatrex
Registration Secretary	Bill Adcocks
Minutes Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Tom Bark
Subscriptions Secretary:	Julie Beckford
Coaching Co-ordinator:	Lijana Kaziow
Officials Co-ordinator:	Colin Jacks
Welfares Officers:	John Greatrex, Ann Kirkham and Job King
Internal Auditor:	Iwan Jones
Club house Coordinators:	Gordon and Chris Horne
Conditioning Room Coordinator:	Scott Eburne

## 8. The Committee for 2018/19

It was unanimously agreed that the Committee for 2018/19 would comprise of:-

Chair:	Aaron Bodycote
Vice Chair:	Roger Medwell
Secretary:	John Greatrex
Registration Secretary	Bill Adcocks
Minutes Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Tom Bark
Subscriptions Secretary:	Julie Beckford
Coaching Co-ordinator:	Lijana Kaziow
Officials Co-ordinator:	Colin Jacks

Welfares Officers:  
Club house Co-ordinator

John Greatrex, Ann Kirkham and Job King  
Gordon Horne

The following additional elected members, who were all duly proposed and seconded at the meeting:-

Stewart Barnes, Nick Bennett, Vince Clisham, Dave Dix, Drew Murray,  
Rob Richardson and Katrina Wootton

It was noted that there were other roles to fill, such as the compilation of results, and it was agreed that this would be given further consideration at future Committee meetings.

## **9. Election of Team Managers**

The Team Managers were confirmed as follows:

Women and Mens - Senior (Track and Field)	Stewart Marshall
U20/U17 Boys and Girls	Sally Eldridge
U15/U13 Boys and Girls	Elaine Minshull
U12 & Quad Kids	Keeley Davidson
Young Athletes Cross Country & Road	Dave Dix
Men (Cross Country and Road) & Masters	Pete Banks
Masters Cross Country & Road	Pete Banks
Women (Cross Country)	Ann Kirkham

## **10. Honorariums**

It was unanimously agreed that Honorariums of the same amount as last year, £150, should be granted to the Treasurer, Tom Bark, the Club House Managers, Gordon and Chris Horne and the Subscriptions Secretary, Julie Beckford.

In relation to the Honorarium for the Secretary, it was unanimously agreed that an Honorarium of £150 should be equally divided between Bill Adcocks and John Greatrex in recognition of the work they were currently undertaking in relation to this role.

In addition, it was unanimously agreed that Honorariums of £150 should be granted to Cat North for her work in relation to the Club house and Fiona Watts for her work in relation to Godiva Kids.

## **11. Any Other Business**

**Proposal 1: To withdraw from the YGL Upper Age Group from the end of the season**

**Proposal 2: To hold discussions with Leamington C and AC about the possibility and desirability of forming a Composite Team with them and re-entering the League as a Coventry and Mid Warwickshire Composite Team. In a Composite Team athletes remain members of their existing Clubs, but athletes from both Clubs join force in a single Composite Team**

Gordon Horne presented the above proposals, which had been put forward by Sally Eldridge, U20/17 Team Manager. The AGM were informed of difficulties with the current Upper League Age Group, including poor competition and low team turnout due to the number of fixtures and the clash with the school's exam period. The AGM noted issues relating to this, including the number of competitions available to this age group and the possibility of having to travel further afield for fixtures. It was also noted that it was likely that there would be some re-structuring of the League for next year.

Following consideration of these proposals it was agreed:-

- 1) To withdraw from the YGL Upper Age Group from the end of the season
- 2) To hold discussions with Leamington C and AC about the possibility and desirability of forming a Composite Team with them and re-entering the League as a Coventry and Mid Warwickshire Composite Team
- 3) To review these arrangements at the end of the next year's season.

**Club Subscriptions 2019/2020 and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed, to hold an EGM to consider Club subscriptions on Thursday 15 November, 2018.

**Hammer Cage**

The AGM noted the current situation in relation to the use of the hammer cage following a directive from UKA regarding health and safety issues. It was noted that this issue had been raised with Warwick University and that the Committee had considered this matter at their last meeting and agreed a policy in relation to the hammer cage's use. A further directive from UKA on this matter was expected in September 2018.

The Chair, Aaron Bodycote, thanked everyone for their attendance and continuing support for the Club.

(The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.)

## APPENDIX 1

### Secretary's Overview of the last 12 months

I was recently browsing through a Road Running Club statistics book of 1962 and the first few lines of its introduction read " Amateur Athletics could not exist without individuals willing to undergo the vigours of the event with the discipline relating to taking part and volunteers to devote their time and efforts to the organisation of the sport. Enthusiasm and intense interest are the corner stones of both.

These words are still relevant today and I think that everyone needs to be reminded that an organisation like ours can only function if the decision making and administration functions are covered. Coventry Godiva Harriers has been in existence for 139 years and in the 63 years that I have been involved this last year has perhaps been the most scary in terms of our ability to survive.

It was about 40 years ago when our, at that time long time secretary Graham Pearson, stood down. It was only due to the stepping in of a very long past member, George Paul that saved the day.

With Zara Hyde Peters as Chairperson and the secretary/membership secretary both stepping down shortly after the last AGM there was somewhat of a void. Aaron Bodycote stepped in to cover the former and I did for the latter. Neither of these situations was totally satisfactory as the secretary's post was actually still vacant. John Greatrex came forward and in December offered to fill the post.

