**MINUTES OF THE WITNEY ROADRUNNERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 22ND MARCH 2018**

The evening was started with the Cross Country presentations.

1. **Welcome by the Chairman** – John McCormac welcomed all to the 2018 Witney Roadrunners Annual General Meeting. He was pleased to welcome our two Life Vice Presidents and founder members of Witney Roadrunner, Martin Crabb and Jan Johanson.
2. **Apologies** – Graham LeGood, Judith LeGood, Andy Church, Heather Smith and Mike Miles.
3. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held March 2017** – The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting held. Proposed by Tony Lock and seconded by Nick Morley.
4. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
5. **Chairman’s Report** – John McCormac reported –

Firstly John said how pleased he was to continue to be Chairman of Witney Roadrunners, and he had really enjoyed his second year. Martin Crabb and Jan Johanson started this club so he was very pleased to once again welcome them to the AGM.

So as he has already said, he is proud to be Chairman, when he took on the role he looked at the Committee and at how strong it was and decided this should be easy! Well it turned out to be not as easy as he had thought, but, since then we have added a couple of new faces, and lost a couple as well. John is proud of the hard working, committed committee and members that work behind the scenes, at this point John asked the Committee members to show their hands to the meeting. John said that we will be losing Graham Ferris, who has been on the committee for 10 years, so a special thank you to him.

The Committee make things happen in a (mostly) calm and seamless manner, and devote a great deal of their personal time to make this club what it is. There is also a band of enthusiastic club members, whilst not being on the Committee, still give up their time to support the various events, again John gave thanks to them all.

On a more sombre note John said that we lost 2 ex club members recently George Hardy and John Barr, both participated in many events for the Club and are fondly remembered.

John said that he did not propose to go through every event and trophy won during the year, but some notable events -

The Christmas party / awards evening was once again a great success, thank you everyone that helped and attended.

The Website has been updated along with Instagram and the other social media platforms.

The Witney 10 continues to grow and thrive, thanks once again to a hard working committee. This year we had more runners, certainly the most for a number of years.

The new kit is now de rigueur

On the sporting front – our team captains who have strived to get more runners involved and participate in the League races, will continue to do so. A thank you to Tony Lock our exiting Cross Country co-ordinator for doing a difficult job over the years.

The Club has won County medals across all distances, but the main thing is WE TOOK PART.

There is nothing better than seeing our race results in the newsletter on a Sunday night with runners taking part all over the county and even further afield.

So whatever event you took part in, whatever goal you set out to achieve, WELL DONE!

To summarize – John said he once asked a vicar how did he judge the success of his Church? Surely, he said to him, it is the size of the congregation, just like the theatre, bums on seats? If your Church is packed every week you are a success? But, he was quick to tell John NO, it is the quality, not the quantity.

If you have 10 people and they get something from it, it is all worthwhile.

So whilst John counts every week how many people we have participating he also looks at the ‘quality’, are the runners motivated, are they enjoying it, are they getting something out of it? So it is good to have athletes that win trophies, good for the Club, great for the athletes, but equally important are the runners that know they are not going to win anything, but are doing it for the sheer joy of running and competing. John liked to think the answer was ‘yes’ to all these questions, but only you the members know the answer.

Witney Roadrunners is a strong healthy club with excellent participation across all events and at all levels. In fact we are suffering a few problems as we continue to grow, but the hard working committee will, John was sure, sort them out.

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – Richard Stockting tabled the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017.

Richard thanked Hannah Makins for once again auditing the accounts.

Total income for the year £24,581 and expenditure of £26,952.

One of the main expenditures of the year was the new club kit.

Balance at the 31st December was £3,442.

Question asked – why was there a receipt from Café Rouge of £122 – this was received late from last year’s Christmas do.

1. **Adoption of the Accounts** –

Proposed by Trevor Jennings and seconded by James Field.

1. **Junior Report** – Mike Miles was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, Tony Lock kindly read his report in his absence.

