

Minutes of the Ilkley Harriers AGM held on 29th Sept 2009 at the Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club

Present: Eddie Winslow, Morgan Williams, Sue Bickerdike, Colin Lugton, Emma Barclay, Diane Kitchen, Catherine Gibbons, Patrick Gibbons, Andrew Sheldon, Paul Stephens, Julian Carter, Rachel Wolfenden, Malcolm Pickering, Michael Bryant, Neil Chapman, Paul Wood, Shirley Wood, Gaenor Coy, Steve Coy, Emma O'Looney, Paul Sugden, Jacqui Weston, Chris Oxlade, Don MacRae, Jane Bryant, Chris Matthews, Karen Lambe, Richard Reeve, Greg Wright, Sue Lugton, Dianne Haggard, Ian Marshall, Lee Morley, Dave Wilby, Alison Bennet, Norman Blackburn, Mandy Chapman, Brian Sweet, Graham Breeze, Pauline Watts, Geoff Howard, Andrew Merrick, David Ibbotson, Alison Weston, Alison Eagle, Henry Heavisides, Jane Guillard.

Apologies: Andy Wolfenden, Peter Shields, Sally Malir, Richard Gray, Ros Blackburn.

Chairmans Report: In the absence of the out-going chair, the Deputy Chairman, Morgan Williams, took the chair of the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The Chair's report had been circulated and was taken as read, but is included here:

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

Looking back at the events of the last year, a great deal has happened on the Ilkley Harriers scene. Membership has remained in excess of 300 and financially the club is in good shape. Individual and team performances throughout the year have, in many cases, exceeded those of previous years, and it's significant that we have young talent coming through the ranks for the first time. There have been excellent results on the road, fell and in cross country. The club has become big, and with the growth in membership it is inevitable that there are wide ranging variations in members' running requirements. As I have always said, Ilkley Harriers is a running club that can be all things to all people. It is important for the committee not to sacrifice the needs of the many for their own personal preferences and interests. This year's committee has acted dispassionately, and I hope that the new committee will act in similar fashion.

The women's vets cross country team deserve particular mention for achieving team and individual honours in the British Masters Cross Country Relays in Swansea in December; Alison Bennett, Amanda Oddie and Sarah Jarvis (now Bingley) won individual and team honours. The lady vets also did well in the YVCC championships. Also Jenny Dybeck and Catherine Gibbons enjoyed success in the Yorkshire Schools XC championship. Both men's and women's teams did the club enormous credit in the Complete Runner West Yorks XC. The Peco series of trail type cross country races continues to be popular because all abilities can compete here with confidence.

Ilkley's strong fell tradition continues unabated. Ilkley runners have excelled this year in the English Fell Running Championships. The women in particular continue to demonstrate their ability to challenge the best women's teams in any competing club. In the Three Peaks Tom Adams proved his ability with a brilliant 13th place. Disappointingly adverse weather affected some events, such as the OMM and Ian Hodgson which were abandoned owing to adverse weather conditions.

Ilkley Harriers is at last becoming competitive in road events and here also there have been some impressive results. The women's team achieved a creditable 24th in the 6 stage road relays in Stockport in April. There have been notable individual performances by our senior women also. As I write we are looking forward to hosting a Yorkshire Vets Road Relay event in September. This is prestigious and a landmark for the club.

In all three competitive disciplines the captains have done a fantastic job in rallying the troops for the difficult task of entering teams in both traditional and new events. Pete Shields, Di Kitchen, Dave Wilby Alison Weston, Henry Heavisides and Jane Bryant all deserve special thanks.

The Harrogate Running League race programme continues to dominate the summer midweek racing programme, and there have been more entries than ever this year. As usual we achieved well in just about every category.

The summer Tuesday evening "away runs" have been more popular than ever, and I have tried to perpetuate this blend of training and social activity which was started some years ago by Richard Gray. This year we managed several enjoyable social runs away from Ilkley and I hope that the rules, as well as my fitness, will allow me to organise these runs in future years.

