

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SOUTH CHESHIRE HARRIERS
16TH NOVEMBER 2006

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PRESENT; Martin Stirna, Tony Salthouse, Mike Cutler, Bill Ferguson, Simon Walker, David Rowlands, Shelagh Swinnerton, Jeanette Hatton, Christopher Walsh, Roger Foden, Alasdair Dyde.

APOLOGIES Mike Hatton, Dave McGrath, Cindy Morrisette, Rachael Prince, Katherine Cartlidge.

THE MEETING STARTED AT 20.30 HOURS

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Martin read out the minutes from the previous year's AGM (17th November 2005) and they were accepted as being correct by meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mike Cutler said it had been a good year for South Cheshire Harriers.

He said that both the 10km and 20 mile road races, organised by the club, had been successful.

The Cheshire Cross Country Championships, held in January 2006 had been a success and had been praised by both officials and competitors alike.

On the Fells, club members had ventured far and wide on the Tuesday night runs and special mention should be made of Mal Fletchers achievement of running in the Himalayas over seven consecutive days.

Mike said that numbers of club runners had increased in both of the Staffordshire Off Road Series (Spring Treble and Summer Series).

Mike told the committee that 5 club members had travelled to Rheims in France to compete in the 10km and half marathons there.

As far as the North Staffs Road Runners Association league was concerned, he announced that Mike Hatton would finish either 1st or 2nd in his Group (A), with Colin Earp likely to top his group as well (group E).

Mike praised Katherine for her work on the newsletter and spoke of Cindy's work on the social side for the club.

Mike also spoke of Chris Walsh's qualification as a grade 1 athletics coach.

Finally, he stated that the club would have 2 places for entry into the London Marathon for those club members who were unsuccessful in the usual entry lottery.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Bill Ferguson stated that the club had £250 less in the bank than at the same time last year.

He stated that the clubs' 20th Anniversary party ran at a loss due to subsidy, but numbers at the party were well up on previous parties, so the occasion was deemed a success by everybody.

Kit expenditure had increased over the previous year but more kit is on hand than last year.

Bill stated that both the 10km and 20 mile races were profitable.

The BBQ was run at a loss of £90 due to a poor turnout by the club members.

Bill told the committee that the annual club presentation night is on Friday 26th January 2007 at the Crewe Golf Club and the price will be £7.50 per person.

A proposal was put to the meeting to increase the Subscriptions for club members to £15 per year with an "Early Bird" discount of £3 to anyone who renewed their membership before the end of January 2007.

Anyone who joined the club now would be able to pay the full rate for next year and have the rest of this year included in their membership.

It was also proposed that new members would no longer receive a free vest when they joined the club.

The club would give discounts to members purchasing new kit.

The above proposals and report were accepted by the meeting with Shelagh Swinnerton being the proposer and Roger Foden being the Seconder.

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CHAIRMANS' REPORT

- Martin Stirna said that the Cheshire Cross Country Championships had been a great success and special thanks must go to Mike Cutler for his organisation and input.

He said that a lot of compliments had been paid by both runners and officials alike.

Martin said that the Harriers 20th Anniversary Bash had been a huge success almost solely due to Cindy Morrisette getting both present and founder members to attend.

He spoke of Cindy's organisation of the clubs first Hash run and also of BBQ, which were both enjoyed immensely by those that attended.

Martin then went on to thank all of the committee members for their work in the past year. He thanked Tony Salthouse for his contribution on the website and as Membership Secretary.

Thanks went to Katherine Cartlidge for her work on the newsletter of which her last one will be the Christmas edition.

Martin thanked Simon Walker and David McGrath for their efforts on the 10km and 20 mile races respectively.

Thanks went to Jeanette Hatton as runners representative and Dave Rowlands as kit man.

Martin said that club membership figures were up and it was upto everyone to encourage new members and make them feel welcome at the club.

Christopher Walsh offered a vote of thanks to Martin Stirna for help received during the last year.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Tony Salthouse was proposed as the President by Martin Stirna and this was seconded by Dave Rowlands.

Tony Salthouse temporarily took the chair and proposed Martin as Chairman, which was seconded by Mike Cutler.

Martin nominated Bill Ferguson as Treasurer which was seconded by Tony Salthouse.

Martin nominated Mike Cutler as Secretary which was seconded by Jeanette Hatton and without objections.

Jeanette Hatton, Simon Walker and Cindy Morrisette were nominated by the committee as Honorary members.

David McGrath steps down from the committee but will continue as 20 mile race secretary.

Martin nominated Chris Walsh onto the committee as Coach Development Officer, which was seconded by Simon Walker.

Mike Hatton would be Race Manager in the following year but not necessarily as a committee member.

Roger Foden said he would take over the Newsletter, from Katheryn Cartlidge, with help from the other committee members.

Simon Walker volunteered to be minutes secretary.

Robert Brown would be Honorary Auditor-Subject to confirmation from Rob himself.

Martin then went onto say that, after earlier discussions in the year in monthly meetings, there was a feeling that long-term members who had given faithful service to the club should be made Honorary Life Members.

The outstanding choice would be David Rowlands (one of the founder members of the club). Martin then put the proposal to the meeting with Tony Salthouse seconding. The proposal was carried in favour unanimously by the meeting.

The meeting then proposed raising subscriptions for the club to £15 per year with an "Early Bird" discount of £3 for any member paying their subs by the end of January.

The North of England Athletics Association levy was raised to £2 this year (2006) and is due to be raised again next year (2007) to £3 after April.

There is also a possibility of a further increase in 2008 to £5-NOEAA.

The club could not subsidise members in this respect to the tune of £3 and so the increase is inevitable in subscriptions. Roger Foden proposed acceptance of the increase in subscriptions with Jeanette Hatton seconding.

The proposal was carried by the meeting.

The meeting was told that purchases of new kit would be subsidised for members to the tune of £6 per year. The subsidy would only apply to purchases of new kit and not towards subscriptions.

Martin said that Cindy feels that more events should be subsidised.

David Rowlands expressed concerns about subsidising social events when active members of the committee were already “out of pocket” coaching, secretary duties and other activities etc.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was announced that the New Years Run would be on the morning of New Years EVE (Sunday 31ST December) running from the Bickerton Poacher Pub over the Sandston trail. Jeanette said that she would put up a table with Kit for sale.

Martin said that there would be an intention to send out a survey to members and also a form to elicit a “club member of the year”.

Martin then said that London Marathon “rejects” for 2007 would have their names put into a draw at the New Years Run and 2 would be chosen for club places.

Simon said that the 10km and 5k runs would be on April 8th 2007 with the 5k fun run starting at 10.00 hours and the 10km run starting at 10.30 hours.

Simon and Jeanette were looking into the possibility of staging the races at St Mary’s Primary school in Danebank Avenue instead of South Cheshire College, due to the congestion at the existing finishing area in previous years.

The meeting closed at 21.50 hours