

## **Minutes of the Arrows Annual General Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

### **Held over zoom**

#### **Those Present:**

**Committee:** Graham Harper, Lyndon Hearn, Lisa Munt, Simon Speirs, Aly Northedge, Stephen Mckee, Rowland Hughes, Djerk Geurts, Anita White, Michael Hessey.

**Members:** John Rowlands, June Rowlands, Jillian Russell, David Russell, Rhona McKee, David White, Hannah Turner, Mark Snell, Liz Grover, Chas Andrews, Chris Chang Zhou, Mark Pattison, Peter Thornton, Julie Horrocks, Steve Green, Sharon Neely, Claire Watts.

**Apologies:** Helen Harper, Colin Wareham

(Max 28 Attendees)

**A PowerPoint has been stored <[here](#)> for members to view what was discussed at the A.G.M. The following minutes will cover matters arising, points of order and actions necessitated from discussions generated by the agenda items.**

#### **1. Colin Wareham**

Colin had sent a video to the meeting as he bows out as club president and member of the committee. The video is available for club members to view on our [website](#)

#### **2. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Graham Harper's opening remarks included his thanks to those members of the committee who have stood down since the last A.G.M. Our thanks go to Alison Andrews, Chas Andrews and Alex James for their contribution during their time on the committee. More details of the speech can be seen on the PowerPoint.

#### **3. Elections**

- I) Helen Harper, Djerk Geurts & Anita White who had been co-opted onto the committee had their positions ratified, along with Lyndon Hearn & Simon Speirs who needed to be re-elected as per the constitution
- II) In the absence of any other candidates coming forward, Simon Speirs was appointed as the new Chairperson. He was proposed by Lisa Munt and seconded by Stephen McKee and takes over from Graham Harper as he stands down after 5 years.

#### **4. Membership**

Lyndon Hearn provided statistics with details of membership pertaining to both Arrows and E.A. This can be found on the PowerPoint. Other points related to membership were:

- I) The club is thriving with a great diversity of new members.
- II) Members' fees will remain at £25.00 and the renewal process will start soon so please look out for emails with details of how to renew. If members could follow the process swiftly, the committee would be grateful.
- III) Please submit/update your ICE (In Case of Emergency) details as necessary

## **5. Financial Report**

Graham Harper presented the financial report in Helen Harper's absence and the full details can be found on the PowerPoint.

Some points raised were:

- I) There have been some variations in the forecast due to unusual circumstances and under/over estimations in budgets – either more members than expected or more expenditure in anticipation of earlier lockdown completion
- II) The beginners' courses have been more successful than anticipated
- III) The club has saved money due to not having to pay rent to St. George's during the lockdown and not having to pay for visiting speakers and equipment etc.
- IV) Alongside these savings there have been some extra costs including extra track nights and the cost of training 5 new LiRF qualified leaders and one CiRF qualified leader. These things have benefitted the club enormously and have helped to provide a diverse set of activities during the pandemic.

## **6. Run Groups and Welfare**

Aly Northedge kindly provided stats breaking down all of the activities that have taken place during the past year. More details can be found on the PowerPoint.

Apart from the stats Aly presented some details on why we have had to implement certain strategies to ensure the club could function during restrictions, and some plans for the future:

- I) As well as returning to St. George's school in Autumn 2021 members have also met at different venues around Harpenden and there has been support for those members who have chosen to run at different time to the main club sessions.
- II) We hope to be able to return to some of the regular events that we have held in the past including the 5k and cake and kit night. We will, of course, do these things in agreement with St. George's.
- III) With regard to welfare, we have managed to operate safely and within all guidelines that have been put in place by the Government and E.A.
- IV) We recognise that some members want to return to a more spontaneous mode of operation and we will employ more flexibility as restrictions ease.

## **7. Captains' report**

Simon Speirs thanked those who have been instrumental in keeping things going during the past year broadly covering:

- I) Aly Northedge has contributed many hours of her own time both in helping to organise events and in communicating with the members.
- II) Lisa Munt has helped produce a number of slogs although Simon feels that it might be time for a change in the way we communicate and provide information to the members.
- III) The run leaders have been amazing in their commitment and enthusiasm and have kept weekly sessions going and been diligent in posting photos and updates on the Facebook page.

- IV) Steve Bowran has once again been active in helping members to access runs and to deal with entries and organisation.
- V) Jillian has, once again, had great success with her beginners' courses and has devoted much of her own time to running these. She has been helped by a number of people including Graham Harper and Liz Grover.
- VI) Isabel Green has been very active in both attending races and encouraging others to follow her lead.
- VII) All of these people have been great advocates for Arrows' running club.

Simon and Lisa are standing down for their Captains' roles and it was hoped that there would be some candidates willing to take over but, unfortunately, this has not happened. Simon reminded members that they don't have to join the committee to take on a Captain's role and we would also be very happy for people to help in an informal capacity.

#### **8. Plans for 2022**

Simon laid out some brief plans for the future which the committee will follow up on during the coming year. More details are included in the ppt covering:

- I) Social
- II) Run Groups
- III) Track
- IV) Run Leaders
- V) Welfare
- VI) Kit
- VII) Beginners Courses

#### **9. Awards for 2022**

Members can achieve awards in the following categories:

- I) The Rocket Award
- II) Club Performance Standards
- III) Distance Challenges (including the Fun 500)
- IV) Club League

Details of these awards can be found on the club's website:

[<https://www.harpendenarrows.co.uk/web/index.php/awards> ]

#### **10. Proposed Constitution Change**

This item on the agenda was to hold a vote to approve or reject a change in the constitution for which full details of the change to (in summary) permit donations to causes other than those running related.

