

Sandhurst Joggers

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting Held 25th March 2002

Present:

Bev Arnell, Janice Alves De Sousa, Dick Allison, Kevin Bennett, Jon Bone, Simon Bone, Phil Boylan, Carl Bradshaw, Diane Broomfield, Jenny Brown, Ray Brown, Tessa Ching, Mike Corfield, Neil Cottrell, Paul Courtney, Dave Dart, Steve Davies, Keith Every, Rob Fisher, Matt Gardam, Charlie Garrett, Barbara Harries, Julia Hurst, Liz Jones, Graham Kelly, Alan Kirby, Wendy Leslie, Andy Leslie, Suren Mannick, Fiona Medley, Dave O'Toole, Dave Raeside, Alan Rolfe, Larry Sharp, Dave Sharp, Pat Spong, Chris Try, Steve West, Frances Westerman, Roy Whillier, Anne Whillis, Simon Whillis, Ray Woodman.

1. Apologies for absence

The following apologies were recorded:

Sue Dart, Craig Edwards, Roger Halliwell, Liz Morris, Kim Reeves.

2. Review of matters arising from the previous AGM

Simon Whillis noted that a major item introduced last year was the new method of compiling the Club Championship which would be raised again under constitution. There were no other matters arising.

3. Committee Reports

3.1 Events Secretary's Report (Alan Kirby)

Alan reported that 2001 had been a successful year. There had been good attendances at the track sessions with the three club coaches (Alan Kirby, Carl Bradshaw and Steve Johnson) stretched to capacity. Track sessions for 2002 will begin on 5/4/02. Successes had also been achieved in Relays with wins at the Bricklayers and Bounders events. We had a good season in the winter cross country races with the ladies doing particularly well although we did not make the final this time. The number of races for next year's season will probably be 8 if the Finch Coasters' event is accepted as permanent.

3.2 Membership Secretary's Report (Janice Alves de Sousa)

We now have 126 members on the books, an increase of 9 on last year. Annual subscriptions are now due.

3.3 Social Secretary's Report (Liz Jones)

Liz proposed thanks to Mike Corfield for hosting the Mince Pie Run and to two Quiz hosts. Thanks were also expressed to Charlie Garrett for an enjoyable Beer Tasting evening. There

had been a highly successful Christmas party and annual dinner, the latter attracting and attendance of 75 members and guests. Liz concluded by thanking everyone for their support during the year. She will not be standing again in 2002 but wished her successor the best of luck.

3.4 Chairman's Report (Simon Whillis)

Simon expressed thanks to Dick Allison and Ros for their continued efforts on the newsletter but regretted the usual late submission of articles by the membership. Dick had succeeded in getting the printing costs down whilst keeping the standards high including greater use of photographs.

The club website had undergone a dramatic transformation in recent weeks due to Andy (and Wendy) Leslie's efforts. Photographs from running and social events had been of a high standard and it was good to see them appear promptly on the site.

Thanks were expressed to Jenny for continuing to look after the Tuesday evening sessions. Monday night numbers are increasing and we look forward to more coming up from Tuesdays.

Thanks are due to Dave Dart for looking after the Handicap, the Peak District and the Yateley Road Races. The 100th Handicap run was greatly enjoyed with 34 members (a record number) taking part.

Simon paid tribute to the efforts of committee members over the year. Alan had spent some time away from home due to work commitments and needed support in the events role. It was acknowledged that Alan, Carl and Steve had worked hard at the track sessions.

Janice had successfully completed her first year as Membership Secretary despite her many other commitments.

Ray Woodman had worked hard during his 1 year tenure as General Member.

Liz had worked unstintingly as Social Secretary, invariably bearing the brunt of all the hardest tasks associated with the club's social activities and events.

In the role of Treasurer, Chris was acknowledged as "Bringing a quiet air of confidence to all he does".

Finally, as Secretary, Roy was seen as Simon's "Right Hand Man" steering him in the right direction when needed.

Simon reminded members that the London Marathon was only 3 weeks away saying that a coach was being provided as in previous years. A good number of members are competing in the LM and 6 or 7 are acting as marshals in the Primary Finish Team.

Thanks were expressed to Charlie for his pub runs - especially the running bits! And the beer tasting sessions.

Finally Simon thanked all members for their support at events particularly our own Cross Country.

At the Annual Dinner, two recipients of awards had been absent. Craig Edwards was also absent from the AGM, but Frances Westerman received her award for most improved newcomer from the chairman.

There were no comments or questions from the floor about the committee reports.

3.5 Treasurer's Report (Chris Try)

Chris Try reported as follows:

At last year's AGM the presented account had indicated a small loss (c. £1000). In the past year we have achieved a better result than expected. The two main streams of income were:

Yateley Road Races: £900
Members' subscriptions: £1700

The Committee had decided to use some of the surplus to subsidise social events. Despite this, and due to better management of the Annual Dinner and associated coach, there was an end of year surplus of £949. The Cross Country event had yielded a profit and costs had been cut on the newsletter and the Frogmore affiliation fee.

Chris said that with costs under control we are in a position to subsidise our sporting events more and to keep the annual membership at £14 for the coming year.

Chris concluded by expressing his thanks to Alan Rolfe for auditing the accounts and invited questions from the floor.

Andy Leslie queried the wisdom of having a high balance in the current account and wondered whether it would be better earning interest in a savings account. Chris replied that we would not normally expect to have such a high balance but that he would consider the matter.

Dave Dart queried the Yateley Races figures. Chris stated that these related to sundries claimed by the Committee.

Andy Leslie proposed that the accounts be accepted, Charlie Garrett seconded and the motion was carried.

4. Yateley Road Races Report (Dave Dart)

Dave reported a very successful year and expressed his thanks to all who helped, particularly the race committee.

