



Gala Harriers AGM Minutes 09/11/24 @ 7.00pm in The Legion

Present:

Neil Christie	Elaine Christie
Gerry Moss	Gary Trewartha
Tony Lunn	Billy McCulloch
Lisa Dalglish	Lindsay Dun
Heather Rankine	Elaine Henderson
Gina Allen	Eileen Nicol
Katie Rourke	Julie Decoteau
Fiona Guthrie	Javier Unibazo
Anne Purves	Andrea Orduna
Shenagh Simmons	Lizzie MacLeish
Keith Cockburn	Daniel Bennett
Michelle Cockburn	Frankie McElroy
Emma Dennison	Andrew Jackson
James Dennison	Polly Cregan
Gill Duncan	Ian Stewart.
Ross Dalglish	
Bob Johnston	
Charlotte Hendry	
Shelagh King	
Gary Trewartha	
Bob Johnson	
Fiona Guthrie	
Shelagh King	
Jill Paterson	

Apologies: David Hunter

Item	Notes	Action by
1	Welcome & Apologies Attendance & Apologies as noted above.	



Item	Notes	Action by
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>Billy McCulloch proposed Seconded by Tony Lunn</p>	
3	<p>Chairs Report</p> <p>Neil reported that 2024 has been an extremely busy and successful year for the club. With membership numbers remaining buoyant in all categories.</p> <p>Neil summarised our season as follows:</p> <p>We have continued to hold our annual program of club races. This started with the Ladhope junior and senior cross-country races back in December and continued with the Kaeside 5k in May, the senior 800m in July, the Hollybush 10k and Henderson race in September and finally this morning's club XC championship and Neil Potts handicap.</p> <p>We have also hosted events at the Tweedbank track. This has included open graded meetings, the very well attended annual junior club championships in September and the annual Team Borders trials for junior athletes.</p> <p>46 of the club's junior athletes represented Team Borders both in the East District Cross Country League and at the Forth Valley League meetings where they made a major contribution to Team Borders regaining the Division 1 title.</p> <p>As well as our club events, we hosted the Eildon 3 Hill Race and the Junior Hill Race in June which continue to attract runners from around the country and south of the border and offer a tough but very scenic challenge to competitors. Neil offered special thanks to Tim and Lisa for their efforts in co-ordinating these races.</p> <p>Neil also talked about Gala Harriers continued support for the popular Borders XC Series and this year Gala hosted the final series race in and around the Gala Policies with the series awards being presented in the nearby Focus Centre.</p> <p>We hosted the Abbotsford Trail Races in August. Although entry numbers have declined over the past few years, these races offer an excellent opportunity to enjoy the varied terrain in our beautiful local area.</p> <p>2024 has been a very successful year for our junior and senior athletes. We have had athletes selected to represent East of Scotland, Scotland, Scottish Schools, Scotland Masters and Great Britain. There has also been considerable individual and team success in cross-country, road races, hill running, ultra events and track and field over the past year.</p> <p>The Joggers group continues to flourish with joggers participating in their own and club events over the years. Neil offered his thanks to Charlotte, Anne, and their team for their ongoing commitment.</p>	



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	<p>Neil highlighted that we continue to arrange social events to give members the opportunity to engage in a more relaxed and informal environment.</p> <p>We had a well-attended Christmas party at The Townhouse in Melrose and this year's party will be at Lilliardsedge.</p> <p>The annual New Year run on January 2nd between Tweedbank and Lauder also offered members the opportunity to burn off a few festive calories and meet socially afterwards.</p> <p>Tempest Brewery have continued to support a number of our races and we have continued to take advantage of the brewery tap room as a great local venue for post-race refreshments and refuelling.</p> <p>We hosted a Club Review meeting back in March which offered members an opportunity to raise and discuss a number of issues with the aim of further improving the club. These included participation, communication and training. Some progress has been made, including the re-establishment of the weekly physical preparation sessions and improvements to the club website. However, there is still much more to do and it is Neil's intention to hold a further meeting early next year to agree priorities for 2025.</p> <p>Neil reported that we all very proud that the ongoing efforts of our team to support athletics in the Borders has also been recognised at a national level with Gerry receiving a prestigious Eric Liddell award in August to acknowledge the huge contribution he makes to athletics locally.</p> <p>Gerry and Gillian Todd were also recipients of awards the recent Club Sport Ettrick and Lauderdale annual awards evening.</p> <p>Neil reminded everyone that the above success is of course impossible without the contribution of a wide range of people and, on behalf of the club, expressed his gratitude to everyone who has helped over the past year.</p> <p>Neil gave special mention to the following groups:</p> <p>Coaches, parent helpers and junior athlete helpers – We are so fortunate to continue to benefit from our dedicated team of coaches and helpers.</p> <p>Race co-ordinators, race marshals and Tweedbank helpers – These are vital tasks and without these people we would have no races or track and field events.</p> <p>Committee – Neil thanked his fellow committee members for their hard work over the past year and for the support they have gave in Neil's first year in this role.</p>	
4	<p>Club Together Officer</p> <p>Gerry reported that he's delighted to have been in the Club Together position for approx. 10 years. We can see the difference being part of a club can make to people's lives.</p>	