In February we involved ourselves with Ilkley Round Table in helping out at the Ilkley Beer Festival. This proved to be a great success both socially for those members who served on, and for the club which benefited to the tune of £500, money which has been allocated to provide kit for the coaches. I hope we will benefit further from this event in years to come.

We have continued to build a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the Tennis Club; our association seems to be gaining strength. This year we have managed to organise food again, once a month after Tuesday training. We have, however, also continued to liaise and build a strong association with Ilkley Rugby Club. We have supported them in their quest to seek funding, and this provides us with a first class alternative venue for functions and meetings.

The junior section is thriving, and Shirley Wood is continuing her efforts to achieve "clubmark" status for the club.

Circumstances have forced me to stand down as chairman after just one year. I have endeavoured to carry out the chairman's role in a way that you would all have wished, and it has been a pleasure to work with a committee which, in my opinion, has made the right decisions for the club. I wish to give particular thanks to the following people who have supported me and the club throughout the year

Peter Shields, who I think is the mainstay of this club.

Each committee member, for their hard work; this often goes unnoticed.

The captains, some of whom were completely new to the role; all have done a great job.

Sue Bickerdike for the newsletter.

Alison Bennett for sorting out the Harrier of the Month presentation each month.

Vince Gibbons for his support in many events, and at Tuesday meetings.

Brian Sweet for his help with the newsletter distribution and general involvement, and being an inspiration to us all.

Neil Chapman and his team, for their work with the young athletes.

Organising races is stressful and fraught with difficulties; we need to be especially grateful to those who have organised our three races this year – Paul Wood, Lawrence Basham and Geoff Howard.

Apologies if I've left anyone out.

Finally, this has been a year of unique experience for me, it seems that the character of the club is changing, or at least about to change considerably.

Andy Wolfenden

Minutes of last years AGM: Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Paul Wood, seconded by Eddie Winslow and unanimously approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: None.

A written report from the Junior section coaching co-ordinator had also been circulated prior to the meeting. This was taken as read, but is also included in full in these minutes:

2009 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

I guess the icing on the cake this year came in October when Junior Ilkley Harriers were awarded the Yorkshire & Humberside Junior Club of The Year award at a ceremony in Leeds. But we have all moved on since then with an incredibly busy and successful sixth year with membership reaching 246. More juniors are training and racing, more parents are becoming involved with coaching and officiating and all our sessions are well attended and oversubscribed. Six more sixteen year olds will be moving into the senior section this autumn which brings our total since we were set up to 36. We have coaching sessions on five days a week and this September we will be introducing High Jump coaching at Ghyll Royd School for the first time. This year we gave an impressive number of gold medals at our Sportshall Athletics presentation evenings and once again we presented cloth 'colours' for Sportshall Athletics, Track & Field Athletics, Cross-Country, Fell Running and Road Running (including Terrain) to juniors for achievement and commitment to training and competing for the club.

In competitions we are going from strength to strength as we continue to encourage children to participate in a wide range of athletic activities. In Sportshall Athletics we had 13 juniors selected for their regional teams, eight at U11 level for the City of Bradford team and one for the City of Leeds with two others from Wharfedale Schools selected after we ran 4 trials preparation sessions at Ghyll Royd School. And with 3 selected for West Yorkshire at U13 level and one at U15 level this has been our most successful year to date. There were others who missed selection but put together a great set of results so hopefully next season they will get their chance.

In Cross-Country we had more juniors competing in the Complete Runner League and we gained our best team placing to date with an outstanding 1st place from the U11 girls and a 4th from the U13 boys. This we are sure is as a direct result of the massively popular Wharfedale Primary Schools League that we have now been organising for the past three years. A number of juniors also competed in the

newly formed Peco League which was set up to encourage youngsters of all abilities to continue to be involved with running and racing - this is a much needed stepping stone between school and higher level competition.

The Wharfedale Primary Schools Cross-Country League had over 500 children from the 12 local schools competing in the 6 races. This initiative is proving to be massively successful and particular thanks must be given to the local schools (All Saints, Ashlands, Ben Rhydding and Ghyll Royd) who each organised a day of races on our behalf. Next year 3 more leagues are due to be set up through the Bradford Athletics Network using our Wharfedale model.

