

Minutes of the Beeston Athletics Club Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 11 November 2020 by Zoom

Present: Simon Elliott (Chair), Chris Bexton, Mark Rowlson, Phil Herd, Geoff Pennington, Juliet Jones, John O'Donnell, Neil Byford, Dave Bish, Em Bish, Jen Beverley, Alec MacLean, Rab Acid, Catherine Simkins, Clint Southern-Warburton, Ken Morrell, Gary Fox, Charlie Pearce, Anthony Williamson, Simon Hall, Jackie Welburn, Wendy Herd, Holly McCain, Joseph Baxter, John Harrison, Juliet Harrison, Stephen Rooney, Dan Rawson, Helen Rawson, Andy Bucknell, James Isherwood, Guy Barwell, Lucy Grant, Morgan Field, Simon Barnes, Dave Cross, Chris Hicks, Andy Smith, Marie Pardon, Steve Mason, Caitlin Bradbury

Apologies for absence were received from: Ken Allen, Janet Barnes, Chris Bell, David Broadbent, Mike Davey, Megan Elliott, Rob Evans, Andy Granville, Greg Hopkinson, Rob Jackson, Matt Jones, Julie Lord, Michael Lord, Penny Page, Arwen Makin, Phil Makin, David Patrick, Elizabeth Rawding, Chris Robson, Matthew Robson, Nick Woodrow

1. Minutes of the AGM held 20 November 2019: Approved.

2. Chairman's Report

How many times this year have we been told that we're in 'unprecedented times'? Far too many unfortunately. 2020 started well with a great cross country season culminating in Beeston AC having over 50 runners entered in the National Cross Country held locally in Wollaton Park. A bit muddy but an experience enjoyed by all competitors and the Beeston AC marshals out on the course.

The winter also saw us benefit from three coaching sessions provided by Darren Middleton through England Athletics Club Run program. These were very well attended and introduced runners into the concept of a structured high intensity session including things like 'activation exercises'. I'm pleased to say that these ideas have permeated into our regular Tuesday Speed sessions.

And then it all ground to a halt! No racing from the end of March until the current time - at least as we used to know it! Athletes have been extremely creative during the pandemic with numerous new style sessions to keep people from going stir crazy like virtual races, challenges and not-parkruns. It's not the same but better than nothing and at least it gave the club and runners a bit of a focus for their training. Although there is a faint light at the end of the tunnel now, an immediate return to normal racing seems a fair way off with the winter cross country season looking very doubtful.

Unfortunately there is little that anyone can do except follow the guidance from England Athletics regarding training and races and hope that the virus gets fed up and goes away sooner rather than later. I along with all of you have very much valued the opportunity to get out of the house and go for a run - often to places I haven't visited for a long time, it's certainly helping keep me sane! Let's hope the ability to do this continues through the coming months.

So, let's keep going - the club is in good shape organisationally and financially to pick up when we are finally allowed to get back to the things we love doing, racing, club handicaps, organising the Trent 5 and going down the pub properly!

The chairman also recorded thanks to the Committee for their work during the year, in particular Charlie for his work on the XC league, Phil for the quizzes and Chris for the AGM papers and weekly emails.

3. Secretary's Report

Well, what a year it has been. We started off well with the cross country season having more participants than ever, and a cabinet full of awards as a result! Twenty-one Beestonites also took part in the first race on the road calendar, the Weston 5 on 8 March, with Harry Taylor and Sophie Eadsforth coming home first and the Club also recording a very strong team win. Then everything ground to a halt, with race after race being cancelled or postponed, though a couple of events have taken place recently.

We took the decision to stop the circulation of the weekly emails/newsletters with no club runs or races to report from mid-March, but I was able to start sending out the emails again at the end of July when club runs were allowed to re-commence as from 5 August. A sub-group of the Committee met to discuss proposals for reintroducing club training runs in line with the guidance from England Athletics and Neil Byford was appointed to the tricky but vital role of our Covid-19 Officer; many thanks Neil for taking this on.

With regard to overseas trips, some of us were lucky enough to go to Malta and do the half marathon there on 1 March, with Simon Barnes tackling the full marathon, and we arrived back just in time before lockdown commenced. Further planned trips to Prague and a potential race in the autumn in warmer climes have been postponed for the time being but hopefully these will take place in 2021, together with the Lake District trip which was being organised by Phil Herd.

Phil took his role as Social Secretary seriously, organising quizzes to keep our brains active, plus various running challenges with help from others in the club, for which we are all grateful. Many of us have in fact done more running, not less, in these difficult times!

The Club's premier drinking race, the Frothy 5 also took place – thanks to Paul and Penny Page for organising! Unfortunately the Trent 5 had to be cancelled although Rab had done much of the preparatory work. Likewise, Mark Rowson had undertaken the organisational work required for the Summer League 3 race scheduled to take place in June 2020, and the race licence is rolled forward to 2021, the provisional date being 16 June in Wollaton Park.

One highlight of the year was the way in which the Club came together to support the virtual London and Manchester marathoners in early October, with Janet and Simon Barnes providing a vital central water station point for the use of the runners and many club members (including the Sunday runners) turning out to join with the runners and/or to cheer them on! What a brilliant club!

On the England Athletics front, clubs have received an undertaking that club membership fees will not rise for the 2021 season. Club membership numbers are unsurprisingly slightly down from 2019 though we have continued to attract new members, and hopefully the small number of members who did not renew in 2020 will return in 2021. UKA has been busy organising webinars, online training and other activities for athletes who are interested, in part to replace the usual activities linked to racing. An announcement is expected with regard to club London Marathon places in December so keep a look out for a post from Mark in due course!