The proposal was as follows:

At present our club constitution does not allow the club to make any charitable donations should it wish to, except to sports related organisations, and ONLY in the event of the winding up of the club. We'd like to change this so that in the future, should a suitable cause attract our attention, and subject to the approval of members at the time, the club could make such a charitable donation or gift. It was confirmed that the Committee has no immediate plans to actually make such a donation. We simply want to have the facility to do so should we wish to at some point in the future, and the members agree.

***It was explained that the change required to replace the current clause 4 (which reads):***

#### 4. Application of Surplus Funds

4.1 The Club is a non-profit-distributing organisation. All surpluses will be used to maintain or improve the Club's facilities and in furtherance of the Club's objects. No surplus will be distributed other than to another community amateur sports club for athletics, to UKA for use in community-related athletics initiatives, or to a charitable organisation, on winding-up or dissolution of the Club.

***With the replacement clause:***

#### 4. Application of Surplus Funds

4.1 The Club is a non-profit-distributing organisation. All surpluses will primarily be used to maintain or improve the Club's facilities and in furtherance of the Club's objects. Surpluses may be distributed to support other community amateur sports clubs for athletics or running, to UKA for use in community-related athletics initiatives, or to a charitable organisation nominated from time to time by the management committee and approved by the membership. On winding-up or dissolution of the Club, surplus funds would also be distributed according to these guidelines.

***Outcome:***

During voting, 4 objections were received versus a majority who voted for the change.

Additionally, one member raised a point of order as, per the constitution, members have to be notified of any proposed change to the constitution at least 21 days prior to the vote. The change had been proposed to club members via email on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (11 days prior to the meeting). Another member confirmed this and informed the meeting of its exact place in the constitution.:

13.1 The Secretary shall send to each Member written notice of the date of the general meeting together with the resolutions to be proposed at least 21 days before the meeting.

As incoming Chair Simon Speirs recognised this point of order and it is planned that the committee will reconvene to discuss this matter and ensure that the necessary procedures are followed before this is resubmitted to members.

## **11. Questions and Answers**

Questions and responses were as follows. Should be noted that the committee received a few of these shortly after the deadline provided, but wanted to ensure that they were not excluded.

- Ed Rhodes: Does the Club have any specific plans to encourage runners back to the Tuesday and Thursday evenings now that the Covid restrictions are being dropped?

**Response:** With regard to returning to some of the activities the club arranged pre-Covid, Aly assured members that we hope to reinstate these as restrictions ease. However, activities such as

the 5k handicap take a lot of organisation/admin so it would be good if members would come forward and offer to help with this and other activities.

- Ed Rhodes: When will we be able to turn up to Club evenings and just run (ie. without using apps etc)?

Response: As above

- Isabel Green: I'd like to suggest we resume club social events including the club 5k handicap without delay

Response: we hope to hold more social events now that restrictions are easing.

- Isabel Green: I'd also like to ask if we are considering a club away marathon this year - maybe we could do Isle of Wight?

Response: We have missed going to away marathons for the last two years and, once again, we would be really happy for members to get involved in the organisation of these and we felt that Issie's suggestion that the Isle of Wight Marathon might be a good one to start with was a really good idea

- Isabel Green: It would be nice to see better participation at the mid-week league and cross-country events. Could we ask other clubs how they encourage this and ask members what would help motivate them to participate more? - Isabel Green

Response: With regard to organising and getting better attendance at X-Country and MWRRL races, Simon will be attending the relevant meetings and will feed back to the club.

## **12. Awards 2021**

Graham Harper presented the awards achieved by members in 2021. This covered the categories of Fun 500 (Run 500 miles), Rocket Award (high WAVA on 1m, 5k and 5m distances), Lockdown Levels 1-5 (previously 'club standards') and Distance Awards (1000 miles up to 2,500 miles). Details of award receivers can be found in the presentation and on our website

[<https://www.harpendenarrows.co.uk/web/index.php/awards/361-2021-award-winners>]

### **13. Chair's Final Remarks**

Full and final remarks from Simon as follows:

Thanks for not rejecting my nomination! I suppose my candidacy was generated from 2 factors: sympathy and necessity.

- Sympathy for Graham as he's done more than his fair share of work for the club through the years and completed 5 years as Chair versus the 3 he said he'd do it for.
- Necessity as no-one else eligible came forward.

I wouldn't have come forward to plug the gap though, without the wonderful committee. I thank for all their efforts over the past year and in anticipation of the efforts to come over the coming year. Just a quick recognition to Lyndon who's taken a very active support role in greasing the wheels this year with the ever-increasing membership as well as helping out tonight. Sorry for not mentioning everyone who's been helping – it is appreciated.

I am concerned, however, that some of our efforts on the committee are not sustainable in the long term and we will, as a club, have to look at some of the things that we are doing or want to achieve. For instance, we no longer have Club Captains as no-one came forward for either of the roles, but some of the things that they have been doing will still have to be done – but now with fewer volunteers. So regretfully, we may have to consider new approaches or drop some ideas without finding more helping hands. We do need help across a variety of things like the Club 5k, cake night (if it returns) and the Away Marathon as further examples.

I'm optimistic that we'll find a way to get things done just as we are trying to do with the kit organisation. You don't have to be on the committee to help out – we know it's not everyone's cup of tea.

On that note – very much hoping the remainder of 2022 goes without similar bumps in the road to what we've been through in the past few years and hope that I can adequately fill the shoes left by Colin and Graham.