

MINUTES OF THE AGM FOR ALMOST ATHLETES, 16th MAY 2019

Held at the Civil Service Club Tewkesbury Rd Cheltenham.

1. Apologies: Steve Adams, Des Beer, Ben Stone, Kasha Price, Sam and Dave McGrath, Sandra Stuart, Mel Harris, Mike and Vicky Kennedy, Rachael Nolan, Deb Cartlidge, Jules Jameson, Kate Houston.

2. The **Minutes of the 2018 AGM** had been made available for members to read on the website, on the FaceBook group and in hard copy at the meeting. Graham Fletcher (Chair) invited the meeting to agree that the Minutes were a true record:

Acceptance proposed by Wendy Haskins, seconded by Ollie Nolan.

3. **Chairman's Report:** As it was Graham's last AGM as Club Chair, he took the opportunity to look back over the many positives of his twelve years on the committee and as Chair. Among many such positives, he noted the increase in the number of members achieving GFA results and congratulated those who had achieved this. He singled out his first Vice-Chair, Karen Galpin for special thanks for her assistance in supporting club racers. Graham also noted the growth in membership from the low 100s to 480+ now; the amount of money donated to charity (nearly £35000 across the years) and the number of qualified Coaches and LiRFs the club now has among its members. He finished with his favourite word - it's all about 'Progression'!

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the financial statement for the year with comparative figures for last year were available for members to see. There being no questions or queries raised, it was proposed that they be accepted a true account.

Proposed: Matt Hampton, Seconded Jo Johnston.

5. The **membership fees for 2019-2020** were proposed to be increased from £26 pa to £28 pa with effect from 1st April 2019.

That this fee be approved was proposed by Peter Mitchener and seconded by Michelle Balchin.

6. **New Club Constitution:** Claire Hawes (club secretary) introduced the new constitution for the club. The draft version has been available on the website, and on the club FaceBook group for several weeks, and hard copies were available at the meeting. She explained that much of the new constitution simply brought things up to date with current best practice, drawing on the EA and ClubMark templates. In this day and age it is important that, for example, disciplinary procedures are very clearly explained and seen to be fair to all sides. She mentioned that potentially the only 'controversial' point might be the requirement for committee members to stand down after four continuous years' service. The reason this has been included is because it is the norm in many

organisations and associations now. It helps to keep the committee's thinking fresh and at the same time, spread the knowledgeability about how the club runs, more widely through the membership. The four year period starts now.

There were no questions or comments and on a show of hands, there was a clear majority in favour of adopting the new constitution.

7. VLM Policy - Claire explained that the way the club places for the London Marathon was previously part of the old constitution. However, in recent years the rules imposed by the organisers on club places have changed virtually every year, and the number of places, both for club places and GFA places seems to be under review. Usually the committee doesn't find out about any changes til the autumn, and it is much simpler to be able to change the policy to fit rather than amend the constitution. This year's changes include extending the bar on entering the ballot to a member who has a club place but for whatever reason, has to defer twice, so the club place is effectively lost.

8. Inclusive Fund: In a final round-up of club organisational updates, Claire said that while the club is very happy to support external charities, it had been felt that we should also be able to support members within our own community. To this end we have designated an amount of money which is to help members who have difficulty in accessing races, events or training due to physical disabilities. This is going to be piloted this year, and more details can be obtained by emailing to almostathletes@hotmail.com and the fund is open for applications now. Fi Barnes is the committee lead on this. No specific contributions are being sought as the aim is to fund it via our subs and income from races.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2019-20

The following members are standing for election:

Claire Hawes - Chair

Wendy Haskins - Treasurer

Alison Hume - Membership Secretary

Phil Jeyes - Secretary

Fi Barnes - Welfare Officer

Steve Adams

Mark Eavers

Dave Elliott

Matt Polson

Ben Stone

Proposed that all should be elected: David Chittock

Seconded: Natalie Greening

10. Award of Life Memberships - On behalf of the club Graham was pleased to award life memberships to David Chittock and Phil Jeyes.

11. Charities for 2019-20:

Four charitable purposes/charities have been nominated:

Maggies Cheltenham - nominated by Kim Davenport

Cotswold AONB (Cotswold Conservation Board) - Mariel Chretien

Gloucestershire Young Carers - Phil Jeyes

Purchase of a defib for Old Pats Club - Michelle Balchin

Proposed that all four be accepted: Sue Monaghan.

Seconded: Bill Jones

12. AOB None

13. Guest Speaker - Rich Ayling, England Athletics.

14. RUNNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Female winner: Fi Barnes

Male winners: a tie between Ollie Nolan and Matt Polson

15. PRESENTATION OF THE DOUGLAS WAYMARK AND RICH WALKLATE TROPHIES

The Douglas Waymark trophy for outstanding support to club members and activities was presented by Doug's partner Lola to Dominic Lyes.

The Rich Walklate trophy for outstanding personal achievement and contribution to our running community was presented to Michelle Balchin.

Our congratulations to them both.

16. PRESENTATION TO RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Claire Hawes gave a short speech of thanks, and Rich Ayling presented tokens of our thanks to David Chittock, June Franks and Graham Fletcher.

CLOSE OF MEETING