The winter finished well for our youngsters, both indoors and outdoors.

In the Cross Country we fielded the largest team for a long time, with our own Oscar Oweka collecting the overall U11 boys’ award for the second year in a row.

In fact, in the last race of the championship at Swindon, we came away with a 1, 2 and 3 in the boys U11 race, which was a first for Witney.

This turnout made the Cross Country practice sessions all worthwhile, and we would like to thank all of the parents who helped out with these sessions. We will continue with these sessions again for next season.

The Oxfordshire Sportshall League was amazing for our club, with us fielding teams of between 45 to 50 each round, more than ever before.

Many of these came from the new additions from the waiting list intakes from earlier in the year.

We finished the season with 5 out of 8 trophies in this League and overall winners and third position places in both the U11 boys and girls division.

Madeline Blanche, in her last year in this competition, also collected the overall bronze medal for the U15 girls having represented at County for every year as a junior athlete.

We again provided 10 U11 athletes for the County at Guildford, along with 7 U13s and 5 U15s for Burgess Hill.

We can boast about our fantastic winter season, but we now have to transfer this to our summer track and field leagues.

We have the strength and depth in the club to move up the tables outdoors, but it’s up to us as managers and coaches to convince not only the athletes, but also the parents, that we should be so much higher than we are. There is no way we should be down in division four of the Heart of England League, and our goal this year is to win this division. We are constantly losing out to teams who bring along more athletes, which translates into more points for their clubs. These athletes are not better than ours, it’s just that there are more of them. This will be the year to put things right.

We have a good number of athletes and parents who will travel anywhere, but we now have to work on the others.

We are hoping to train again at Radley every week and make full use of the facilities on offer.

We had more athletes competing in the U11 Quad Kids competitions along with our older athletes in the County Championships. Both of these Championships doubled up as our own Club Championships, and as a result, at our Annual Presentations at the Astra Bowl, we handed out over 90 medals and trophies to our youngsters.

It was a long night for our Chairman John, but a worthwhile event which saw well over 100 people having a good time.

The trophies for most improved went to Lily Sherwood and Connor Kirby, with the James Watson Memorial Trophy for overall team person going to Harry Findlay.

At this point Mike thanked his good friend Tony Lock for giving up so much time and putting up with him all season.

Also Amanda, Katherine, Tina and all of the helpers and parents for so much support again.

John and the Committee have been more than patient with Mike’s reports at the meetings and it looks as though they will have to put up with him again this year.

Finally, the Marathon Relay went off perfectly, with the seniors and juniors enjoying a great afternoon of ‘serious’ fun. We are hoping for a rematch again this year, and Sunday 15th of July looks likely to be the date set.

1. **Proposal No. 1 – Amendment to the Witney RR Constitution – the format of the clubs name** – Proposed by Lyn Hopkins, seconded by John McCormac.

Remove where shown “Witney Road Runners” and replace with “Witney Roadrunners”. The reason for this proposal – the Club kit shows “Witney Roadrunners”, so we should be consistent.

Proposal approved by the members at the meeting.

1. **Proposal No. 2 – Amendment to the Witney RR Constitution – Club kit description to reflect new kit** – Proposed by Lyn Hopkins and Seconded by John McCormac.

Remove “Club Kit will consist of a white vest with a broad light blue band with narrower gold bands above and below. The words “Witney Road Runners” will be inscribed in blue above the bands. Shorts will be light blue.”

Replace with “Club Kit will consist of a white vest with yellow side panels and “Witney Roadrunners” inscribed in blue on the front and the Witney Roadrunners website address [www.witneyroadrunners.co.uk](http://www.witneyroadrunners.co.uk) inscribed in blue at the bottom on the back. The reason for the proposal – the Club Kit has been changed.

Proposal approved by the members at the meeting.

1. **Proposal No. 3 – Honouring of Vernon Blowfield in perpetuity as a founder member of Witney RR** – Proposed by Steve Hopkins and seconded by Ian Fowler.

