

Gala Harriers Annual General Meeting

Friday 19th October 2018

British Legion Galashiels



Present:

Gerry Moss (CTO)	Joeleen McKean	Charlotte Hendry	Sara Green
Neil Renton	Tommy Knox	Gavin Brown	Jan Brown
Jill Paterson	Kristina Noreikaite	Tim Darlow	Fraser Rankin
Tony Lunn (Treasurer)	Gillian Duncan	Graeme Murdoch (President)	Gary Trewartha
Billy McCulloch			

Apologies:

Lyndsay Paterek	Jen Knox	Lindsay Dun	Yan Horsburgh
Karen Haldane	Eileen Nicol	Anne Purves	David Hunter
Justin Mihulka	Heather Rankin	Bob Johnson	

The president welcomed all to the meeting, The minutes of the last AGM held on 24th October 2017 were deemed an accurate account and proposed by Gerry Moss and seconded by Neil Renton.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Graeme Murdoch)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GALA HARRIERS ATHLETICS CLUB

FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2018

Can I start by welcoming everybody to tonight's Annual General meeting. It's great to see a healthy turnout of members, coaches, and parents to hear about the progress that the club has made over the last 12 months. Either that or the lure of Bob Johnson putting his hand in his pocket to raffle a bottle of champagne was too much for everybody and that's why you're all here!

In many respects, I'm sad to be sitting here tonight as it marks the end of a really quick two-year term. I've enjoyed it hugely, working with an incredible committee, the social aspect, helping to provide a real community club that services Galashiels and the wider area. Most importantly I've been able to give something back to a club that has done so much for me on a personal and athletics level.

As I said at this point last year, I owe a huge amount of gratitude to the committee members (or trustees) for all of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the club moving forward on a daily basis. Their dedication cannot be emphasised enough and the work that goes on behind the scenes is quite simply staggering. Having one of the largest clubs in the Borders is all well and good but with that status comes an increasing volume of responsibility to ensure that our club has the best

structure and governance to represent and look after it's swelling membership. Volunteers are the key to any thriving community sports club/organisation and we are no different. At this point, I would make a plea to anybody here who is not on the committee to really think about stepping forward to offer to help over the next 12 months. A number of committee members are stepping down tonight after long service on the committee. It's a great experience to volunteer and we all learn new skills from being in such roles. You don't have to be an athlete, runner, coach to be involved. One of the key strengths over the last 2 years has been the addition of parents to the committee who have also brought a slightly different but equally welcome perspective to the committee.

We have continued to invest in the partnership project "Club Together" to ensure that we have the dedicated time of a club officer to strengthen the infrastructure of the club. Gerry's role has been to essentially strengthen the governance of the club to make us fit for the future, grow membership and develop a quality workforce. I firmly believe that without Gerry's dedicated time we would not be in the position we are now as a reputable club with a local and national presence. Furthermore, membership continues to be strong and junior numbers are up on last year to over the 200 mark making us one of the strongest junior clubs around. I'm sure Gerry will update on membership in his report but one of the areas that I highlighted last year was a requirement to boost the senior membership numbers that had slipped a bit. True to form, Gerry responded and used many of our participation club events to recruit some new members, making Bob Johnson eat his words at the same time as senior membership climbed over 100 yet again.

It is no coincidence that the presence of a paid part time role strengthens the club, in partnership with Scottish Athletics and Live Borders and I'd like to thank both for their continued time, support, and investment.

We continue to be fortunate to benefit from the input of a strong band of coaches and helpers who coach through the week and support athletes at weekends. As numbers grow, particularly in the junior section, we have benefited from an increase in parent helpers. Please get involved if you bring children to the track on a Thursday. Either put your trainers on and do some running with the senior session or offer to help with the juniors. You don't have to do a coaching course. Your assistance with supervising kids and moving them between stations, raking a long jump pit etc would be hugely appreciated. Many will under estimate the amount of time that goes into planning warm ups, road sessions, cross country sessions, strength and conditioning classes but I generally believe that we provide quality sessions that allow all our members to achieve and progress. As you'll hear in due course, we would like to have a dedicated coach coordinator who looks at coordinating coaching rotas with input from the rest of the coaches and who coordinates regular coach meetings to discuss all the current issues.

A specific area that the committee have continued to focus on is that of events and races both locally and further afield. With an already jam packed calendar locally and nationally, we have to be careful about running races for races sake but at the same time realising that events can be an excellent opportunity to raise club funds. The Eildon's three hill race attracted the East Champs this year, but the Gala 10km was disappointing in terms of numbers attending. One of our events that has now been a good fundraiser is the Easter 5km which is much more of a participation event and attracts a different group of runners which widens our profile across the area. Having witnessed the inaugural Abbotsford Trail Race last year, this year's event went from strength to strength and I see this becoming the club flagship race over the next couple of years.

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to Tim, Gary, Joeleen, and Sara in their roles as captains and vice-captains. It's a thankless task at times trying to pull teams together and complete entry forms for race after race but we always seem to get excellent numbers turning out to races. The advent of the

infamous Doodle Poll has ensured effective communication for race availability. At the very least we should be aiming to have full teams at league, east district and national races. One area that continues to be a challenge is that of junior entries for races and I would make a plea that somebody (whether a parent or club member closely associated with the juniors) takes on that role to ensure our juniors don't miss out. Jan Brown has been a master of all trades in this department and I thank her hugely for all of the work that she does to help the club but Jan is currently carrying out a minimum of three roles with the club and that is not sustainable.

