



Helensburgh Amateur Athletic Club
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
06/11/2024 at 7:15pm
Venue: HAAC Clubhouse

Those Present	Committee Alan Oliver (President/Chair), Nicky Bridges, Ian Brown, Claire Heasman, Di McLaughlin, Daz Murphy, Debbie Savage, Ian Williams, Emma Wilson Members Gordon Andrew, Carole Barrie, Craig Binnie, Sarah Blandy, Jan Fellowes, Sybil Kennedy, Gordon King, Andy Mahoney, Sophie Monteith, Nora Morocza, Richard O'Grady, Matthew Scott, Philip Sumner, Michael Sweeney, Gordon Turk, Claire Wilson, Linda Wright	
Apologies	Becky Beale, Charlotte Craig, Pamela Gee, Julia McAfee, Jill Rooney, Vicky Sumner, Stewart Tacchi	
Item	Discussion	Action
Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 1st November 2023	<p>The Chair confirmed that sufficient numbers were present to ensure that the meeting was quorate and the meeting commenced at 7.20pm.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 1st November 2023, were proposed by Gordon King and seconded by Carole Barrie.</p>	
President's Report	<p>Alan started by thanking all the Committee members, coaches, run leaders, first aiders and volunteers for all the time they have invested in HAAC over the past 12 months.</p> <p>The Club is in a healthy financial position and Alan thanked Ian Brown for his work as Club Treasurer.</p> <p>The HAAC website has been upgraded and is a great landing page for people looking for information about the Club.</p> <p>The Club membership remains healthy in both the senior and junior sections, with members of all abilities attending Club training sessions and races.</p> <p>There have not been any welfare issues at the Club in the past 12 months and Ian Williams continues to diligently undertake the role as the Club Welfare Officer by ensuring compliance to current Scottish Athletics policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Committee has recognised that the Clubhouse requires some refurbishment and this will be undertaken in 2025. Nicky Bridges, as Clubhouse manager, has ensured that the Clubhouse is compliant in all areas such as electrical testing, fire prevention and legionella.</p>	

Alan said that a key aim in his role as President, and with the support of the Committee, was to re-establish Club activity in a safe and compliant way. In the past 12 months 9 members have completed a Leader in Running Fitness qualification and 3 went onto complete the equivalent course for trail running. 10 members completed appropriate First Aid training and new first aid supplies have been purchased to support safety at Club training sessions. Claire Heasman and Debbie Savage are currently midway through their Coaching in Running Fitness course.

Running achievements have been plentiful amongst the membership across varying race distances and surfaces.

The Club's flagship events;

Babcock Helensburgh 10k in May. The event hosted the West District Championships this year and drew an increased number of entrants. A huge thank you should be given to all the Club volunteers, junior membership, family, friends and colleagues who helped make this event a success. Alan thanked Debbie Savage and Ian Brown for their work to co-ordinate this event and also Di McLaughlin for her commitment to the DAAA. The Babcock 10k Race Series will have a new organising partner in 2025 called Run Through.

The inaugural Trident Trail race took place in September, which was a replacement for Hel n Back due to route closures. Alan, thanked all the organisers and volunteers that made this event a success.

Juniors;

A dedicated group of coaches help deliver 8 sessions per week over 4 days to the Club's junior membership.

After 10 years of coaching the juniors, Kenny Flett retired from coaching earlier this year. Gavin McPherson has joined the coaching team as well as two youth athletes qualifying as Assistant Coaches.

The junior section has supported the running of the Primary Schools Cross Country and the Helensburgh Highland Games athletic events.

Thanks was given to parents and guardians who volunteer to support HAAC Juniors at team events.

The juniors competed in two track and field leagues this summer; YDL (in a merged team with Clydesdale and Inverclyde) and finished 6 out of 8 teams (junior age groups only) and CSSAL (juniors, seniors and masters age groups) where they finished 3rd out of 8 teams.

	<p>The Juniors held their track and field Club Champs in October and over 30 members attended. Athletes will be celebrated at the Junior Awards Night on 22nd November 2024.</p> <p><i>Fundraising and Charitable Work;</i> Alan remarked that many members take on volunteering roles to support community events, local races, cross country, track and field events, Park Runs and Highland Games.</p> <p>In August, Ian Brown organised a ‘social cake run’, with attendees donating to local charity, Jeans Bothy. The Club matched the donations resulting in a total donation of £200. The Club will look for further opportunities to fundraise to support local charities and good causes.</p> <p><i>Future direction;</i> Alan finished by saying that the Club needs the continuing support of members, not just to maintain the Club but to develop and grow it. This could be by members taking on committee/trustee roles, coaching, run leaders, first aiders or event volunteers.</p> <p>The eventual opening of Posties Park in Dumbarton will be a huge benefit in developing the Club’s runners, if members choose to utilise it and the appointment of a Club Together Officer, who would be focussed on supporting the whole Club, will help to develop, grow and encourage participation in the sport that we all love and be a huge benefit to Helensburgh AAC.</p>	
<p>Treasurer’s Report</p>	<p>Ian Brown, Club Treasurer, reminded the attendees that HAAC is registered as a charity.</p> <p>The Club is required to keep detailed accounts and these need to be examined in line with a Charities Accounts Regulation and then submitted to OSCR. Ian confirmed that Club accounts are complete and a Trustees Report submitted for financial year 2023/4. The HMRC return has also been submitted. The Trustees Report is available to view on the Helensburgh AAC webpage.</p> <p>Ian reported that, for the first time in a few years, the Club ended the 2023/4 financial year with a surplus (circa £1000). This was aided by an increase in membership fees received, improved bank interest and a great return from the Babcock 10k Series. Chris Baillie (Junior Head Coach - paid) resigning during 2023/4 also meant a saving on salary expenditure.</p> <p><i>Approval of auditors;</i> Ian Brown informed the meeting that for a number of years Linda Hunter has approved the HAAC accounts, but she is no longer providing this service. Linda has recommended Swan Accountancy and Ian Brown proposed that going forward HAAC</p>	

