

ALMOST ATHLETES AGM 2018  
Civil Service Club, Tewkesbury Rd, Cheltenham  
May 10 2018

1. APOLOGIES: Kate Houston, Janine Bennett, Matt Hampton
2. MINUTES OF 2017 AGM : Agreed as correct (Proposed James Clay, Seconded Ed Brandley)
3. CHAIR'S REPORT: As attached
4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS: Included setting of subscription for 2018-19 at £26 (no change from previous year.) FEES AGREED - Proposed Rob Hume, Seconded Paul Haig; ACCOUNTS AGREED: Proposed Martin Thomas, Seconded Michelle Balchin
5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE for 2018-2019: Graham Fletcher (Chair) June Franks (Treasurer) Claire Hawes (Secretary) Alison Hume (Membership Secretary) Steve Adams, Dave Chittock, Dave Elliott plus new committee members Fi Barnes and Kasha Price. Grateful thanks were recorded to retiring committee members Glenda Gill, Wendy Haskins and Nick Lewis. Committee elected en-bloc as above, Proposed: Nick Lewis, Seconded Jim Trowbridge
6. To mark the club's appreciation of their hard work on behalf of all members the following were awarded Life Membership of the club:  
Dave Elliott  
Wendy Haskins  
Rob Hume  
Bill Jones  
Nick Lewis
7. CHARITIES OF THE YEAR:  
Four had been nominated and were approved unanimously:  
The Rock (nominated by Gemma Hargraves)  
Linc (nominated by Paul and Kathy Haig)  
Suicide Crisis (nominated by Virginia Pawlyn)  
British Heart Foundation (nominated by Claire Hawes)
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None
9. GUEST SPEAKER: Emma Price from Supafoot Podiatry and her colleague Matt gave an informative and interesting talk about looking after our feet.
10. RUNNER OF THE YEAR ELECTION: The winners were MICHAEL GRANT and VIRGINIA PAWLYN. Our congratulations to them!
11. There was a presentation to the retiring members of the committee as a token of thanks for their work.

CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

## CHAIRMANS REPORT 2018

In the words of Her Majesty the Queen, this year has been an Annus Horribilis for the Club. We suffered the loss of Douglas Waymark and Rich Walklate, 2 amazing , 2 fantastic and 2 friends of many within this Club. Please can we all stand and have a Minutes Applause, a period of reflection over their sad loss, which has affected us all.

There's no doubt that there has been a very sad shadow cast this year, by the loss of these two outstanding young men from our midst: Doug Waymark last August, and just last weekend, Rich Walklate.

When Doug died in his attempt on the Arch to Arc challenge, we as a committee knew the club would want to pay our lasting respects to a man who did so much for the club, mainly behind the scenes, so some members may not even have been aware of his input. We discussed what we should do, with his partner Lola. If I may I should just like to remind you of the citation given when we made him Runner of the Month, before his tragic death:

*Doug has always put in some legendary endurance performances **but it is for his tireless support of Jules in her Cotswold Way challenge that we recognise Doug. All weekend, day and night he was on the road with all the food, drink, support both physical and emotional that she needed. Serving up marvellous soup and snatching a few minutes kip where he could, he finally turned in at 5am monday, after taking Jules home of course. They could not have done it without you.***

With Lola's approval, the committee decided that Doug should be remembered in the future for his volunteering, and that a new award would be made annually, in his name. This seemed to us a more fitting and **lasting** tribute than being included in the ballot for Runner of the Year.

Then of course we had the devastating news about Rich last weekend. Rich was a modest man with a record of great achievement as a club member; he was also kind and generous with his support and encouragement for all of us.

There is no rule book for desperately sad situations such as these and as a committee we wanted to make sure that we properly pay our respects, and show our thanks, to Rich as well as Doug. It is too soon to ask Rich's family what they would appreciate as a lasting tribute to him . However, for the same reasons that we removed Doug from the ballot we felt we should also remove Rich.

We know some members are unhappy with this decision. It was not an easy one to make; these men were our friends and none of us would dream of showing them any disrespect. Because this is a situation we have never been in before and which we hope we never find ourselves in again, I will ask the meeting now whether they wish Doug and Rich to be reinstated on the Runner of the Year list; if so, whether the ballot for the male ROTY should be held over from tonight so that the ballot is re-opened to all members, or whether the ballot papers should be amended for members attending tonight only.

Show of hands please.

The review at the AGM is usually one listing great achievements by many of our members, and there have been plenty of those which I will mention now, and I want to highlight the Committee Members.

