

Minutes of Elvet Striders AGM – Wed. 10th October 2012

Venue: CG85 Durham University:

Apologies: J. Leslie, A Glass, A Proctor, T Reeves, I Spencer, P Evans, Z Evans, J Hutchinson.

Present: 60 Striders

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the agenda.

1. Officers' reports:

Male Captain: Alister acknowledged that it has been a fantastic year. Numbers have gone up as has the spirit of the club. Alister also wanted to thank Peter Brookes, the previous captain who stood down in February, for his ideas and innovations

Female Captain: Claire wanted to add to Alister's comments. The club has come a long way and we should build on the success.

Treasurer: Stef outlined that we have £2338 in the bank. We could use this for the new EA fee increase but Stef asked for other suggestions. Payment for track lights on Wednesdays? Bad debtors should also be pursued.

Male Cross Country Captain: Geoff said that the 2011/12 had been excellent. The turnout had been good for some great HL days. Men were 4th in division 2. There have been loads of new people. Striders have been represented in North Easterns, Northerns, Nationals and North Eastern Vets. He hopes for an excellent start to this season.

Female Cross Country Captain: Susan hopes the women have enjoyed it. She was thankful for some of the "magic moments" – for example: four women sitting on Hampstead Heath (??), Sue and Angela 'rolling around' at the Northerns and finally the day Yusuf's parents came to the last Harrier League. Susan says thank you and wants the women to believe in themselves.

Transport Officer: Andy said that there has been unprecedented supported for buses this year. He pointed out that 250 people travelling by bus has saved many car journeys. £1600 turnover. He asked for suggestions for social/food attached to bus events. A suggestion was for more use of buses for X Country events. The Brampton to Carlisle bus can be funded free.

Kit Officer: Zoe has said, via Denise, that the kit is selling well. Points out that that club vests are needed for HL. The expansion of the purple range has been a success.

Website officer: Shaun thanked member for reports and photographs. He passed on the news that Colin was now standing down, and thanked him for his six years of outstanding work creating and maintaining the website. A vote of thanks was given for Colin's good work. Shaun intends to carry on with help from Dougie but invites support from other in the club with the appropriate IT skills.

2. **Election of new club Officials:** David outlined the need for continuity in the running of the club but also wanted to encourage newer members to offer themselves if they have the relevant skills. For example the web manager needs to have certain specific skills to cope with the demands of the role. Similarly there is a need for a certain handover period for treasurer/ secretary and both jobs need to be a bit longer in term. **However**, every year, according to the constitution, everyone technically stands down. Although in some roles, current holders will want to continue. As the current secretary, I have made it known that I wish to stand down after a brief handover period. Stef will continue as treasurer but only for 1 more year. Alister has only been captain since February so it is likely that he would want to continue. Claire has decided to stand down and Sue Jennings was been nominated as a worthy replacement and was duly elected. Shaun will continue as web officer but invites offers from other IT skilled members to assist him and Dougie. Jacquie Robson was nominated to replace me as club secretary, and was duly elected. All other officials are to stay on, David for one more year as Chairman. David offered thanks to all officials for their hard work and support over the year and welcomes new officials.
3. **Constitution and Code of Conduct:** The code of conduct was felt to be necessary after certain unpleasant incidents/exchanges over the last year. In order to have a code of conduct we needed to produce a constitution. A small group – DS, PK, VT, JR, ED met to consider examples from local clubs and generic ones. The draft version was circulated by Dave generated less feedback than he was expecting. Dave was keen to say that the constitution was needed because the club is bigger and expanding; newer people need to know how things work and there is a need to know who's who. We need it if and when we need it but it's not what we're about as a club. We don't want it to be central to the club – just something we can fall back on in the events of disputes and problems. The AGM agreed to leave the finalisation of all the details to Dave and the group involved.

Issues: Gender & language. The constitution will be gender neutral.

Country members – this should be someone who lives or works away so cannot be a regular training member of the club. To be decided on an individual basis & trusted to the committee.

Appeals: Who deals with appeals? A full group or an ad hoc group.

'On time and organised': Is this necessary? More likely to apply to kids.

Adhering to rules of any event: Susan raised the legal issues of being caught running in someone else's number – results in public domain.

Some aspects need to be checked with EA.

Disputes between members & committee: Conrad raised that if this occurs members can call an EGM if 20 members wish to. Conrad quoted example when this was refused by committee of another club. Procedures should be same as for AGM – needs to be resolved by committee.
4. **EA Registration:** PK outlined the rise in EA fees for individual runners – a 100% increase for road runners from £5 to £10 per runner. Track and Field competitors to

pay £20! It was suggested that we should approach MC for a discount because of the size of the club and because the impact of the parkrun. The club agreed to pay an extra £5 in club fees next year to sustain the club's income.