Donations made were in excess of £4,500 including £900 to the club.

Race entries had topped 1000 for the first time including 400 new runners. The late entries operation had been increased with 12 people and two computers employed.

We have now nearly reached the limit of numbers we are able to handle. The police have queried this and the recording of finish times is approaching the limit of possibility. There were no new course records set this year (Craig McBurney has left the club). Steve Davies came second in the 60+ class and Linda Lowes won the 35+ class.

Runners' World magazine did not include us in their published list of best races. They did send a reporter however who was fairly complimentary and nominated ours as the best race series in 2001. The highest number of finishers in any one race was 640.

Preparations for the 2002 series were reported to be well under way. Ray Woodman is distributing entry forms and many club members had helped with stuffing envelopes in the bar at Frogmore.

As always, helpers including 40 marshals are needed for the races and Dave requested that members consider helping as well as running.

Looking to the future, Dave will be standing down as race organiser after this year's series (2002). His successor will need to play a leading role this year in order to "learn the ropes".

Andy Leslie proposed a vote of thanks to Dave and Sue for all their hard work over the years (applause). Dave modestly explained that the task is not so onerous now as the work is well spread amongst the race committee members.

Simon commented that the race series is very well run and puts others in the shade. As an example, the Surrey Road Race League were very slow declaring results. Thanks to Jon and Alison, ours were produced in double quick time.

Yateley Road Race Accounts 2001

The income was £12,000 (+£50 on 2000). Although entries were higher, we lost our sponsorship.

Expenses were higher, (+ £800 on 2000) which included £300 for photocopying.

Nevertheless, a profit of £4500 is still respectable although donations were lower than for 2000.

At this stage we still do not have a sponsor for 2002.

Wendy Leslie asked whether businesses e.g. employers of members might be asked if they were interested in sponsorship. Dave said that Ray Llewellyn is writing a lot of letters to potential backers.

Andy observed that if the entries limit is being approached, the only means whereby income could be increased would be by sponsorship or an increase in entry fees. Andy proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Paul Courtney and carried.

5. Constitution of the club for the ensuing season

5.1 General

It was announced that the club membership fee could remain at £14. Andy Leslie suggested that the fee for existing members might be reduced to £10 for the year to avoid an unnecessary surplus. Chris replied that the balance had in fact been reduced from £2k to £1k which, he considered was a manageable surplus.

Mike Corfield enquired whether there were any significant purchases in the offing e.g. a new tent. Simon said another possibility was a larger subsidy to be applied to the annual dinner. Another way in which the surplus could be handed back to the membership would be by paying entrance fees for e.g. the cross country races.

The general feeling was that £14 p.a. represented good value and Chris proposed that it should remain as is. This was seconded by Kevin and carried.

5.2 Club Name

A motion had been proposed prior to the meeting that there should be “Discussion and vote on the change of the club name from Sandhurst Joggers to Sandhurst Runners. The proposal was made by Steve Davies and seconded by Dave O’Toole.

Considerable discussion followed with strong points made both for and against the motion. The discussion included the question of whether the matter should be settled (a) there and then, (b) at an EGM or (c) by a postal ballot with the participation of all members current at the date of the AGM. It was noted that at the 2001 AGM the same matter was debated and settled summarily, with less than 10 members requesting an EGM.

At the conclusion of the debate Steve Davies proposed the adoption of option (c). This was seconded by Dave O’Toole and carried. An action was placed upon the club secretary to compose a letter to the current membership explaining the motion, the cases for and against and including a ballot form and SAE for reply. Andy Leslie and Steve Davies agreed to assist the secretary by preparing the cases against and for the motion respectively. It was agreed that the letter would be sent out by 9th April with 3 weeks allowed for replies.

6. Election of Officers

Election of 2002/2003 committee

Post	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Simon Whillies	R. Whillier	C. Garrett
Secretary	Roy Whillier	J. Bone	S. Davies
Treasurer	Mike Corfield	J. Alves De Sousa	S. West
Events Sec.	Alan Kirby	C. Bradshaw	M. Corfield
Membership Sec.	Janice Alves De Sousa	J. Brown	P. Spong
Publicity	Pat Spong	A. Whillies	R. Brown
General Member	Graham Kelly	S. Davies	P. Boylan

There were no nominations for Social Secretary but Wendy Leslie agreed to try to form a social sub-committee. Wendy was then formally proposed as Social Co-ordinator by Andy Leslie and seconded by Charlie Garrett.

Dave Dart agreed to continue as Handicap Organiser and Dick Allison agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor.

Pete Webster will continue with kit sales but needs to be “shadowed” due to his possible departure in October. Ray Woodman agreed to do this.

7. Other Business

7.1 Club Championship

Alan reported success with the new form of the championship. There was some discussion about the arrangements with opinions split over whether there should be a range of events from which to choose or a strict list with members required to do all of them. The general consensus was that 6 events would be sufficient. In any case the number will be larger because, in the case of the Woodland, Cross Country and Handicap series, the best result is counted.

7.2 Surrey Road League

The club had supported this series and the runs were enjoyed by those members who took part. It was agreed, however that we would not compete in ‘02/’03.

7.3 Cross Country

There had been a number of cases where the club was not adequately represented. Steve Davies suggested a system of “back-ups” for the faster runners to ensure the best showing at each event.

7.4 Events general

Alan repeated the need for an assistant to help with events co-ordination. Bev volunteered and was accepted.

7.5 Forthcoming events

The following events were mentioned:

The Peak District Relays - 23rd June; The Bruges Veterans Races - also 23rd June and, The “Headless Chicken Run” (Finch Coasters) - 22nd May

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:26 hours, concluding with a vote of thanks to Liz for all her efforts as social secretary including the refreshments for the AGM.