My personal thanks to the following your Committee as they deserve the recognition:

We finished the year with 460 + members, I don't think it's about numbers, I think it's about enjoyment, taking part, and being part of a forward thinking Club. I think we are all of those, and I hope we can maintain that now and in the future. A big thanks to June & Alison for all of your amazing hard work. And it is hard work, these 2 ladies spend hours and hours collating the information, chasing people to fill in forms and then get you to pay.

Big thanks to Mr Spreadsheet, Dave Chittock for organising the Cotswold Way Relay, 5 teams, 50 runners, and a hugely successful post race curry night. We proved to be too successful for the organisers, hence we are down to 5 teams. Can I just mention we had our very first leg winner, when Hattie Jenkins won Leg 4 last year,

Thank you to Steve Adams for all of his hard work in compiling and managing the Race Series results. They continue to be a huge success, and I know that all the winners really treasure those prizes.

Nick Lewis for the popular Handicap race series. Again it takes a lot of hard work to arrange it, manage it, compile the results etc., please support it, have a go, you never know you might enjoy it. There were 34 taking part on Monday, that's down to Nick's organisation.

Thanks also to Des Beer, Dave Elliott and Wendy Haskins who have been invaluable members of the Committee. Did you know that Glenda was our Minute Secretary who had the unenviable task of trying to type everything I say, not easy. And finally my Vice Chair, Claire Hawes, who also has the very difficult task in being the voice of reason, the calming influence of not only the Committee, but of me too.

I wanted to highlight the work of your Committee, they are all volunteers, they give up their time, free of charge, and without them, this Club would not operate the way it does, in my opinion fantastically well.

The Club again promoted 3 races, the Linda Franks 5 mile, this year sold out in a week, the highest number in the Meteor Mile, and jointly with the Cheltenham Harriers, the Bugatti 10K? We had chip timing at the Bugatti, we will have at the Meteor Mile, and hopefully the Linda Franks 2019. My thanks to Race Director, Phil Jeyes, who is getting better and better as Race Director, far better than the last one!!

Alison again, Wendy Haskins, Glenda Gill, for all of their tireless work in making the 'back office' of the races work fantastically well.

There are so many of you who give up your valuable time to help us make these races happen, absolutely brilliant.

I believe we are getting better at these races, I have heard that perhaps we should look at the Devils Chimney race again, but that's up to you to say so.

Our guest writers for the Echo reports work very hard to collate information from the races and then try their best to get the Echo to publish. Dave Chittock, Matt Proome, Stevie Hawkins.

I would like to personally, thank the Committee and all of the regular contributors for all of their help, I couldn't do this without you, and thanks to all the members you make my job very satisfying, and hugely rewarding.

I'm immensely proud of the training nights, Hill Training at Battledown in the winter months, and then at the Racecourse in the Summer, Michael Grant is doing a wonderful job as Coach for these sessions, and he really is terrific. Don't take my word for it, go along and find out, you will keep going after your first session.

We introduced the Beginners Track Session, and it is proving to be very popular. James Clay is doing a great job, he even gives away chocolate, and it was great to see some of his athletes at the Handicap Race on Monday. Its all about giving you all confidence and the knowledge to get better and better.

The Thursday Track sessions go from strength to strength, thank you for all of you who come along.

I believe that as a Coach you have to make every session different, Michael, James and I do a lot of work in our own time to make this happen, we are pleased that you all seem to enjoy what we do, and your improvement is immense, im really proud of what we have achieved so far.

As a coach, the proof of what we do, is in the times you are achieving, and in a small way we both hope we are making a contribution to your training.

We have some fabulous Leaders in Running Fitness. This year Rachael Nolan, Claire Gallagher(Bear) and Stacey Osmond qualified, and then have been great to watch, listen to, warm you up, and most importantly professionally lead you on a Wednesday evening.

Can I mention Kim Davenport. Kim runs the Couch to 5K group, now to 10K, on a Monday evening at the Gloucestershire Airport. It has proved to be immensely successful, thanks Kim.

What else, the Quiz night, a sell out last year. Our close relationship with Up & Running is partnership I'm proud of, thanks Pete. And now we will have 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kit, its ordered, its purple, and its great to have Rachel and Justattlebit involved as our full kit suppliers, another great partnership.

In my years as Chairman, we have raised over £30K for local charities, you have agreed to support, that make me feel very proud,

I'm very honored and privileged to be your Chairman, thank you for all of your support.

Thank you very much for your support, this is a great Club to be part of, many new friendships have blossomed on many ways over the years, please continue to enjoy your running, and continue to get better and better.