



**Helensburgh Amateur Athletic Club**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**19/11/2025 at 7:15pm**  
**Venue: HAAC Clubhouse**

<p><b>Those Present</b></p>	<p><b>Committee (9)</b>          Alan Oliver (President/Chair), Nicky Bridges, Ian Brown, Claire Heasman, Di McLaughlin, Daz Murphy, Ian Williams, Craig Binnie, Matt Scott</p> <p><b>Members (14)</b>          Gordon Andrew, Gordon King, Gail Thomas, Victoria Sumner, Philip Sumner, Sarah Blandy, Sophie Monteith, Stewart Tacchi, Fiona Balfour, Willie Valentine, Amy Court, Charlotte Craig, Michael Sweeney, Kelvin Hills</p>	
<p><b>Apologies</b></p>	<p>Becky Beale, Richard O’Grady, Sybil Kennedy, Emma Wilson, Claire Wilson, Liffy Grant, Carole Barrie, Gordon Turk, Stephen Humphreys, Katie Torrance, Peter McPherson, Shirley Dalziel, Debbie Savage, Jill Rooney</p>	
<p><b>Item</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b></p>	<p>The Chair confirmed that sufficient numbers were present to ensure that the meeting was quorate and the meeting commenced at 7.18pm.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024, were proposed by Gordon Andrew and seconded by Nicky Bridges.</p>	
<p><b>President’s Report</b></p>	<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><b>Membership</b>          Membership remains healthy in both the junior and senior sections, with members of all abilities attending our Club training sessions and competitive races in increased numbers. There has been a regular influx of new members joining the Club over the past 12 months.</p> <p><b>Welfare</b>          Ian Williams has recently stepped down from the role of Club Welfare Officer. Ian has worked diligently in this role, ensuring the Club is compliant to the current safeguarding and welfare policies and procedures of Scottish Athletics. A huge thank you to Ian. Craig Binnie has recently assumed the role from Ian and Alan welcomed Craig to the committee.</p> <p><b>Club Development Officer</b>          Earlier this year the Club agreed to go into partnership with Scottish Athletics to employ a Club Development Officer. Amy Court was successfully recruited into the role and has been</p>	

working hard to establish the new position and supporting the Junior section and wider Club.

#### **Sports Therapist Sessions**

In recent months Grant Harkness, Sports Therapist, has been welcomed into the Club to provide sport injury treatment and advice sessions to the Club's senior members on a monthly basis. This has been well received by members.

#### **Clubhouse**

The main space, corridor and toilets were painted this year. Externally, areas of fascia were repaired and all facias varnished. Thanks were expressed to Nicky Bridges and other club members and their families who have helped to maintain and improve the clubhouse this year. Nicky is standing down from the role of Clubhouse supervisor and the club committee and thanks were expressed to Nicky for all her work as a committee member.

#### **Club Training Sessions**

Thanks were given to those who have undertaken the Run Leader and First Aider roles at Club training sessions. These members ensure that training sessions are lead in a safe and compliant way and ensure that attendees enjoy the training experience.

With the opening of the Lachie Stewart Track, the opportunity for whole club training sessions at the track is available on a Sunday morning with a coach led session for the seniors on a monthly basis. At the request of senior members, a new Thursday interval session is now available that compliments the fantastic trail running sessions, also on a Thursday.

Claire Heasman and Debbie Savage have also obtained their Coach in Running Fitness Qualification this year.

A monthly social run at Levensgrove Parkrun has been well received this year. This is a great opportunity to promote the Club at a regular local running event as well as allowing members to come together, post run, for a coffee on a Saturday morning.

#### **Club Running Events**

The Helensburgh 10k, part of the Babcock 10k Series, took place in May 2025. A huge number of volunteers, junior athletes and their family, friends and colleagues helped to make the event a huge success. Special mentions were given to Ian Brown, Debbie Savage and Di McLaughlin who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver the Babcock 10K Race Series. This year was the first year the organisation of the Babcock 10k Series was delivered alongside race organisation company, Run Through. Helensburgh AAC received an income of £4K from the 2025 Series.

In September the Trident Trail Race took place. Thanks were given to Debbie Savage, Ian Brown and all the other club members who helped deliver a successful race.

