

**HAYWARDS HEATH HARRIERS MINUTES OF THE 52ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT ST FRANCIS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, HAYWARDS HEATH ON
FRIDAY 16TH MARCH 2018**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** J Jones, B Gibson, H Gibson, M Derrick, P Heasman, J Denyer, M Holdstock, L Venables, R Watts, M Scholes.

2. The Minutes of the 51st AGM were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Officer Reports: -**

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2017

Introduction

These accounts are presented on a receipts and payments basis, not on a profit and loss; there is no balance sheet, no accruals and no depreciation.

They have been independently examined by Kim Lo, a chartered accountant and member of Harriers.

The last five years shown. In addition there is a breakdown of competition costs for Athletics Meetings/Entries and Endurance.

Headlines

Over 2017 our cash balance declined by £1,565 to £20,058.

The breakdown of year-end paid membership is as follows:

	M	F	Tot
Junior	71	54	125
Senior	47	32	79
Associate	35	17	52
O60	7	4	11
	160	107	267

Summary

For many years the Club has made a surplus only because of the contribution of the various events we run and without them the Club would lose cash every year. The following table shows what the extent of those loses would have been:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
-2851	-1560	-2556	-5	-3197	-1273	-4946

The relatively good position in 2014 was achieved through the munificence of MSDC: an award of £3,162; a grant of £500 towards LiRF courses.

A detailed breakdown for 2017 is shown below:

	£
Normal Operating Surplus	-3317
Exceptional Expenditure: Shed	-1629
Actual Operating Surplus	-4946
Events Surplus	900
Catering at XC League	672
Catering at CH Relays	710
Wakehurst Willow Donation	1100
Total non-Operating Surplus	3381

Comments: The Events Surplus of £900 includes Hickstead sponsorship of £350; the XC League catering will not recur in 2018. Neither the CH Relays catering nor the Wakehurst Willows contribution are guaranteed in future years.

Coach's Report

Every week coaches for all sessions - whether junior, track and field or endurance - give up their valuable time to support the club for which I, on behalf of all club members, wish to thank them for as always.

The junior/intermediate sessions have been supported by a core group of regular coaches throughout the year. Linda Tullett works tirelessly to ensure the junior and intermediate part of the club continues to attract huge waiting lists. A number of coaches continue to support these sessions and are a valuable and vital part of making these sessions so popular.

Track and field coaching sessions have taken a down turn in recent months with very few adult athletes wanting these sessions which is of concern – especially to me as Head Coach who joined the club 23 years ago to become a track and field athlete. Part of this demise may be due to the absence of Bob Ruff a track and field coach of many years who has sadly been very unwell for the majority of this year.

On the endurance side Martin Delbridge has continued to oversee sessions and reports continued success with every group leader supporting the sessions ensuring everyone receives advice and guidance. The reported success of the endurance side of the club no doubt can be attribute in part to the assistance given by these coaches.

The club has grown in recent years and has ambitious plans for further development and facilities in the future – which will have to include encouraging more coaches to get involved. The club is keen to support coaches in new qualifications and also support new coaches in getting the qualifications needed to give it a go. Without more interest from coaches or those wishing to give it a try the club is at risk of losing its foundation particularly in relation to track and field.

President's Report

I am quite sure that nobody wants to either sit through a long address by the club President or feel obliged to read a long dissertation on the web or in hard copy. However, I do feel obliged to say something as a sort of valedictory offering at my last AGM as an officer of the club.

I joined the club in the autumn of 1982 and was invited to join the committee in 1984. The ensuing 32 years have seen a huge growth in the membership and an equally impressive expansion of the club's activities. Back in 1984 our membership was not much more than 100 and we were mainly a club for juniors. I believe we now have a membership approaching 300, covering all ages. Back in 1984 we had a senior men's track and field team, but no ladies team and no junior teams.

At that time the men's league covered the whole of the south in 8 divisions and we had to travel as far as Norfolk, Devon and Cornwall from year to year. I well remember us being threatened with relegation to division 8, the very bottom division, a prospect which we did not relish, so a modestly small team travelled to Canvey Island hoping to get enough points in the last match of the season to avoid this ignominy. Pleasingly a small team of Barry Tullett, Nick Saunders, Bob Ruff, Matt Bristow and I just succeeded. Things have changed a lot and we now have a mixed male/female senior team jointly with Lewes in a league which has been sensibly regionalised.

Back then we had a few cross country entrants from time to time but scored very few points towards the foot of the table. But now we have good teams in both ladies and men's leagues and, indeed, our men have just excelled themselves and, after a couple of recent promotions, finished in second place in league one. A truly great effort.

Meanwhile club involvement in road and trail races in the county has increased hugely, and not only because there are so many more fixtures nowadays. As a result we have been able to leave a great record of success in the county Grand Prix in recent years. Not satisfied simply with these local fixtures club members have competed all over Europe, in a number of events in America, in the Sahara desert and many other exotic places.