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	<p>Our junior section has really grown. This is in part due to the Future Stars sessions that Gerry delivers to approx. 4 Primary schools per week offering Run Jump and Throw sessions in partnership with Active Schools. In recent months sessions have been expanded to Berwickshire with weekly sessions alternating between Eyemouth and Duns.</p> <p>Gerry is delighted at membership levels and has had a great response to sessions in Duns and Eyemouth with back to back classes being held. There is great potential in these sessions. We are seeing a demand outside of the normal reach of the club. Some athletes from these sessions have entered Borders XC series.</p> <p>We currently have 95 senior members and 195 junior members. Junior membership is up by 10% this year. We also have 9 athletes attending the adapted athletics group. Total members of 299. This is the highest total for a while.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Accounts have been audited and approved.</p> <p>Opening balance - £43,660.52 Closing balance - £40,687.13 Almost a £3000 loss Value of assets £3181.54 Races £601.66 Membership £7882.60 Training Income £2886.02 (Honesty Boxes) Clothing -£1943.90 (spent lots on kit for coaches this year) Equipment -£62.35 Courses £3049.50 (training for coaches) Other £4820.92 Club Together £4467.00</p> <p>Tony spent some time breaking the costs down into more detail. He clarified "other" costs and explained that entering athletes into races is a considerable cost to the club.</p> <p>Honesty box money has dipped slightly. We will keep an eye on this in the coming year. We don't want to enforce payment and an honesty scheme is a better way to manage income.</p> <p>We have posted a loss over the past couple of years. As a charity we are looking to break even. We will look to address the loss situation.</p> <p>£20,000 still red circled and decision still to be made about how this will be spent. (money received from William Lindsay).</p>	



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	<p>Received £1500 from Rowan Boland Trust & £1700 from Tom Stillie Trust (which is being wound up).</p> <p>Gift Aid reclaim – still to be finalised. We should be able to claim back around £3000.</p> <p>Online Banking – This is now being trialled.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Membership Fees:</p> <p>Membership Fees – start 1st April (50% reduction from October). Propose increase from £40 to £50 senior, £35 junior (no increase) , £100 to £110 family. As a charity, we are willing to give free membership if needed.</p> <p>Session fees to remain the same - £2 at venue. £1 for off road sessions.</p> <p>Joggers costs to remain the same.</p> <p>These fees were passed at AGM.</p> <p>Motions to be passed:</p> <p>Constitution Change – Add clause to acknowledge Disability membership – motion passed.</p> <p>Existing clause – one person can authorise electronic transactions. Been trialling this over the last year. Motion passed.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Election of Office Bearers:</p> <p>Treasurer – Tony Lunn – Gerry Moss proposed, seconded by Bob Johnston</p> <p>Secretary – Eileen Nicol – Gill Lunn proposed, seconded by James Dennison</p> <p>Chairperson – Neil Christie – Tony Lunn proposed, seconded by Charlotte Hendry</p> <p>Welfare Officer – Gillian Lunn. Charlotte Hendry proposed, seconded by Billy McCulloch</p> <p>Race & Events Coordinator – agreed to allocate races to different people to organise throughout the year.</p> <p>Press Officer – Lisa Dalgliesh – Neil Christie proposed, James Dennison seconded.</p> <p>Club Captains:</p> <p>Mens Captain – James Dennison, Bob Johnston proposed, seconded by Gill Lunn</p> <p>Ladies Captain – Katie Rourke, Gillian Lunn proposed, seconded by Gerry Moss.</p> <p>Coach Coordinator – Gary Trewartha, Billy McCulloch proposed, seconded by Tony Lunn</p> <p>Trustees: Tony Lunn, Graeme Murdoch, Billy McCulloch, Jill Paterson, Tommy Knox, Neil Christie Proposed by Gerry Moss, seconded by Tony Lunn</p> <p>Committee Members:</p> <p>Frankie McElroy joining – Neil Christie proposed, seconded by James Dennison</p> <p>Julie Decoteau joining – Anne Purves proposed, seconded by Tony Lunn</p>	



Item	Notes	Action by
	Committee Members: Gerry Moss, Lisa Dalgleish, Elodie Petit, Heather Rankine, James Dennison, Gary Trewartha, Lizzie MacLeish, Billy McCulloch, Gillian Lunn, Jill Paterson, Anne Purves, Katie Rourke	
8	AOB Money in Bank – Tony going to propose to move into two accounts – one for interest and one for working account. Will propose this at the next committee meeting. Bob Johnson – Idea of people receiving a free vest when they join club. Agreed that this would be discussed further at the next committee meeting.	
9	Date of next meeting: To be held at around the same time in 2025. Date TBC closer to meeting date.	