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Annual General Meeting – Minutes

22rd November 2010 – Crewe Vagrants Sports Club

Present: Alasdair Dyde, Bill Ferguson, Simon Walker, Mike Cutler, Charles Rowlands, Mike Hatton, Steve Hargreaves, Nick Dunning, Neil Jones, Martin Stirna, Pete Marquis Jones, Jeanette Rogers, John Booth, Anthony Hadfield, Leslie Oldfield, Mel Cole, Lorna Fewtrell, Kedren Elliot, Phil Cliff, Steve Whincup, Pat Hudson, James Simpson, Katie Latham, Andy Painter, Ray Woolgar, Neil Ridgeway, Rob Valentine, Gill Gibbons, Sue Poole.

Apologies: None received

Minutes of Previous AGM

The Minutes of the previous AGM were agreed.

Secretary's Report

Mike Cutler praised the efforts of all the members of the club in producing an outstanding year. The Harriers had successfully put on 3 races: the longstanding and respected 10K road race, likewise the 20 Miler bucking the national trend and the notoriously tough off road Halloween Hellraiser.

Wilmslow RC had been run very close for top club in Cheshire on the road for the first time for years by SCH. Again we had taken the NSRRA men's team title. Notable success has been achieved by our younger members who were catching the eye over the whole region.

The club was represented at county level on committee and also one of the instigators of the forward thinking Cheshire Athletic network. It received regular exposure in the press thanks to the diligence of Charles Rowlands which was rewarded by an increasing membership.

Mike told the meeting the membership level qualified the club for automatic places in the Virgin London Marathon in April 2011 which would be drawn later in the evening. In conclusion Mike thanked everybody for their attendance.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year show an increase in our overall funds of just over £700, but this includes a large amount which Mike Hatton raised for charity and a smaller amount from the raffle at last year's presentation evening. We are committed to making a charitable donation to our nominated charity, so overall we will make a slight loss.

10k race made about £650 and the 20m race made about £100 (as we had no main sponsor this year). The Halloween Hellraiser is more difficult to say as we still have some money to come in from Runner's World and John Schofield, and we still have a couple of bills to pay, but it is estimated that it will make somewhere between £800 and £1000.

The main outgoings have been the payment to the Vagrants, Affiliation fees to England Athletics, subsidised club kit and the presentation evening.

It has been some time since the subs were set at their current level, and there have been a number of changes to our outgoings which mean that we need to reconsider what we charge club members. We now make a payment to the Vagrants of £1200 per year, and we have to make a £5 payment for each member to be registered with England Athletics.

The committee discussed the position at the last committee meeting and is proposing that the subs are increased from £16 to £18. We will still have an early-bird discount to encourage people to renew before the end of January, and this will be £15. The other change proposed is that although we continue to give a discount for club kit, it will be restricted to a single item, and only new members will be eligible.

It's been a privilege to act as Treasurer for a number of years (8), but I'll be handing over to a new Treasurer, and I wish him/her luck with it.

Chairman's Report

Alasdair welcomed everyone to the AGM. He passed his thanks to the Committee Members who had given up so much of their time and skills in making it such a successful year. On behalf of the committee he also thanked all the members who had contributed in so many different ways support the club,

In summary he reported that the club had again grown in size with just over 132 registered members, a significant proportion of who are new members. We continued to grow in membership and as a consequence we were seeing increased attendance on training nights.

The club participated in strength now within North Staffs, Cheshire races and much farther a field. For second year running we'd won the NSRRA men's team competition and were placed second men's team in the Cheshire GP – the latter of significance given the size and resources of some clubs in this competition.

As always our own club championships had been fiercely competitive as has our new Off Road Championships. There had also been a number of significant individual achievements by club members across a wide range of running and multi discipline events, which we would celebrate at our Awards Dinner in January. Races for next year's Championships are now being debated via forum and member's contributions thought would be welcome.