	<p>use Swan Accountancy for the approval of the accounts. This was supported by the meeting attendees.</p> <p>Gordon Turk asked how the Trident Trail race did financially. Ian Brown explained that because it was the first running of this event, the race entries and entry fee were kept fairly low and subsequently there were no major expenses. The Club made around £450.</p> <p>Carole Barrie asked how many members the Club currently has. There are currently 65-70 seniors (including life members and 2nd claim) and 82 Juniors (65 regularly training).</p> <p>Gordon King asked when membership fees are due. 1st April, in line with the financial year.</p> <p>Gordon Andrew asked how much the Club has in the bank from the sale of the land (around the Clubhouse when the former Hermitage Academy was demolished and sold off for housing). Ian Brown responded that there is £167,000. An increase of about £1,000 from last year due to bank interest.</p> <p>Philip Sumner asked if the Hel n Back race would run next year. Once the downed trees get cleared, then the Committee will need to decide if the Club organises Hel n Back, the Trident Trail or both events in 2025.</p> <p>Di McLaughlin asked if the increase in entries for the Helensburgh 10k this year was down to the fact that it also hosted the West District 10k Championships and should the Club look to host these championships again in 2025. Ian Brown and Debbie Savage both felt that the Shettleston 10k and Helensburgh 10k had larger entries this year and also the change of dates to put the Helensburgh 10k last in the series and Shettleston 10k first helped as the Shettleston 10k had in previous years clashed with the Edinburgh Marathon. It was agreed that the Club should look to host the West District 10k Championships again.</p>	
Club Together Officer	<p>Alan Oliver updated the meeting on the following: The Club is working in collaboration with Scottish Athletics and the role would be partly funded by Scottish Athletics and Helensburgh AAC.</p> <p>The Club Together programme is widely used by many athletics/running clubs in Scotland and the role can vary depending on the needs of each club.</p> <p>The Club Together Officer role for HAAC is currently being advertised as a 6 hour per week position, with key role features to promote the Club, build membership and support administrative functions currently carried out by our coaches.</p>	
Facilities Update	<p>Alan Oliver updated the meeting on the following: After a long period of back-and-forth discussions with Argyll & Bute Council and Lomond School, no cost effective or</p>	

	<p>collaborative progress was being made and quotes received had escalating costs and did not fulfil the Club's needs.</p> <p>For now, the Club will look to utilise Posties Park, once it opens, but will still be open to options that may arise within Helensburgh.</p> <p>Carole Barrie asked who would run Posties Park. This will be West Dunbartonshire Leisure.</p>	
<p>Annual Subscriptions</p>	<p>The following annual subscription increases were proposed:</p> <p><u>Juniors</u> 1st child in family £132 (equates to £11/month when people join part way through the year). 2nd child in family £114 (equates to £9.50/month). 3rd (and subsequent) child in family £90 (£7.50/month).</p> <p>Currently junior fees are £120/£100/£80.</p> <p>Also, next year members will get a "free" HAAC t-shirt on taking out membership.</p> <p>This increase was agreed by the meeting attendees.</p> <p><u>Seniors</u> Increase from £50 per annum for standard senior membership to £55 (other membership categories to be adjusted accordingly).</p> <p>This increase was agreed by the meeting attendees.</p>	
<p>Election of Trustees</p>	<p>Emma Wilson had given notice at the Committee meeting in October 2024 that she would not be standing as a Trustee at the AGM.</p> <p>The following Committee members indicated their willingness to stand for election as Trustees of HAAC in the coming year:</p> <p>Alan Oliver Ian Brown Claire Heasman Jill Rooney Debbie Savage Nicky Bridges Di McLaughlin Ian Williams Daz Murphy</p> <p>In addition, Matthew Scott and Gordon Turk put themselves forward for election as Trustees.</p> <p>The meeting unanimously elected the above group as Trustees for the Club in the coming year.</p>	

AOCB	<p>Gordon Andrew thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the previous 12 months.</p> <p>Nora Morocza wanted the Committee to know that she was involved with Friends of Duchess Woods, so would be available to co-ordinate anything that the Club required for events or races that may utilise the woods.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.36pm</p>	
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