The Committee has continued to hold meetings throughout the year in 2020, on one occasion socially distanced in the Chairman's garden and has also undertaken business via email to deal with the many issues arising as a result of the pandemic. Sadly we took the decision not to award trophies for the Road and Fell Leagues for 2020, nor Athlete of the Year.

Let's hope we can all get back to doing what we do best very soon: running, racing (and celebrating with a glass in hand!) in 2021.

4. Treasurer's report

The club has 184 first claim members and 8 second claim members, this is a total decrease of 9 members compared to last year.

Income for the year has totalled £6,120 and has mainly come from membership payments and payment for club kit.

Expenditure for the year has totalled £7,000, with main costs being England Athletics registration, and payment received for club kit.

The bank balance at the end of October 2020 was £1,300 cash in bank, this is £900 less than last year, mainly because there wasn't the opportunity to host the Trent 5 race which generates income for the club. The Club holds stock of vests worth £1,187.50.

5. Report from the Independent Verifier of the Accounts

The accounts have been verified independently by Steve Mason, and they are confirmed to be a true and accurate record.

6. Cross Country Secretary's report

This season saw a record 82 Beestonites taking part in cross country races, up 5 on the previous year.

In October, for the first time, we entered six teams in the British Masters Relays in West Park, Long Eaton, with the women's V55 team (Erica Pearson, Chris Bexton, Karen Mitchell) not only taking the national silver medal but also gold in the Midland Masters championships run in parallel, in which the men's V65 team (Ken Morrell, Chris Robson, John O'Donnell) took silver! Well done to all runners in extremely waterlogged conditions!

After five Beeston teams took on the National Relays at Berry Hill Park, Mansfield, we had a few last-minute entries in the Midland 7 & 5 Mile Championships, after they were rearranged and relocated to Bulwell Hall Park, and we were just a single point from taking third place in the women's team competition.

In the New Year the North Midlands league concluded with race 4 in Wollaton Park – congratulations to Chris Robson (VM65) and Chris Bexton (VW60) for winning their age categories!

Next came a very successful County Championships in Shipley Country Park, with Sophie Eadsforth winning gold in the Masters Women 45-54 category and Chris Robson silver in the Masters Men 65-74, Sophie Eadsforth, Lucy Grant and Salome Maybanks winning Masters team gold, and Sophie and Caitlin Bradbury being selected to run for Notts in the UK CAU Inter-Counties Championships in March!

This year's Midland Championships were at Prestwold Hall near Loughborough, with Beeston's women placing 23rd and the men 24th, and in the East Midlands league a real team effort (including almost 50 at Bramcote Hills!) saw Beeston win the trophies for Vet Men B, C and D and Vet Ladies C and D.

After some doubt that it would actually go ahead, the season finished at a sodden Wollaton Park with the English National Championships. Phil Herd left it until this last race to become men's champion in the club cross country league, while it was a victory lap for Caitlin Bradbury who had already sewn up the title of women's champion. Congratulations to all prize and medal winners, and thank you to everybody for making it such a successful season for the club!

7. Membership Fees for 2021/22

The Treasurer had provided the Committee with some projections on future income, including the positions forecast with the Trent 5 taking place or not in 2021. In either situation the Club has sufficient funds for the fees to remain unchanged.

It was agreed these will remain unchanged from 2020/21: £20 first claim, with England Athletics continuing to charge a £15 registration fee.

8. Election of Officers

Position	2019/20 Postholders	Proposed 2020/21 Postholder	Proposer	Seconder
Chair:	Simon Elliott	Simon Elliott	Rab Acid	Chris Bexton
Treasurer:	Juliet Jones	Dan Rawson	Simon Elliott	Chris Bexton
Secretary:	Chris Bexton	Chris Bexton	Sophie Eadsforth	John O'Donnell
Road Race Secretary:	Mark Rowson	Mark Rowson	Rab Acid	John O'Donnell
Fell Race Secretary:	Dave Bish	Dave Bish	Penny Page	Simon Elliott
Cross Country Secretary:	Charlie Pearce	Charlie Pearce	Lucy Grant	Jackie Welburn
Ladies Representative:	Jackie Welburn	Jackie Welburn	Penny Page	Helen Rawson
Social Secretary:	Phil Herd	Phil Herd	Sophie Eadsforth	Lucy Grant
Coaching Coordinator:	Neil Byford	Neil Byford	Rab Acid	Chris Bexton
Trent 5 Race Organiser:	Rab Acid	Rab Acid	Mark Rowson	Simon Elliott
Members representative:	Penny Page	Penny Page	Jane Lewis	John O'Donnell
Members representative:	Geoff Pennington	Geoff Pennington	Daniel Rawson	Neil Byford

All approved. The Chairman thanked Juliet Jones for her sterling work as Treasurer and welcomed Dan Rawson to the Committee as her replacement.

9. Trent 5

Some thought has been given to how the Trent 5 could be run in 2021 if restrictions on races and large gatherings continue to be in force. One option may be to use chip timing and set runners off in waves of 6 from the top of the flood embankment (the starting point of Beeston parkrun) rather than from Canalside and for them to double back onto the road at the bottom. Social distancing would be possible in this way and with chip timing the results could be accurate. The race date will be either 19th or 26th May 2021. Mark Rowson will ask for the race to be placed on the Notts AAA calendar.

10. Christmas Social Events

At present it is not looking possible to hold either the annual pub crawl or the Christmas party. One possibility may be to have a virtual online pub crawl / quiz if lockdown continues into December. There will be no Christmas party for 2020.

11. Kit

A call for orders for stock (including long sleeve t-shirts, face masks and buffs) will be included in the weekly email.