5. **Youth Section:** Should we have one? After considerable discussion the decision was no. We don't have the coaching provision and DCH&AC do offer these services.
6. **Hunwick:** David outlined the pathway – sports centre to running clubs to the Olympics! Hunwick was originally a Run England “couch to 5K” group. Some members want to run in races and would need to join a running club and get an EA number. We could also train with them on their nights.
7. **Runners of the Year** – Results Female runner of the Year Melanie Hudson, male runner of the Year Adam Walker. Most Improved female – Sue Jennings, Most improved male – John Greathead.
8. **Grand Prix:** Shaun delivered the report on this on behalf of John. 74 men and 59 women were involved in the races. The separate competition winners were:

Mud King/Queen:	Jerry Lloyd and Nina Mason
King/Queen of the Mountains:	Shaun Roberts and Susan Davis
Sprint Champions:	Simon Gardner and Rachael Bullock
Endurance Champions:	James Garland and Kathryn Sygrove
Overall winners:	Alister Robson and Nina Mason

Full results will be published on the website.

Changes to the Grand Prix were proposed by Alister:

Make the chip time the time to count based on accuracy. A case was put for retaining the gun time but members voted for the chip time where available.

Alister proposed to raise the number of points from 10 to 15 for winners so slower people may get more than one point and thus be motivated. Agreed.

Alister also made the following suggestions for possible changes to the races chosen for the Grand Prix, though the point was made that JH already needs to consider changes in the light of attendance:

- a) Should a marathon be included e.g Sunderland or Kielder. London weekend too expensive and numbers difficult to obtain.

- b) Remove a 'Sprint' race and replace it with a 5K. A specific Durham parkrun could be identified. Obviously runners would need to register in time. Alternatively the Sunderland 5K.
- c) Do we need to look at "doubleheaders" – 2 races within 2 days? Or should runners continue to have the choice?

9. **Sunday Runs:** Pam suggested we continue to organise Sunday Social Runs in which members can bring family and friends to a walk/run ending up at a pub for lunch. This enables people to get to know members they would not normally meet or run with. Venues no more than an hour's drive from Durham. Pam will organise one in November.

10. **Handicap:** Phil reported on the summer handicap. First one was in horrible weather – torrential rain however a successful season followed. Phil proposes that the final race should be earlier owing to problems with light and the start of training for the XC season. Phil & Anna will continue next year avoiding Esk Valley events where possible. Thanks were given to Phil & Anna for organising it. Fastest runners were Adam and Nina. Outstanding performances – Elizabeth Dick knocked 3 mins off her PB and Stan White showed a big improvement.

11 **London Marathon numbers.** Although there is no guarantee that the club will receive any, Phil proposed that the draw takes place as soon as we have them. Members applying should produce rejection letter. Agree.

12 **Court Inn Clamber.** While not wishing to appear to criticise the organisation of the race in its current format, Phil made the following observations: Do we need a meal? Why not use MC facilities? Or the New Inn? He raised concerns over safety and marshalling. He feels "embarrassed" when he speaks to runners from clubs not invited. It was pointed out that as a small, invitation-only event which occurs under the EA guidelines for races **not** requiring a permit, it is not viable or practical to open it up to a wide range of NE clubs. The race evolved from the former Rose Tree 5 when very few clubs were involved. A core list of very local clubs are now used and invited on an annual basis. Blackhill Bounders are on this list and **were** invited this year. A group of interested Striders will discuss this further at a later date.

13 **Second Claim Membership.** Pam had contacted EA earlier. Second Claim membership is generally an informal arrangement between individual runners and their 2nd claim club. EA will "note" the intention of a runner wishing to run 2nd claim but there is no way for a secretary to register such a runner. There is no charge to the club for 2nd claim runners to be "noted". Running 2nd claim is most likely to occur when a runner competes in an event in which their own club is not involved e.g a Harrier running for Striders in Calderdale. Students are permitted to run for their university when studying away from home. They can agree a fee for training with a local club.

14 AOB

- a) Neil informed the club of services available from his physio practice – see e-mail subsequently sent by Neil
- b) Pam proposed on behalf of Paul Evans that we revisit the idea of organising an open race in Durham. To be discussed at Court Inn Clamber working part.
- c) Allan proposed that Striders be nominated as club of the year
- d) Block Entries – will this continue for Blaydon? Could we explore block entries for other races e.g. Brass Monkey