#### **Wider Racing Activity**

The largest number of senior club members attending an event, was the Allan Scally Road Relays which took place in March 2025. 24 members pulled on the HAAC vest (some for the first time) and recorded some great times.

Club members Claire Heasmand and Pete Minting represented Scotland in the UK Inter-District Track and Field Challenge and Richard O'Grady represented GB at the European Masters Outdoor Championship (Maderia) in the Half Marathon in October 2025. Claire also gained selection for the Scottish Masters cross country team and this month competed in the British Masters Cross Country Championships.

Club members regularly competed in Park Runs, races and athletic events locally, nationally and internationally. The successes, representation and achievements were too many to list but congratulations were given to everyone who has represented Helensburgh AAC in events this year.

#### **Fund Raising and Charitable Work**

Thanks were given to all Club members who volunteered at local and DAAA races, Primary Schools cross country, Helensburgh Highland Games and Park Run.

Ian Brown and Claire Heasman led a beginners running group through Jeans Bothy this year.

Senior members held their annual summer social cake run in August and raised £350 for Gareloch Riding for the Disabled. The junior section, in conjunction with the Club Championships, ran a successful baking competition and all money raised went to Jeans Bothy.

#### **Junior Section Update**

Members = 90

Sessions (winter Oct-Mar 26)

- Monday 6-7pm, endurance group (trail/road run)
- Tuesday 6-7pm RJT, 7-8pm Primary school athletes, 8-9pm Secondary school athletes (indoors Hermitage Academy)
- Thursday 7-8pm, endurance and sprint groups (outdoors Hermitage Academy)
- Sunday 10-11am, Lachie Stewart Track, Dumbarton

The junior section currently has 3 Athletics Coaches and 8 Coaching Assistants. 3 of the coaching assistants were newly qualified this year. Thanks was given to Jenny Lock, who after a number of years, decided to hang up her coaching assistant hat. 3 current coaching assistants are undergoing their Athletics Coach qualification and these should be complete early in 2026.

	<p>Competitions:</p> <p><i>CSSAL</i> – Helensburgh AAC finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league this year, just 1 place away from moving into the 1st division.</p> <p><i>YDL</i> – Results were Match 1- 6<sup>th</sup> place, Match 2- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Match 3- 8<sup>th</sup> place</p> <p><i>Cross Country</i> – some good results from those who have attended but attendance is still lower than desired.</p> <p><i>SAIL</i> (Indoors) – The new age groups (U12/14/16/18) started at SAIL and the move into the even number age groups will change for all competitions in 2026.</p> <p><i>Club Championships</i> – over 80 HAAC junior and senior athletes and athletes from WDAC competed. It was an excellent day and the first time senior members had attended for many years. Hopefully more will be encouraged to attend next year.</p> <p>Club Development Officer secured funding to allow the Club to distribute free fruit to all junior members who attend training on a Tuesday.</p> <p><i>PVG:</i></p> <p>The changes to the PVG requirements this year has meant that the Club has had to ask parents/carers and club members to acquire a PVG in order to help out at Club events or competitions where junior members are in attendance. A good number have stepped forward and undertaken this, but more PVG'd helpers are still needed to support at competitions.</p> <p>Sarah Blandy asked if the track at Levensgrove Park offered the Club the facilities that the Club had envisioned developing at Hermitage Academy? Daz Murphy responded that the Lachie Stewart Track offers the Club more facilities than would have been financially viable at Hermitage Academy, but the downside is that it is located in Dumbarton not Helensburgh.</p> <p>Stella de Wit asked about having a chat group for junior section parents/caregivers to co-ordinate lift-shares for Sunday morning training. Daz Murphy responded that TeamApp does have a chat function that allows parents/carers to message each other. To progress, Amy Court will send out a survey to junior section parent/carers to identify if the lower than desired number of attendees at the track on a Sunday is due to logistics.</p>	
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>	<p>Ian Brown, Club Treasurer, reminded the attendees that HAAC is a SCIO, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.</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 the Club accounts are complete and a Trustees Report submitted for financial year 2024/5. The HMRC return has also been submitted. The Trustees Report is available to view on the Helensburgh AAC webpage.</p>	

