

Sandhurst Joggers

Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting Held 2nd April 2001

Present

Linda Lowes	Steve Johnson	Dave Dart	Sue Dart
Hannah Kirkman	Steve West	Charlie Garrett	Metta Dawson
Roy Whillier	Ray Brown	Paul Courtney	Pete Webster
Fiona Medley	Dick Newman	Mike Corfield	Wendy Leslie
Andy Leslie	Alison Bone	Richard Gostick	Mary Gostick
Carl Bradshaw	Simon Bone	Christine Kiddier	Gareth Davies
Phil Boylan	Dick Allison	Dave O'Toole	Steve Davies
Jayne Jardine	Pat Spong	Julia Hurst	Peter Knight
Ray Woodman	Roger Halliwell	Alan Kirby	Liz Jones
Simon Whillis	Jenny Brown	Chris Try	Ray Llewelyn
Kim Reeves	Charlie Garrett	Janice Alves de Sousa	

Apologies

Dave Edward	Anne Whillis	Alison Doherty	Cathy Pellet
Glyn Woodward	Gary Jardine	Mel Cowley	Kelly Stevens
Jon Bone	Meryl Welch	Robert Garrett	

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 3.2 Frogmore Day Care Centre received a donation from the Yateley Road Races.

Item 6 documenting club runs, no action taken as yet, Simon Whillis suggested that they could be published in the club newsletter.

The minutes from the 12th AGM were accepted.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events Secretary

Alan Kirby reported that there has been an increase in the number of people participating in club runs on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday. He advised that the Look Out, which had been closed due to the foot and mouth crisis, has now re-opened and will once again be used as the official meeting place for the Sunday run; effective from 08/04/01. Friday night track sessions dwindled in numbers for the latter part of 2000 due to the resurfacing of Bracknell Track. The alternative sessions, at Sandhurst Memorial, Park were enjoyed by the few who did participate. Bracknell track has now re-opened and track sessions have resumed with effect from 30/03/2001.

Club members were thanked for their support of team events throughout the year, particularly those who marshalled the cross-country event at Hawley. This year the club finished fourth in the league following stiff competition from Sheen Shufflers and Bracknell Forest. Andy Leslie expressed concern over the fall in the number club members taking part. This was attributed to the lack of sponsorship and races being cancelled due to flooding.

Concern was expressed because some members felt that the cross-country league was only for the faster runners in the club. Chris Try reminded everyone that the Today's Runner League was set up to encourage participation and that the county league matches, where standards are much higher, are for the elite. Steve Johnson felt that some people, having competed for several years, may just be tired of running the same races year in year out.

Publicity Secretary

Sue Dart advised that she had been unable to devote as much time to the job as she would have liked, due to the recent birth of Adam. Reports and photographs of club activities have been published by a local newspaper. Simon Whillis advised that on Monday 9th April a photograph would be taken of Club members participating in The London Marathon, this will be submitted to the Wokingham Times.

Social Secretary

Liz Jones reported on the social events that had taken place since she took over the role social secretary in September 2000.

The Cheese and Wine Evening held on the 2nd of October was well attended, part of the success of the evening was attributed to the foot scan arranged for club members by Glyn Woodward who was thanked for his input. Around 40 club members enjoyed the quiz night held on 6th November; Roy Whillier was thanked for being such a consummate professional as quizmaster. Thanks were extended to Fiona Medley for hosting a very enjoyable mince pie run.

Numbers were disappointingly low at the annual Christmas party, but those who did attend enjoyed themselves. Charlie Garret was thanked for arranging the hugely popular skittles evening held on the 29th January. The year ended with another successful Annual Awards Dinner, 77 people attended. Dave O'Toole was thanked for negotiating with Chobham Golf Club on our behalf. Liz thanked Simon Whillis for all the support he had given her since taking over the role of Social Secretary.

Membership Secretary

Jenny Brown reported that the club now had 130 members. Some had joined following the mailshot sent out to all non-club runners who took part in the Yateley Road races, others came as a result of publicity generated or hearing about the club in action. Jenny felt that the increase in the number of runners of all abilities has enabled more people to run at a speed that suited them. Jenny offered her best wishes to the new membership secretary and expressed appreciation to all those who had supported her in the role over the last two years. Finally, Jenny thanked Simon Whillis also Jon and Alison Bone for organising the Tuesday night session from the Memorial Park whilst she was injured.