All this is only to emphasise just how the club has developed in the last 20 years as our senior section has grown and thrived. Those juniors who have competed have acquitted themselves well but we need larger numbers turning out in the

Sports Hall league, summer track & field leagues and cross country if we are to make our mark amongst the medals and awards at the end of each season.

The club clearly has a tremendous amount going for it right now and we must all do all we can to maintain the momentum and build on the successes we have enjoyed in recent years.

Whilst it is invidious to mention just a couple of people out of the many who have done so much to lift the club to its current level, I still feel that I must mention two leading lights in this uplift of the club and they are Linda Tullett and Martin Delbridge for their enthusiasm and leadership from the coaching side which has played such a major part in recent successes.

And now as I drift off into the sidelines I should just like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the club and although my own days of competitive action (and even the odd medal) are now past I will continue to check up results from week to week in the Middy or on the web. Some things really do get into the blood and are very hard to shift!

I wish my successor and all club members all the good luck in the world in all future administration and competition.

With my very best regards to all
John Gill

Chair's Report

We came, we saw, we conquered – well we are the Beetroot Army!

One highlight moment among many this year: Three of the top five finishers in the final Cross Country league fixture last month were Haywards Heath Harriers! That has never happened before.

It has been a great year with many exciting things happening across the club.

- We have smart new kit
- There is a development plan taking shape
- The junior waiting list is being tackled, though we still cannot cope with junior demand
- Membership is growing steadily
- There have been notable achievements in all sections of the club.

We are making steady progress in moving the club forward with the goal of a training track just about in view.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their work over the last year. Many others also work quietly behind the scenes making things happen smoothly. Our coaches give their time willingly for free, supporting their athletes in all sorts of weather. Thanks also to all our team managers for their continued commitment during the past year. We could not manage without you all.

The number of junior members continues to grow. Many contributed enthusiastically in the sports hall league and cross country events. Mae Robinson, Millie Somerville, Charlie and George Bonwick-Adams, Thomas Pearce, Jack Twibell and Alex Booth were selected to represent Sussex in the Sports Hall league inter counties Championship. Well done to them. Charlie also truly impressed us all with his first place in the U11 race at the Sussex XC Championships in January. Ethan Lambert equalled the Sports Hall league speed bounce record of an incredible ninety bounces in one minute. In the highly competitive Southern Counties XC Champs, Darja Knotkova-Hanley and Adam Dray both placed in the top 100. Darja was also a creditable third in the Sussex Schools XC Championships. In fact, Darja and Joseph Martin have been selected to represent Sussex in the English schools at Leeds in March. Congratulations!

There were medals galore for the club in the Sussex Vets Track and Field Championships in June with five golds for Jenny Denyer, four golds for Mike Bale, three golds for Michelle Holdstock, a gold and a bronze for Paul Cousins, a gold triple jump medal for Helen Diack and a silver medal for Barry Tullett in the 5K. In the Sussex County Championships, Darja came 3rd in Under 17 girls 3000m and Lucie Venables came 1st in Senior Women's 400m hurdles. Great results all.

In the Track & Field leagues, there were club records for Jenny Denyer, Christian Lambert and Mike Bale. All five of our league teams performed well during 2017, but more support is needed across the age groups.

Also, at the Southern Counties Veteran Athletics Champs, Mike Bale won a gold, silver and bronze medal in the hammer, discus and shot respectively. There was further success for Mike in the British Masters Athletic Federation indoor champs where Ben Radcliffe also won bronze in the triple jump. In the BMAF outdoor champs, Mike gained a silver medal in the discus and Jenny Denyer was awarded a silver in the throws pentathlon, which is also a club record. In the Sussex Grand Prix Road Racing Championship, the club was fourth with a second place for the Women's Vet team. There were many individual age category awards for Amy Mitchell, Darja Knotkova-Hanley, Emma Navesey, Amanda Soper, Carole Walters, Marion Hemsworth, Russ Mullen and Peter Cobbett, plus a participation award for Matt

Quinton, but top of the tree was James Skinner, taking the overall title. Well done, James.

In the Sussex Road Relay Championship, the Men's O40 (Marcus Kimmins, James Skinner, Paul Tomlinson and Rob Watts) took the gold medal. During 2017 there were club records broken by Kim Lo, Naomi Cikalo, Marion Hemsworth, Paul Cousins and Paul Tomlinson. Congratulations all.

There were bronze County medals for Sam Ridley and James Skinner in the Sussex Half Marathon Championship in September and the Men's team (James Skinner, Marcus Kimmins and Matt Cook) took the silver. In the recent Sussex 10k Championship James was awarded another medal, this time gold as first male over 40, and HHH men (James Skinner, James Collins and Russ Mullen) were 1st team (these results are currently provisional).

