**MINUTES OF THE WITNEY ROADRUNNERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 21ST MARCH 2019**

1. **Welcome by the Chairman** – John McCormac welcomed all to the 2019 Witney Roadrunners Annual General Meeting.
2. **Apologies** – Hannah Makins, Paul Molyneaux, Vicki Hopkins, Chris Miles, Lucy Harris, Graham LeGood, Judith LeGood, Hannah West, Gloria Raynor, Sharon Christie, Ann Rouget, Heather Smith, Frazer Howard, Rachel Stanley-Evans, and Matthew Lock.
3. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held March 2018** – The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting held. Proposed by Toby Clarke and seconded by David Rouget.
4. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
5. **Chairman’s Report** – John McCormac reported –

He give a warm welcome to our Life Presidents (and founder members), Martin Crabb and Jan Johanson as well as our Life Vice Presidents, Lyn Hopkins, Mike Miles, Tony Lock and himself.

John said he was in his third term as Chairman and once again, the same as last year, he is immensely proud to be Chairman, to have the support of a strong and willing committee and see over a great bunch of athletes, runners and above all friends.

John said that he was sure that all present knew who the hardworking committee members were, and hopefully will be in the future, at this point he asked the committee to stand.

We have enthusiastic Club Captains appointed this year Sam Upton, Lucy Harris, Melanie Cassidy and Bertie Field. There are many others that are not on the committee, but never the less still put their own time and efforts into this club and its events to make all the events successful and make this club what it is, so a big thank you to you all.

Our membership continues to grow, we seem to have sorted out our growing pains on the Tuesday and Thursday runs, thanks to everyone being a little more vigilant and taking a bit more care.

On the sporting front we have had many successes this year, too many outstanding individuals to name. We have had race winners, Championship winners, County medal winners, Age Category winners, Cross Country winners and Cross Country promotion – fantastic, but in all honesty we are all winners, all competing, all striving and pushing, all racing even if it is against ourselves and that damn watch! The support given when out competing, no matter what the event, was outstanding this year, there was a really good “feel good” factor at all the events we did, John said personally he loves to put on the WRR race vest and feel part of a great club.

When a prospective new member asked him “What do I get if I join WRR, what do I get for my £20? He had to think….

Well, you get to turn up here every week, listen to him for about 10 minutes (John said that was a bonus!), a route is given to you so that you know where you are going, someone looks after you when you are out there, you have a running buddy, you get free advice (lots of it), you get free coaching, you get the experience of 60+ runners every week (if you want), you run with lots of like-minded people to help and encourage you. You get London Marathon entries, London Marathon marshalling, motivation entries, Eynsham Challenge, a league to compete in, Club Handicap, social events – the list goes on, there is in fact everything you need. As far as the new comer is concerned, it just happens, seamless, coordinated and friendly, just turn up, run, go home and then say what a good club we are!

That’s what all our members do, make you feel welcome, not just by John, not just the committee, but all of you, every member of this club, and that’s why John is proud to be Chairman.

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – Richard Stockting tabled the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018.

RS thanked Ian Fowler for checking the accounts to confirm all was well.

The club funds stand at £2,716 as at the year end.

Total income for the year £22,341 and expenditure £23,067.

RS said that all was good as far as he was concerned, he has no worries.

1. **Adoption of the Accounts** –

Proposed by John Abrams and seconded by Bertie Field.

1. **Junior Report** – Mike Miles reported –

The main source of our success continues to come from the Sportshall League where our youngsters finished at the top in 4 out of 8 categories, collecting individual medals as well as team trophies.

Will Shayler, finished as overall U11 boy, along with U13 lady Edie Herbert and U15 lady Tilly Westbrook who also claimed Gold.

These three athletes were joined by 13 team mates from Witney, who all travelled to Burgess Hill for the Regional Finals, again collecting more medals.

Over the last few seasons we have stamped our mark on this competition and proved that practice makes perfect, especially with our relay work where other teams loose out to our top class demonstrations.

We are hoping to continue our indoor successes of last year, from the Sportshall to outside onto the track and field.

Although we had a number of individual record performances, we struggled as a team, and finished third in the Heart of England League where we should have won quite easily. We were beaten by teams who turned up with more athletes than we did. Mike said he could accept losing out to clubs with better athletes, but that wasn’t the case last year.

We joined this league to give our athletes different opponents to compete against, but travelling the extra miles to these Midlands venues seed too much for some. The athletes who made the trip benefitted from the experience, and many preferred these matches to the local ones.

This year will be different and we are definitely going up to division 3.

8 new club records were set last year, but none on the track, proving just how difficult it has now become.

U15 Alex Westbrook set a new record in the triple jump of 12.35 metres when he went to Alexander Stadium for the National Schools. The record had stood for 20 years.