On the fells we have witnessed some fine performances with individuals competing in the BOFRA events as well as FRA English Championship races, but key to any future success is encouraging children to compete at locally organised events. The massive number of juniors that we see at our junior fell race shows the healthy state of running and in most cases these types of races provide the first step on the competition ladder so it is vitally important to 'get it right' at this level.

Our juniors competed in the Young Athletes Track & Field League for the second year and although we have seen some fantastic individual performances and great team support particularly from all the parents and coaches who have attended the events we have not rocked the boat too much within our N2EC League. However Fiona Jordan (who competed in an Ilkley vest for XC just after JIH was formed in 2003) is leading the way and showing us what can be achieved by becoming our first Yorkshire Champion at U17 level in the 300m Hurdles (she was also 3rd in the Northern Champs). We cannot take all the credit as she is also coached by Roger Ingham at Skipton, but she is proving to be a great role model for the younger athletes coming through.

Behind the scenes our coach education programme is ongoing with one additional Level 1 coach and 3 Level 1's achieving their Level 2 status. We have a couple of other coaches who are part way through gaining their qualifications and hopefully will be able to do so before April when the 'old money' courses cease to exist and the newer uk:athletics courses are introduced. 13 coaches attended various First Aid courses and 6 updated their Child Protection course qualifications. We have organised 5 events this year - Nell Bank Primary School's individual and relay X-C events, Junior Fell races, Sprint fell relays and the IGS Year 6 induction day activities.

The most important ingredient to our success since we started has been the enthusiasm, support, commitment and motivation that all the coaches, helpers, parents and juniors have given to the activities that we organise. Without the volunteers who give their time freely to 'make things happen' we could not have achieved half as much, so many thanks to everyone who has supported the junior section this year. We must also thank Bradford Cheque for the grant to allow us to purchase High Jump equipment, the Ilkley Beer Festival for money to purchase our storage facility and the Bradford Athletics group for subsidising our coach education programme.

... and what for the future? Firstly we will be strongly promoting the Peco XC League events this season as well as the Complete Runner League and we will be getting as many juniors as possible along to the Yorkshire, Northern and National XC Champs. We are changing our tack for Track & Field Athletics and withdrawing from the YAL league to compete in open events alongside a national award scheme. This will allow competition from U11 so we can get our juniors involved earlier. Regarding facilities, we are looking to have a jumps pit at Ghyll Royd School before Christmas and we are talking to IGS regarding athletics facilities if the new build goes ahead. Onwards and upwards.

*Shirley Wood
Junior coaching co-ordinator*

From the Floor: An impromptu vote of thanks for this years out-going Chairman was proposed by Sheena Pickersgill, seconded by Jacqui Weston, and approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Eddie Winslow presented the accounts of the Club for the period ended 31 August 2009 and his report is set out below:

Treasurer's report

Thank you to Clive Smith for auditing the accounts this year.

Income

Subscriptions

Our main source of income is from our members' subscriptions. Membership levels were stable during the year, increasing from 308 last year to 312 this year.

Organising Races

Once again we organised two fell races during the year with both generating an increased surplus compared with last year.

The Ilkley Trail Race had its second running this year and again generated a large surplus. The Committee agreed a policy of retaining 50% of the first £1,000 of any surplus within the Club to be used to the general benefit of Club members with the other 50% of the first £1,000 and all surplus in excess of £1,000 to be donated to charity. A donation was made to the Ugandan charity of £1,429.

Organising the PECO XC is not an annual event for us but it is pleasing to report that it did generate a surplus similar to that generated from organising a HRRL event the previous year.

Other items of note

The deficit on social events arose, once again, largely from subsidising the annual awards evening.

Donations

A donation of £500 was received from the Round Table following the support provided by members to the Round Table's Beer Festival.

Expenditure

Rent

In accordance with our agreement with ILTSC, our rent increased at the same rate as membership subscriptions increased for other members of ILTSC.

