

**Dulwich Runner Athletic Club**

**Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 30 March 2022

Edward Alleyn Club

83-85 Burbage Road

London, SE24 9HD

**MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 30 MARCH 2022**

1. **Apologies for absence**

There were apologies for absence sent by Clare Wyngard, Mike Dodds, Eleanor Simmons, Ed Chuck, Andrea Pickup and Claire Steward.

1. **Co-Chairs’ Opening Remarks**

Ange Norris (AN) and Ebe Prill (EP), Co-Chairs, welcomed Club members old and new to Dulwich Runners’ first in-person AGM since 2018.

AN and EP shared the Co-Chair’s summary for 2021, highlighting the following:

The Covid pandemic remained a factor for Club activities to a varying extent. The year began with the Clubhouse closed, so we met in the car park and ran in groups of 6. Come June the bar was open and full facilities were back by July, although we continued to meet outside until autumn. At the beginning of 2022 we were once again meeting outside the Clubhouse for a short period.

The gradual return to normality and uncertainty over races necessitated a different format with more flexibility for the Club Championships. Members could run any race at each specific distance throughout 2021 as long as the race was on Power of 10. This took away head-to-head competition, but enabled the Club Championships to still take place. 194 members took part in at least 1 race, of which 64 members completed at least 4 races.

Some of our usual events, such as Assembly League, Green Belt Relay and our Midsummer Relays, did not take place again this year. In June we held the Mark Hayes Mile which was both a competitive and social evening. 52 runners were spread over 6 races, including many new runners, with the trophies awarded to Kay Sheedy and Jack Ramm. Due to its success, we held a series of 1500m races at Dulwich track in August.

On the road and track, 19 club records broken this year. 7 went to Ed Chuck, 4 to Andy Bond, 2 to Sue Vernon and 1 each to Jack Ramm, Tom South, Steve Wehrle, Clare Elms, Ange Norris and Claire Steward. Full details can be found on our new Dulwich Runners app developed by Andrea Ceccolini.

In the Cross Country Championships, 42 men and 32 women completed at least 1 race, and 13 men and 8 women completed at least 5 races to complete the championships.

Both our women and men’s teams were successfully promoted back to Division 1 of Surrey League after a season in Division 2. This was due to both teams having strength in depth, including several new members.

The National Cross Country Championships saw our second highest-ever finish positions with Ed Chuck finishing 61st and Jack Ramm 63rd.

This year there were 60 new members and a total membership of 320. The membership fee from 20/21 was extended to March 22 in recognition of there being fewer club runs and events.

Tuesday track sessions have continued to be popular with the coaches providing structured training sessions. Tom Poynton has now achieved his ‘Coach in running fitness’ qualification and has become a valuable addition to the coaching team.

The social events organised this year by Michelle Lennon have been greatly enjoyed. Our 40th anniversary celebrations were postponed from 2020 to July 21, then to September 21, becoming our 41st anniversary celebrations.

EP updated on two items of AOB at last year’s AGM. A club member has trained as a guide runner for blind and visually impaired runners, as proposed by Sue Vernon. The topic of running safely had been raised by Hugh French and he has since published helpful advice on the Club website and has set up a dedicated email address for members to contact for additional support, including finding a running companion.

EP added remarks on developments, plans and events in the year ahead. Alongside the core agenda of providing the means and opportunities to participate in running, greater focus will be placed on diversity and inclusivity. There will be further work to improve sustainability, as seen in the introduction of eco-trophies, the initiative to donate or recycle trainers, and increased car-sharing to races where public transport is difficult.

In an update on Summer training, EP said the Club can only use the facilities at Dulwich College until the end of June due to the grounds being redeveloped. Currently the 300m track is understood to be replaced by a playing filed, and there will potentially be a marked running track on the grass. Alternative venues for summer sessions will be explored, including a return to Crystal Palace track.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Graham Laylee (GL) said the Club concluded the financial year in a good financial position as detailed in the year end accounts. AN thanked GL for his work on this and previous financial reports. Hugh Balfour proposed that the accounts be accepted and Dave West seconded.

1. **Vote of thanks and adoption of new General Committee**

EP and AN thanked the Committee, several of whom had been new this year. They paid thanks in particular to Treasurer, Graham Laylee and Joint Men’s Captain, Tom South, who are standing down from their Committee roles.

Chris Vernon was nominated for the role of Honorary President. Tom Poynton was nominated for the role of Welfare Officer. Andrea Ceccolini was nominated for the role of Treasurer. Alex Loftus was nominated for the role of Joint Men’s Captain.

The reappointment of the incumbent Committee members and the appointment of the nominated members were unanimously agreed.

Hugh Balfour proposed a vote of thanks for Ebe, Ange and the Committee.

1. **Any Other Business**

Given the Club’s healthy financial position, Hugh Balfour asked whether a donation to a community charity could be considered. John O’Byrne suggested a contribution after the Midsummer Relays and Dave West said previously the Club had raised money for a number of charities and used to choose a local charity each year to support. EP and AN said the Committee would consider this.

Barrie Nicholls said that the Alleyns Clubhouse had agreed to put the Dulwich Runners AC name on their entrance sign but still had not done so. AN said the Committee will raise this with them.

Joe Farrington-Douglas asked whether the start of Wednesday sessions will remain at 7pm or move back to 7.30pm now more people have returned to office-working. AN said there may be a case for changing the time and it was agreed that a survey of members would be conducted (through Shorts and Survey Monkey) to establish the time that suited most members best.

AN and EP thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.