But it was cross country that proved to be the focus for our achievements this year. There was participation from so many of our athletes. This is so important for team efforts. In the XC league the Men's team gained second place, narrowly missing out on top spot, with the Vet Men first. Emma Navesey was third Senior Woman, James Skinner was first O40 and Paul Cousins second O50. These are amazing results in such competitive company.

In the County XC Championship the Men's O40 team (Marcus Kimmins, Rob Watts, Julian Boyer and Andy Hind) was third. In the County XC relays in September, the Women's team (Shiv Amer, Katie Morgan and Emma Navesey) were awarded silver medals. All such impressive results.

The Southern Counties Champs James Skinner was 1st V45 and third in the joint O40 race by a whisker, in a race won by second claim Harrier, Chris Smith. Chris also won the final XC at Stanmer and Chris really put the seal on Harriers attaining second Senior Men's team for the League. Thanks Chris!

In addition, there were many individual achievements. Carl Bicknell was awarded the Centurion Grand Slam completing four 50 mile races in 2017. Russ Mullen won both the Haywards Heath 10 mile race in April and the Bexhill 5k race in July. James Skinner won the Newick 10k in August where Katie Morgan came fourth. Katie also came third in the Crowborough 10k. Phil Payne, Kim Lo and Michael Burke continue to tackle races far and wide, always placing well.

The club hosted a number of events during the year – our Open Track and Field competition at K2 in April, the Mid-Summer Relays in June, Wakehurst Willow in July and Hickstead (WSFRL) in October. Thank you to all who helped at these events and we are very grateful to those who took a lead role in organising.

John Gill is standing down as President at the AGM and Mark Sykes is taking on the role. The club is immensely grateful for John's support for the club over many years. We intend to show our appreciation at the Awards Evening following the AGM. Watch this space!

Very sadly, during 2017, Steve Horn and Irene Parsley passed away. They were both great supporters of the club and are still very much missed.

Lastly, as ever, help is needed in running the club. If more members take on small, manageable roles then there is less for the committee to do! We do need someone to look at all our communication from Facebook to Tuesday evening notices – is anyone willing to help?

Here's to more enjoyment and club success in 2018. Can't wait.

Marion Hemsworth welcomed Simon Adby to the meeting.

5. Election of Officers

Mark Sykes as Honorary President, took over the Chair.

The full Election of Officers then took place:

Chairperson:	Marion Hemsworth
Deputy Chairman:	Paul Cousins
Secretary:	Linda Tullett
Treasurer:	John Rix
Fixture Secretary:	Carl Bicknell
Membership Secretary:	Tim Hicks
Club Coach:	Michael Essex
General Committee:	Katherine Buckeridge
	Ben Gibson
	Naomi Cikalo
	Christian Lambert
	Mike Bale

All officers duly elected.

Marion Hemsworth then took over the meeting as the elected Chair.

She thanked Jenny Denyer, Neil Sutherland and Lucie Venables for their past committee involvement, and welcomed Michael Essex, Men Gibson and Katherine Buckeridge onto the Committee.

6. Proposals by the Committee: -

Updated Constitution

The Committee wished to amend the Constitution by introducing some changes to tidy it up, but not to materially change any of its content. Agreed unanimously.

Increase in subscriptions

Marion Hemsworth introduced Simon Adby who explained the club's development plans jointly with Burgess Hill Runners, being part of the reason we need an increase in subscriptions. He explained there will probably be a need for the club to invest into a project that we are seeking funding for, and needs to be financially viable. The club needs to make a commitment by putting funds aside at the same time as running the club. The likely outcome is an existing community facility, eg a school or college. The emphasis is on partner funding/match funding.

In addition to the development fund we need to address: -

- the possible need to pay for coaches
- the discrepancy in senior/junior fees
- too much reliance on income from catering and events.

John Rix explained the figures presented.

Marion Hemsworth advised that subscriptions last increased in 2009 since when the Retail Price Index has increased by some 30%. Senior members are effectively subsidizing the junior members.

It was proposed to increase the subscriptions from 1 April 2018 as follows: -

- Juniors to £40
- Seniors to £60
- Associates (as newly-defined) to £20
- Over-60s to £30.

Michelle Robinson commented that for those affected by the change in definition of Associate members, the proposed Senior fee of £60 represented a large increase for those needing to move from Associate to full Senior membership. It was pointed out that anyone in a position of financial difficulty can speak with the Membership Secretary.

John Gill urged members to accept the proposal.

32 voted in favour, 3 voted against, the proposal was accepted by a majority.

7. Any Other Business

Mark Sykes: - asked for comment on Junior members. There is a huge demand and we need more help with coaching.

John Gill: - advised that the accounts need to be formally adopted. They were proposed by Mark Sykes and seconded by Mags Lazell. The meeting noted thanks to Kim Lo for auditing the accounts.

Marion Hemsworth advised that the club's main challenges going forwards are: -

- Juniors
- Track & Field
- Development Plan
- Other jobs including in particular social media.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.