Athletic Association Subs

England Athletics subscriptions were £50 plus £5 per first claim member. The reduction in the payment was due to some members being reclassified as "non-competing" and therefore no subscription being required for them. We also pay a small subscription to the Yorkshire Vets Athletic Association.

Race Entries

A breakdown of the expenditure is given in Note 1 to the accounts.

The main reasons for the reduction in spending in 2008/9 compared with 2007/8 were firstly that we did not hire a coach to get our team to the Northern Road Relays this year; and secondly, due to lower interest this year amongst members, that we entered fewer teams in the Millennium Way Relay and no teams in the Pennine Bridleway Relay.

Coaching Courses

It is pleasing to note an increase in the support provided to members pursuing coaching qualifications. The growth in the size of the Club in recent years means that more coaches are required. The Club continues to encourage members to become coaches to support the Club's training program by funding the cost of courses. The cost of courses is 50% subsidised by Bradford Athletic Group. Thank you to Shirley Wood for looking after arranging the claims from this Group.

Training Sessions

The Monday night £1.50 is intended to cover the cost of the Monday night hall hire and the cost of the lights for Pete's Thursday Winter training. This it has largely done with a small balance to be met from Club funds.

Newsletter

The cost of the newsletter has remained stable.

Other Costs

The other costs for 2008/2009 are itemised in Note 2. The Committee agreed that the donation from the Round Table should be used to support suitable clothing for the Club's coaches. A provision of £300 has also been established to cover the estimated costs of additional coaching equipment that Pete Shields is currently purchasing.

Prospects for 2009/2010 and beyond

For 2009/10 I am anticipating that the sources and levels of income will be similar to 2008/9.

I expect the ILTSC rent costs to increase with inflation. I anticipate that the Athletic Association Subs and Newsletter costs will remain stable unless membership levels change significantly. These costs are largely outside our control.

We have greater discretion over other costs. I anticipate that these are unlikely to change significantly.

On behalf of the Management Committee I propose therefore that membership subscriptions for 2009/2010 be set at the same level as 2008/2009.

Eddie Winslow

Approval of Accounts (including approval of the level of membership subscriptions for 2009/10): Proposed by Pauline Watts, seconded by Colin Lugton and unanimously approved.

Election of Officers and Committee:

Chair: Paul Wood was nominated by Pete Shield and seconded by Andy Kitchen. Being the only candidate he was duly elected. The Chairman of the meeting felt it was appropriate to allow the newly elected Chairman a brief opportunity to outline a number of proposals that he intended to bring to the new committee during his tenure.

Deputy Chair: There were no candidates for this post, which was therefore not filled.

Treasurer: Eddie Winslow was nominated by Morgan Williams and seconded by Emma Barclay. Being the only candidate, he was duly elected.

Secretary: Paul Stephens was nominated by Morgan Williams and seconded by Sue Bickerdike. Being the only candidate he was duly elected.

General Committee: Catherine Gibbons was nominated by Morgan Williams and seconded by Emma Barclay and was duly elected.

Each of Neil Chapman, Malcolm Pickering, Henry Heavisides, Di Kitchen, Emma Barclay, Jane Bryant, Paul Sugden were nominated by Morgan Williams and seconded by Sue Bickerdike and were duly elected.

Auditor: Clive Smith was nominated *in absentia* and duly elected subject to his agreeing to perform this valuable role again.

AOB: Captains:

Mens Road: Henry Heavisides

Ladies Road: Jane Bryant

Mens XC: Malcolm Pickering

Ladies XC: Di Kitchen

Mens Fell: Dave Wilby

Ladies Fell: Emma Barclay

All captains were nominated and appointed with thanks.

Membership Secretary: The Treasurer had indicated that the role of Membership Secretary required a volunteer now that he had relinquished the role. A volunteer from the newly elected committee was not forthcoming. The matter would be taken to the first meeting of the new committee.

Newsletter: The age old argument about the validity of the Newsletter in this digital age was raised. Agreed that a decision re-canvassing the members on their opinion should be made at first committee meeting.

Club Kit: Paul Wood to liase with those already charged with production, distribution etc.

Meeting Close: The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.