As a club we participated in Cross Country leagues within North Staffs and Cheshire, at the Northerns, and with a small contingent attending the Nationals in London earlier this year. Again the men's team were triumphant in gaining promotion to 1st Division in North Staffs league. He was pleased to report that to date this seasons X/C events have been well supported, and of particular significance is the performances of the ladies – for the first time we have fielded a full ladies team and they should be rightly proud of their achievements to date.

The club hosted its 3 annual races – all were successful in terms of significantly increased attendance and improved sponsorship. Both the 20 miler and Hellraiser attracted significant praise from participants - quite rightly acknowledging how well these races had been organised and supported. He took this opportunity to the race organisers for their fantastic efforts and to extend a big thank to all members and their families who gave so generously of their time and expertise to put these events together.

Alasdair highlighted that for the first time this year participated in home and away runs with the Whitchurch Whippets and Wrekin runners something which we'd like to continue in 2010.

Thanks were passed onto the social secretary we have managed to lay on evenings out and post New Year and End of Summer Run get togethers. It was acknowledged that being the Social Secretary can be a frustrating task given the busy lives we all lead now.

The club has grown significantly since our move to the Vagrants, which has not been without teething problems. Our facilities were he believed to be the best in the area and the envy of most Clubs, and its location provides for safe runs throughout the autumn /winter, with excellent of road routes in the summer.

Although the club continues to develop our relationship with the Vagrants owners, Alasdair stressed the club had to be mindful of the commercial arrangements within which the Vagrants is run. This meant that at this point in time we cannot become full

voting rights members. However he believed our continued presence and the numerous benefits it brings will gradually increase our influence.

Alasdair stated that the committee had purposely kept membership fees to a minimum and well below levels of comparable clubs in Staffs and Cheshire as of a result of the income raised by of our races, of which there would be more later from the Treasurer.

Alasdair concluded that the challenge now is to build upon the club's current success to the benefit of all our members, whilst building a structure that can sustain our growth, ensuring inclusiveness and providing support for runners of all abilities yet holding true to our overriding aim to be a friendly club for runners of all abilities.

Finally he stated that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Club as Chairman over the last 2 years and would like to encourage all members to continue to support the running of the club through participation and support of its various events. At that point he wished the incoming committee the best of luck and good wishes for a successful 2011.

Election of Management Committee

Mel Cole, as outgoing President, then took over proceedings and asked for nominations. He was nominated and re-elected as club President. Bill Ferguson would be standing down as Treasurer and a nomination had been received for Simon Walker for this position. No other nominations had been received.

Simon Walker was duly elected as Treasurer. Mel then suggested as with previous year that the remaining retiring officers of the club and 6 members committee should be asked to carry on in current roles. Members agreed and voted them in on block as follows:

These were:

President Mel Cole
Chairman Alasdair Dyde
Treasurer Simon Walker
Secretary Mike Cutler

There were then 6 additional members proposed and accepted.

These were Kedren Elliot, Neil Jones, Lesley Oldfield, Charles Rowlands, Stephen Whincup, Mike Hatton

Subscriptions 2011 & Club Kit

Committee outlined proposals to increase membership rates from beginning of 2011 to ensure that club could continue to meet its financial commitments and support its

continued growth. The following rates which were considered very reasonable in comparison to clubs in the Cheshire and Staffordshire area were put forward:

New membership	£18
Early Bird membership (existing member pre end of January)	£15
Student membership	£12

Following questions and discussion increases were unanimously accepted

Regarding Club Kit provision it was agreed by members that for club vests there would be a one off discount of £6 to new members.

London Marathon Ballot

Before ballot took place it was put to meeting that for futures years those who got a ballot place could not apply for a ballot place the following year and also to be able to enter the ballot you had to be a paid up member on or before the London Marathon ballot opens.

The successful members in the ballot for the three London places were:

Terry Barker
Steve Hargreaves
Jeanette Hatton.

Any Other Business

Non recorded.

With no further business outstanding the meeting closed at 20:30 hours.