Aaron has outlined the problems that he has faced so the problems still exist.

Most members do not either concern themselves with or are interested in the problems of these post not being filled but as I have already stated without people we cannot function.

Where traditionally do people come from to fill posts within an athletics club? Mainly people with an interest in the sport this may be as they have been athletes themselves or may be parents of a member. Very often they have skills brought forward from their working lives but there is no bar the only requirement is enthusiasm and a willingness to help. We all started at the bottom.

We have coaches and team managers all of which have gone about their work very well but in so many of the cases they work in vacuums and as quite separate entities. There so often is very little communication between them and the management arm of the Club. If we are not to sink into oblivion this needs to change. I thank especially Julie Beckford and Fiona Watts for all of their ongoing work with new members, to Suzanne Bennett for her secretarial support and all of the helpers in the Hungry Harriers.

I have said many times in the past that we are a club involved primarily in competition and training to be as good as we can be both as a club and as individuals. To do this we need to improve our communications.

On the completion front, again we have been involved in all of the team competitions - county, area and national wise. On the winter front with the exception of the County Cross Country champs we have not done so well. On the summer activities the younger age groups did well and had good turn outs. The seniors show promise but commitment from so many members continues to be lacking.

The awards function wasn't to be in the last year but thanks must go to Sally Eldridge and Elaine Minshull for their efforts in putting together a somewhat belated awards presentation evening held in the Club House

On my part I would thank all committee member, coaches, team managers and club house helpers for all their input over the last 12 months.

## APPENDIX 2

### Coventry Godiva Harriers AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

#### Club House / Hungry Harrier Report for year ending March 2018

Although takings are down again this year it has been another busy year for the Hungry Harrier volunteer Helpers, with sales of £14,612.00 (last year £15,430.00) and a surplus of £4448.00 (last year £5332.00) passed to the Club. This downward trend has continued since our best ever year in 2014 of £19,273.00. We put this down to lack of support by club members (for whatever reason) as well as other outside factors.

Vest sales included in the above figures were £900.00 (£1710.00 last year) and the sale of Hoodies were £1182.00 (up from £789.00).

Chris and I would like to thank all the helpers who have supported the Hungry Harrier over the year. We have over 25 helpers, a number who are in the Hungry Harrier nearly every week, to helpers who only do several times a year. I am not going to mention them all but special thanks go to Cat North who has been helping in the HH for some time and has now taken on the role of looking after all the shopping, (with the support of her family). A new venture for the Hungry Harrier is to open on Tuesday and Thursday from 5.00pm, therefore extending our opening hours, Debbie Thomas has taken on this role and opens when she is able to.

Thanks also go to Ann & Colin Kirkham for doing all the Wednesday afternoon 2017 school events. Cat North has been covering this role during the 2018 Summer Season.

Ruth Hawkins took over the role of looking after the Sunday HH rota from Chris. Sunday morning is mainly Godiva Kids and Fiona has done a good job in getting volunteers from their parents, both for the register, HH and coaches.

The Club House could not function to the level that it does without all the time that our Hungry Harriers helpers give, not only providing refreshments, but selling Club kit, collecting subs (Julie requested me to give her thanks) and also a point of contact when visitors and potential new members come to the Club.

We continue to receive requests from outside bodies to use the Club House and although this helps with raising funds it also requires a commitment from helpers and has to be organised, usually by Chris and myself.

Chris and I have been looking after the Club House now for 14 years and we did say last year that we would be withdrawing from our main role as Club House Managers. We are still here and although happy to continue in that role can only continue if more support is forthcoming in certain areas. So, watch the notice board for roles that we will be relinquishing.

For instance, thanks to Scott Eburne who has for some years looked after the Gym, which has become an important source of income to the Club.

Many thanks to Tom Bark for auditing for the Club House accounts again this year.

Thank you. Gordon and Christine Horne

## APPENDIX 3

### Coventry Godiva Harriers - Officials Co-ordinator's Report - June 2018

This is a brief report on track and field officials attached to Coventry Godiva Harriers. There are other events where officials work, namely road and cross-country fixtures; others are better suited to commenting on these events.

Club technical officials have, once again, worked tirelessly and unselfishly over the past twelve months, managing to run events at both home and away meetings - sometimes doing meetings on both a Saturday and Sunday of a weekend, without complaining. At times we have also helped out other clubs, especially by providing chief officials for meetings. We are well known and appreciated by other clubs for our expertise and willingness to help.

During this last year we have acquired a state of the art photofinish system, which has required some extra assistance during our home meetings. Expertise is there in the hands of a few officials, although it would be good to have others trained up to assist.

However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to cover all events and meetings. Home fixtures see some of our key officials doubling up in terms of meeting organisation and technical duties. We also struggle to find starters (one of our regulars has now retired from starting) . In addition, organising hurdles tends to fall on the same trusty bodies every time. For away fixtures we have always managed, but only by relying on the same small group of officials going to meeting after meeting. This is not really sustainable in the long run.

Clearly we need many more officials. Recent numbers attending courses have been encouraging, but we also need people who have qualified to actually turn out to meetings. There are some who have attended a course but have not been willing to do any actual meetings – very disappointing. Help and guidance is there in abundance for those interested. Bottom line: if we don't get enough officials we won't be able to compete.

Colin Jacks 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018