Chairman

Simon Whillis expressed thanks to Dick Allison for producing the club newsletter and to Dave Dart for organising the ever-popular handicap run on Wednesday nights. He also referred to the resignation of the previous club chairman and treasurer and once again thanked Wendy and Andy Leslie for all the effort they put into Sandhurst Joggers. Simon individually thanked the current committee members for the hard work they put in since the committee was forced to restructure, only three committee members remained in their original position, Liz Jones and Glyn Woodward stepped in to fill the vacant posts.

Simon spoke about the problems of the foot and mouth crisis and advised that several off-road routes had been re-opened. He wished the London marathoners good luck on April 22nd and advised that places were still available on the coach. Club members were encouraged to participate in the many team events throughout the year. Finally Simon mentioned how proud he was of the fact that despite a huge increase in numbers that Sandhurst Joggers still had a reputation as a friendly welcoming club.

3. YATELEY ROAD RACE REPORT

Dave Dart reported on the success of the 2000 series of races and thanked all club and road race committee members who had contributed to this. He emphasised that without club support the Yateley Road Races would not be able to continue. Race highlights were mentioned, Craig Mcburney of Sandhurst Joggers won the first two races. The ladies course record was broken at race two. Race three saw 270 late entries, which resulted in the delay of the start by 10 minutes.

Overall there were 970 entrants, an increase of 20%. A total of £5000 was donated to organisations/charities as outlined on the statement of accounts. The sum of £850 has been retained in the race bank account as financial back up for future race series. Dave stated that as there were currently no foot and mouth problems in the area the races would go ahead, unless the situation changed. Potential marshals were requested to give their name to Steve Johnson for the 2001 series, 30-40 are required per race with dedicated marshals in 6 key positions for all three races. Suggestions were also requested for potential sponsors and charities, Ray Llewelyn is co-ordinating this.

4. PRESENTATION & ADOPTION OF ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Sandhurst Joggers Accounts

Chris Try reported that the club had made a slight, but not unexpected, loss of £116.00 over the year. The club has a positive balance of £1223.00 to carry forward and this is considered sufficient. The club has a float of kit, which can be considered an asset. The club received a substantial donation of £900.00 from the Yateley Road Race's, which has enabled the subsidy of some social events, Chris stressed the importance of support for the event by club members.

The treasurer recommended no increase in subscription for the coming year, but suggested that the committee spend less on subsidising social events to allow a small increase in the surplus funds. The redundant Nationwide account has been finally been closed. Thanks were expressed to Alan Rolfe for auditing the club accounts. Andy Leslie requested the date under cash be amended to 21/Mar/2001.

Andy Leslie proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Ray Llewelyn.

Yateley Road Race Accounts

Dave Dart advised that the Red Cross had withdrawn their demand for a substantial increase in donation.

Paul Courtney proposed that the accounts be adopted, seconded by Steve Johnson.

5. CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB FOR THE ENSUING SEASON

Chris Try proposed that the fees remain at £14.00, Andy Leslie seconded this.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of 2001/2002 committee

Post	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Simon Whillis	J. Alves de Sousa	Charlie Garret
Secretary	Roy Willier	Alison Bone	Steve Davies
Treasurer	Chris Try	Sue Dart	Roger Halliwell
Events Secretary	Alan Kirby	Carl Bradshaw	Steve Johnson
Membership	Janice Alves de Sousa	Jenny Brown	Christine Kiddier
Social Secretary	Liz Jones	Steve West	Pat Spong
Publicity	Post Vacant		
General Member	Ray Woodman *	Steve Davies	Alison Bone

*Ray will act as the committee representative on the Yateley Committee.

Confirmation of non-elected posts

Post	Name
Yateley Road Race Co-ordinator	Dave Dart
Handicap Run	Dave Dart
Newsletter Editor	Richard Allison
Club Kit	Pete Webster
Club Website / Photographer	Andy Leslie

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Social sub committee: Club members were requested to volunteer to assist Liz with the organisation of social events. Five people put their names forward.

Team Captain: Fiona Medley volunteered to assist the events secretary.