It has been a year since our Honorary Life President, Vernon Blowfield passed away.

The Club has only ever appointed one Life President, and up until 3 years ago two Life Vice Presidents, namely Co-founders, Martin Crabb and Jan Johanson.

3 years ago at the AGM, the Club appointed 4 more LVP’s, namely John McCormac, Mike Miles, Tony Lock and Lyn Hopkins, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the Club over a long period of time.

All of these roles are Honorary, and carry no executive powers. The title includes the word ‘Life’, which means exactly that, and each year, these individuals are ratified by the members present at the AGM. By ratifying the appointments the Club is confirming that the appointments are officially valid.

As Vernon passed away shortly before the 2017 AGM, it was agreed that a decision regarding the way forward would be postponed for 1 year, to allow a reasonable time for reflection, and thought to be given about the way forward.

The Committee has discussed the matter and believes that the following proposal satisfies the desire to honour Vernon in perpetuity as a founder member of WRR, and retain the Honorary Life President role(s)

1. Vernon Blowfield to be President of Witney Roadrunners in Perpetuity. This to be ratified annually by the membership at the Club AGM.
2. Martin Crabb and Jan Johanson to be Honorary Life Presidents of Witney Roadrunners. This is to be ratified annually by the membership at the Club AGM.

Some discussion was held and the proposal was approved by the members at the meeting.

1. **Nomination of Officers and Committee for 2018/19** –

The following nominations were received by the Secretary for Officers and Committee for 2018/19 –

**Position Nominee Proposed Seconded**

Chairman John McCormac Ian Fowler Richard Stockting

Secretary Lyn Hopkins Lucy Harris Paul Rushby

Treasurer Richard Stockting Ian Fowler Steve Hopkins

**General Committee**

Steve Hopkins Nick Morley Paul Rushby

Mike Miles Nick Morley Rachel Stanley-Evans

Andy Church Lyn Hopkins Steve Hopkins

Regina Lally Lyn Hopkins Steve Hopkins

Nick Morley Rachel Stanley-Evans Lucy Harris

Rachel Stanley-Evans Lucy Harris Mike Miles

Paul Rushby Lucy Harris Lyn Hopkins

Lucy Harris Paul Rushby Lyn Hopkins

Ian Fowler John McCormac Lyn Hopkins

Trevor Jennings Mike Miles Nick Morley

Darlene Burkett Lyn Hopkins Steve Hopkins

Tony Burkett Lyn Hopkins Steve Hopkins

There being no objections, all nominees were elected onto the Witney Roadrunners Committee by the members present at the meeting.

1. **Ratification of Life Members** –

Confirmed by Proposal No. 3 – President – Vernon Blowfield

**Life Presidents** – Martin Crabb

Jan Johanson

**Life Vice Presidents** – John McCormac

Lyn Hopkins

Mike Miles

Tony Lock

1. **A.O.B.** – No AOB had been received by the Secretary prior to the meeting, therefore there was nothing to discuss at this part of the meeting.

**Members attending the AGM** –

John McCormac, Lyn Hopkins, Richard Stockting, Steve Hopkins, Anne Rouget, David Rouget, Dan Wymer, Tamsyn Wymer, Vicki Hopkins, Matthew Lock, Regina Lally, Darlene Burkett, Jamie Jones, Billy Rendell, Sam Upton, Graham Ferris, Callum Hodnett, Brian Moore, Bob Green, John Abrams, Jan Johanson, Martin Crabb, John Ashton, Jeanette Ashton, Paul Rushby, Lisa Holland, Nick Morley, Dennis, Trevor Jennings, Laurent Le Texier, Keith Morgan, Hannah West, Lucy Harris, Tony Burkett, Rachel Stanley-Evans, Jacqui Gamage, Jen Horsman, Toby Clarke, James Field and Tony Lock. (40)

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

The date of the first committee meeting is to be held 11th April 2018.

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