We have athletes competing right across the country on an almost weekly basis and the past 12 months have been no different with Gala widely recognisable in local and national events. There are too many to mention but seniors and juniors have created memorable moments, medalling in many events and representing District and National teams. Come along to the presentation night on the 3rd of November and find out just how successful the club has been over the last 12 months.

From participation to performance, we have juniors and seniors training weekly, from those participating for fitness, health, and fun to representative level with athletes representing Scotland and East of Scotland.

The perception is that athletics is an individual sport and while everybody has their own goals, ambitions and focus on certain events, there is no doubt that the camaraderie that exists across the club is second to none and everybody should be commended for that. Gala can be heard and seen far and wide at any race event!!!!

The profile of the club continues to grow and in no small part due to the quality of press coverage that we attract thanks to Jeni Brus. She is always busy behind the scenes collating results, photos quotes to ensure the local press continues to cover our achievements. You can all aid that process by giving Jeni results and times. She will do the rest!!

Overall it's been another fantastic year for the club but that has happened due to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of everybody involved. If I was to pick out a highlight from the last 2 years then it would have to be the financially stable position that we now find ourselves in. When I was elected as President, we were certainly in a much more insecure position but by introducing track charges, agreeing a standard track fee with Live Borders, and working hard to raise funds from club events, we are in an excellent position. We have been very fortunate to have benefited over the last year from a benefactor who left the club a substantial amount of money. William Lindsay was a former club member who in recent years would often turn up at the Hollybush 10km and Club XC Champs to watch the race. Upon his death last year, he left substantial funds to a number of community sports clubs in the local area. This donation of £20k is not something that we should use for general day to day running of the club and we would welcome suggestions about how we put these funds to good use.

It's been an absolute honour to have served as President over the last two years. I hope that we can find a new president who will take the club forward. It's a rewarding role that comes with amazing support from the committee and members. I can't wait to see how the club moves forward in the coming months and years.

Thanks again for everybody's support.

Gala Harriers Club Together Report 2018

Club Development

Charitable Status achieved in 2017. This is the first year full year the club is operating **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**. (SCIO). The first set of accounts to be submitted to the charity regulator by the end of the year.

Volunteer Recruitment and Development

Coaching and Coach Development

Coaches education Gavin Brown working towards level 2 Athletics coach

Gerry Moss & Kristina Noreikaite completed physical prep movement and dynamics level four.

Kristina Noreikaite completed Event Group Sprints and Hurdles Online (EGS&HONLINE-MODULE) Event Group Jumps Online module.

Gillian Duncan Jen Knox completed coaching assistant level 1

The following volunteers attended an assistant officials training course at Tweedbank

Anthony	Lunn
Alexandra	Church
Alexandra	Church
Kristina	Noreikaite
Lyndsay	Paterek
Neil	Christie
Gillian	Duncan
Gerry	Moss

Athlete Recruitment and Development

Junior membership continues to grow now at 192 members with at least a dozen on a come and try basis. This is more than any previous year. Senior membership is steady with a few members renewing recently. Senior membership now at 102. There are a few that need to be chased up.

Partnership with active schools running sessions in Melrose, Earlston, Selkirk Stow, Clovenfords and Galashiels.

Competition

Four open-graded competitions with 82 entered August 18. Club Championships. Athletes competing in various Open Graded competitions Livingston Meadowmill. As part of team borders a number winning forth valley league forth year in a row and representing Presidents select team in final match at Grangemouth. Eildon Hill race good turnout with 94 taking part. Abbotsford House trail race now in its second year going well with great feedback on venue and route with 84 Seniors and 70 plus juniors taking part. As time was getting short the bespoke medal will be ordered for 2019 race. Also looking at putting together a team for the U12 indoor superteams at the Emirates Arena Glasgow.

Treasurers Report

Tony Lunn outlined the clubs financial position for the period 1st April 2017 – 29th March 2018. Bank balance 29st March 2018 showed a healthy balance of **£38,055.21**. The total value of the club including assets (Equipment and club kit) was **£40,341.21**.

2017-18 summary of expenditure and income available on request.

Membership Fees

- Senior £40
- Junior £35
- Family £100

With the club in a strong financial position it was proposed to maintain membership fees, this was approved unanimously by all members present. Please note fees reduce to half price from 1st October then again 1st January

Election of trustees and other key positions

President no nominations this will be taken up at the next committee meeting

Secretary No takers again this will be taken up at the next committee meeting

Club Captains

Gary Trewartha and Tim Darlow will continue as male club captains proposed by Billy McCulloch and seconded by Tony Lunn

Joeleen McKean will continue as ladies club captain proposed by Sara Green seconded by Gillian Duncan

Sara Green as ladies vice-captain proposed by Tony Lunn and seconded by Jan Brown

Coach Co-Ordinator no takers, however, Gavin Brown indicated that he would consider this position, will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

General Committee Members

Charlotte Hendry proposed by Gerry Moss seconded by Joeleen McKean

Tim Darlow to oversee Eildon Hill race 2019 proposed by Gerry Moss seconded by Joeleen McKean

Graeme Murdoch to stay on the committee

Gary Trewartha will take over the role as press secretary

AOB

Presentation night 3rd November 2018

Confirmation that Neil Renton is on the shortlist for Scottish Club Coach of the year 2018.

Date of next AGM to follow