Championship Races: Steve Johnson proposed that the current system of awarding the end of year trophies, which is not well supported, be replaced by a series of nominated championship races. After a lengthy debate this was put to the vote; it was almost unanimously agreed to introduce the new method for a trial period of one year. The committee agreed to discuss and publish the fine details in the next newsletter. The majority of club members felt that only a certain number of the nominated races should count, i.e. 4 out of 6 to allow for holidays or injury and that there should be a mixture of on and off-road events selected.

Cross-country ever-present trophies: Steve Davies expressed concern that these trophies had been omitted at the awards dinner this year. He felt that it encouraged members to participate in the cross-country league and also that the club members should have been consulted about the decision. A lengthy discussion ensued. The committees reasons for the trophies being discontinued were that some of the cross-countries were cancelled and also many club members marshalled at Hawley rather than ran/jogged. The committee generally felt that there were too many trophies awarded at the dinner, which lowered their worth. Finally with the club participating in more team events, including a road league, it was no longer feasible to make such awards. Wendy Leslie felt that perhaps it was time to reassess the awards completely rewarding club loyalty and participation, rather than speed.

Ray Llewelyn stated that it was quite in order for the committee to make decisions, which do not affect the club constitution, without consulting members and that this has always been the way that the committee has worked in the past. He also felt that as a running club, it was right to recognise the best runners for their achievements. Simon Whillis advised that he had taken all the comments on board and would take them into consideration when making the decision next year.

Cross-country start times: The majority of members wanted to keep the start time of 11.00 am. Alan Kirby will advise league secretary of our preference.

Club name: Prior to the AGM a name change for the club, from Sandhurst Joggers to Sandhurst Runners, was proposed. This involves a change to the club constitution and would also incur financial costs to the club. In view of this Simon Whillis felt that all club members should be entitled to vote and proposed that the matter be discussed and if there were enough support for a name change an Extraordinary General Meeting be called, giving all interested parties the opportunity to participate.

Dick Newman put forward a sound argument for change. Having defined the terms he felt the term jogger was outdated and that runner was a more appropriate and up to date term. He believes that there is nothing 'unfriendly' about the term runner and that all club members use the term freely to describe the sport. He also felt that it would attract new members and bolster the ever dwindling numbers in the cross-country. He acknowledged the cost involved with a name change. A lively debate followed.

Mike Corfield pointed out that the value of words can change over time and that a name has the power to project an image of the club to the outside world. He suggested therefore, that careful consideration should be given to changing the club name. There were arguments about the type of club member that a name can attract. Alan Kirby felt 'runners' would attract younger members to the club whilst several club members, including Gareth Davies and Ray Woodman, stated that having the word Joggers in the title encouraged them to join. Others felt that faster runners had neither been discouraged from joining the club nor had they felt the need to leave the club because of the term jogger. Roger Halliwell a founder member of the club takes great pride in the name jogger, especially when a group with the name 'Joggers' wins the team prize at an event like the Great Sam.

Simon asked for a show of hands as to whether members felt the debate should continue at an EGM. There were 5 votes to continue the debate and a few abstentions, but the vast majority at the AGM voted to pursue the matter no further. (As per the club constitution, 10 members must be in agreement before an EGM is called).

Friday night runs: Wendy Leslie felt that there were club members who wished to resurrect the Friday night run. It was pointed out that the club recently renegotiated terms with Frogmore because we make less use of the facilities. Sandhurst Memorial Park was suggested as an alternative venue. Fiona Medley volunteered to organise the run if any interest is shown.

Try-a-track-session: Following comments from some members who wanted to join in with the track sessions but felt intimidated, Steve Johnson has volunteered to run a one off introductory track session. This would be occur immediately before the main Friday night session and would only be for members who have not participated before.

Christmas party: Charlie Garrett mentioned his disappointment when many club members failed to clear up their own debris when the party had finished. Whilst he appreciated that not everyone can wash up or sweep the floor, he felt that all club members should be responsible for putting their own rubbish into a dustbin bag. Charlie's view was strongly supported.

Finally the meeting was brought to a close with a well-deserved and heart-felt thank you expressed by all club members to chairman Simon Whillis for all the hard work he has put into the club over the past year.