



Dulwich Runners Athletic Club Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2017
Edward Alleyn Club
83-85 Burbage Road
London, SE24 9HD

- 1. Chair's Opening Remarks:** Ros Tabor (RT), Chair, welcomed Club members to the meeting and made some opening remarks, underlining another successful year for the Club:

New initiatives last year included holding the Mark Hayes mile race as a stand-alone event. It was held at the Dulwich track, with Karine Hayes presenting the two shields. RT said it is important for the club to establish and maintain club traditions, and remember past members.

Past member, Ken Croke, had kindly left the Club a legacy and as he was particularly interested in cross country, the Club's cross country championships have been named after him. The winners last season were Ange Norris and Tim Bowen.

The year's Club Championship races are almost all completed. The Championships this year included three new events: Sittingbourne 10 Miles, Regents Park 10k and Wimbledon Common multi-terrain.

RT sad there is always a good atmosphere of friendly competition at Championship races, but more members are encouraged to run. This year so far only 28 people have completed the Championship and some categories have not even had three people to get an age group award.

Within the Champs, 44 members have run marathons. The first event, Southwark parkrun, attracted the most runners at 64 members. At least 109 members did one event. Some categories have been keenly contested, and points in M50s are very close.

June saw the second running of the Dulwich Midsummer Relay – a fast relay 3 x approximately 1 mile lap of Dulwich Park. Numbers were an improvement on last year, with several Dulwich Runners teams. RT said she hopes next year's will be even bigger and better.

The Club has sent teams to some national and regional relays. These events are important as they give an opportunity for members to compete against the best in the country, and it is a good way to promote the Club. RT encouraged members to prioritise these team races if they can, and the Club can contribute towards travel costs.

RT highlighted one of the best achievements this year, which attracted worldwide publicity, as Steve Smythe's marathon record: the longest time between first and last marathons under 3 hours (40 years and almost 4 months). This was achieved at the Seville marathon in February.

RT concluded by thanking everyone who has helped to make this year successful.

- 2. Apologies for absence:** There were apologies for absence sent by Emma Ibell, Sue Cooper, Elkie Mace, Gideon Franklin and Stephanie Burchill.
- 3. Minutes of last AGM:** The 2016 AGM minutes were approved with no corrections. This was proposed by Clare Wyngard (CW) and seconded by Lucy Clapp (LC).

RT said there was one matter arising, which was the use of the money raised for Jose Barretta. Lindsey Annable (LA) said that the money had gone towards the spinal unit wing at Stanmore Hospital. She had gone to the opening and the Club is named on a plaque. It was agreed this was a fitting way to remember Jose.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Graham Laylee (GL) reported the Club had made a loss of £1150 for the year. He put this in the context of the last 5 years' financial balance, which varies from year to year.

He said the loss is due to the following factors:

- Membership fees: A churn of members whereby around 30% do not renew which resulted in membership fees being lower.
- Wednesday nights: Numbers were in line with last year for the first 6 months but have been significantly lower throughout the summer with a loss of income of £280.
- Ken Crooke legacy has not been taken into account as it has not yet been received.

Regarding a possible increase of membership fees, GL said that it is expected that England Athletics will be increasing its affiliation levy by £1 per athlete. However, as the new membership year does not commence until 1 April, he did not consider it appropriate to propose any increase in 18/19 fees now, 6 months in advance, but rather wait until January.

Ron Searle (RS) said that the fee for Wednesday nights has been £1 for 34 years and maybe now is the time to consider increasing the fee to £2.

Bernard Imber (BI) said that would only serve to put the popularity of Wednesday Club nights at further risk and discourage attendance. He said that would impact how much is spent behind the bar and that may risk the Club losing use of the bar.

Katie Styles (KS) asked whether changing time to 7.30pm from 7.15pm had an impact. Matt Ladds (ML) said it attracted more runners, and there is no evidence to suggest the later start discourages attendance.

GL said the Club pays a significant amount to open the bar on Wednesdays so he did not consider the bar spend should have a bearing.

It was agreed to revisit whether membership fees are increased or the Wednesday fee increased in January.

RS and Dave West moved for the finances to be accepted.

- 5. Procedural motion to adjust wording in Club Constitution:** RT proposed adjusting the wording to the Club Constitution to amend the Membership Year to run from April to April and remove the word 'Honorary' from the titles of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

This was agreed unanimously.

- 6. Improving athlete development – proposal:** RT introduced Katie Styles (KS) and Anna Thomas (AT). KS and AT said that two coaches is not many for a Club of our size. There is no coach available for Wednesday, and they would like to put themselves forward to receive training to become Club coaches. They said that Steve Smythe and Elkie Mace are in favour of the proposal.

RT said that the Club already has a policy on funding training for coaches. Lloyd Collier (LC) said it was important to not end up with competing coached sessions, as has happened previously. Clare Steward (CS) mentioned there used to be track-style sessions in the summer for those who did not really do track.

ML said broadening the Club's coaching set up would definitely be beneficial, but the current coaches and captains would need to input into the proposition.

Jonathan Whittaker (JW) highlighted that Petts Wood Runners trained people in the community who had never run before. Mike Dodds (MD) said Dulwich Park Runners did something similar.

Grzegorz Galezia (GG) said it would be good to have different types of training, such as core stability and cross training.

RS said it would be good to see coaches at Wednesday sessions and RT said this would attract more people to come on Wednesdays.

Bob Bell (BB) said that Steve Smythe's session cover an enormous range of abilities and it would be beneficial to have two groups. Charlie Lound (CL) said that Elkie's sessions complement Steve's.

He said new coaches would need to commit, and KS said that she and AT are willing to volunteer their time to benefit the Club.

Clare Wyngard (CW) thanked AT and KS for bringing the idea forward. RT concluded by saying that she will put a note in Shorts reiterating that the Club funds training to become a coach in case other members are interested as well as KS and AT.

- 7. Vote of thanks and adoption of new General Committee:** RT thanked all the Committee for their services this year. She especially thanked Sue Vernon and Charlie Lound who are standing down from their Committee roles.

RT invited RS to say a few words about the role of President as the position also needs to be re-elected. RS said he is honoured to serve as President but if any member would like to nominate another President they must feel free to do so.

Ebe Prill was nominated for the role of Men's Captain.

Tom South was nominated for the role of Joint Social Secretary, sharing the role with Matt Ladds.

Jonathan Whittaker was nominated as Publicity Officer.

Steve Rolfe and Chris Loizou were nominated as General Members.

Hugh Balfour proposed the incumbent Committee members be reappointed and the nominated members be appointed which Bob Bell seconded, and was unanimously agreed.

Hugh Balfour proposed a vote of thanks to Ros Tabor which was unanimously welcomed.

8. Any Other Business: There was no other business.

RT closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.