U20 Mathew Bryce deservedly held on to his Shot Putt and Javelin County Championship status, also setting new records and finishing the javelin on the day in a down pour. It was bad enough for Mike watching, but poor Tony had drawn the short straw and was in the field officiating.

Despite the disappointment of the Heart of England League, we still had good performances throughout the age range.

Our Club Championship was again a success and so was the presentation evening.

Edie Herbert and Jack Jones picked up the most improved trophies with Lizzie McIntyre being awarded the James Watson memorial trophy for Team Athlete.

Our Cross Country season went well with Will Shayler finishing as top U11 boy.

Will moves up to U13 status next winter along with 3 other team members, so hopefully (football allowing) we should be able to mount a challenge on the Cross Country team standings, as in years gone by.

All four of our U13 ladies have another year in this age group and we are expecting big things next time out.

Tilly Westbrook was amazing this winter and was selected to compete for Oxfordshire in the Inter Counties at a very windy Loughborough and the following weekend for the schools at an even windier Leeds.

The one thing that the Cross Country seasons work will give us, is more 800m and 1500m competitors for this coming track season which is where we lost out last year.

Mike is confident that with hard work and a bit more commitment, we are heading for a good summer.

Mike thanked the coaches, committee and John McCormac.

1. **Proposal – Adoption of the England Athletics Club Safeguarding & Disciplinary Processes**. Proposed by Steve Hopkins and seconded by John McCormac.

Steve outlined the proposal to the AGM – since the formation of Witney Roadrunners in 1985 there has never been a Disciplinary Procedure as part of our Constitution. Thankfully over the years there has been no need to refer to any guidelines as any disagreements have been minor and always resolved informally.

Following a situation that arose during 2018, England Athletics advised that having no guidelines at all was a serious oversight, and left the Club and its members in a potentially very vulnerable position.

Consequently the Committee agreed that Steve should draft some guidelines, and having consulted with other Clubs and looking at what they have in place, a set of guidelines were placed on the Witney Roadrunners website, with the proviso that these were temporary, and not adopted and therefore unenforceable.

In the meantime England Athletics issued a brand new set of Disciplinary Procedures and guidelines that cover every possible scenario. England Athletics advise that all affiliated Clubs should use these guidelines, either as encased on their website, or modified to suit a Clubs circumstances.

These are formally titled –

* Club Discipline and Appeal Process
* Guidance for Disciplinary / Appeal Hearings

A couple of hard copies were available for perusal at the AGM.

In the interest of uniformity and simplicity, Steve therefore proposed that Witney Roadrunners adopted the England Athletics guidelines en bloc, and formally add them to the Constitution with immediate effect.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding for the juniors is to be adopted as well.

The meeting took a vote and all were in favour of adopting the proposal.

MM stated that in the early days of the AAA’s there was very little support and EA are trying to make amends.

All Coaches have to pass a Safeguarding Qualification and undergo DBS checks. We have a Welfare Officer for the seniors – Paul Rushby and Verity Shayler is to take the qualification for the juniors.

1. **Nomination of Officers and Committee for 2019/20** –

The following nominations were received by the Secretary for Officers and Committee for 2019/20 –

**Position Nominee Proposed Seconded**

Chairman John McCormac Lyn Hopkins Paul Rushby

Secretary Lyn Hopkins Paul Rushby Trevor Jennings

Treasurer Richard Stockting Steve Hopkins Lyn Hopkins

**General Committee**

Steve Hopkins Mike Miles Nick Morley

Mike Miles Steve Hopkins Nick Morley

Andy Church Lucy Harris Ian Fowler

Regina Lally Steve Hopkins Lyn Hopkins

Nick Morley Lyn Hopkins Steve Hopkins

Rachel Stanley-Evans Nick Morley Mike Miles

Paul Rushby Trevor Jennings Lucy Harris

Lucy Harris Andy Church Ian Fowler

Ian Fowler James Field Mike Miles

Trevor Jennings Lucy Harris Andy Church

Melanie Cassidy Rachel Stanley-Evans Nick Morley

Lindsey Smith Rachel Stanley-Evans Lyn 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** –

**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, David Rouget, Dan Wymer, Tamsyn Wymer, Jamie Jones, Sam Upton, Bob Green, John Abrams, Jan Johanson, Martin Crabb, John Ashton, Jeanette Ashton, Paul Rushby, Lisa Holland, Nick Morley, Dennis, Trevor Jennings, Keith Morgan, Lindsey Smith, Rachel Stanley-Evans, Jen Upton, Allie Maybrey, Tony Lock, Nick Key, Lee Vanstone, Melanie Cassidy, James Field, Toby Clarke, Ian Fowler, Andy Church and Mike Miles

The meeting closed at 9.41pm.

The date of the first committee meeting is to be held 10th April 2019, 7.30pm in The Jacob Room at the High Street Methodist Church.aHa