	<p>The surplus for the 2024/5 financial year was £2200. The Club's income for 2024/25 financial year was £21900. The 3 biggest sources were memberships fees - £11600, income from Club races £5000 and bank interest £2500.</p> <p>The Club's total expenditure for the 2024/5 financial year was £19700. Some key expenditures were Clubhouse refurbishment and running costs £3500, Clubhouse insurance/public liability/trustee indemnity £1700 and Scottish Athletics return £850.</p> <p>Looking forward to the current financial year (2025/6), Ian Brown estimates a total income of £22000 and expenditure totalling £195000, resulting in a similar surplus.</p> <p>This year, the Club has made some changes to their bank accounts with the aim to receive a better rate of interest and to decreased bank fees.</p> <p>Gordon Andrew asked how much the Club's expenditure is for the Helensburgh 10k. Ian Brown informed the meeting that although the Helensburgh 10k has greater expenditure (due to road closure costs) than the other 2 races in the Babcock 10k Series, income and expenditure from all 3 events in the series are amalgamated and divided equally amongst the 3 participating Clubs. Series turnover this year was £50000 and each Club received £4000 in income.</p> <p>Charlotte Craig asked if the Club is expecting an increase in fees for Hermitage Academy (Argyll &amp; Bute Council) and Lachie Stewart track hire (West Dunbartonshire Council). Ian Brown informed the meeting that he was not aware of any Impending price rises.</p> <p>Alan Oliver thanked Ian for his diligent work as the Club's treasurer.</p>	
<p><b>Annual Subscriptions</b></p>	<p>The Committee proposed that there be no change to annual subscription for 2026/27. Therefore, the subscriptions will stay as follows:</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). All above include at HAAC T-shirt.</p> <p><u>Seniors</u> Standard senior membership £55 (other membership categories adjusted accordingly).</p> <p>Meeting attendees voted unanimously to the above.</p>	

<p><b>Election of Trustees</b></p>	<p>Matt Scott, Nicky Bridges and Ian Williams had given notice that they would not be standing again as a Trustee at the AGM. Thank you to all the above for their time as a committee member and their continued work coaching the juniors and volunteering with the seniors.</p> <p>Craig Binnie has replaced Ian Williams as the Club Welfare Officer.</p> <p>The following Committee members indicated their willingness to stand for re-election as Trustees of HAAC in the coming year:</p> <p>Alan Oliver  Ian Brown  Claire Heasman  Jill Rooney  Debbie Savage  Di McLaughlin  Daz Murphy</p> <p>The members present voted in favour of the above to continue as Trustees for the coming year.</p> <p>Prior to the AGM, notice was given to Club members about one trustee vacancy for a representative from the junior section. One notification of interest was received from Michael Sweeney.</p> <p>The meeting unanimously elected Michael Sweeney as a Trustee for the Club for the coming year.</p>	
<p><b>AOCB</b></p>	<p>Stella de Wit said that the addition of the Thursday interval session is great but asked if there was another option for trail so that it did not clash. Alan Oliver and Claire Heasman advised that the original idea for the (re)introduction of a Thursday interval session was to offer an alternative to members who were averse to trail or did not want to partake in trail over the winter months. The Club's ability to facilitate Club sessions is dictated by run leader and first aider availability and the Club is always looking for members who would be keen to boost run leader/first aider numbers.</p> <p>Phil Sumner advised those present that the Helensburgh Santa Dash is coming up on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Alan Oliver advised that Phil could put a call out for volunteers on the Helensburgh AAC Facebook page.</p> <p>The 28<sup>th</sup> November is also the date for the DAAA Cross Country Championships and aside from Club athletes wanting to take part, Di McLaughlin advised that the Club is also looking for Club representatives to help with course set up in the morning and/or marshal in the afternoon.</p>	

	<p>Alan Oliver reminded the meeting that the Senior Awards and Social Night is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and that Ian Brown had the card reader at the meeting for anyone wishing to purchase tickets.</p>	
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On behalf of the Club membership, Gordon Andrew thanked the committee members for their hard work over the past year.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm