

FLEET & CROOKHAM

Athletic Club



Annual General Meeting 26th November 2017
Church Crookham Park Memorial Hall

Start 6:00pm

Introduction

David Long, Club Chairman, welcomed everyone present remarking that attendance had increased from last year. (*approx. 100 attended*)

Apologies

Stan Boardman, Andrew Driver, Catherine Timson, Darren Williams, Mike Hewison, Mark McGuinness, Rob Coates, Aimee Heming, Janet Leggett, Douglas Smith & Elaine Bradshaw.

Minutes of AGM 11th November 2016

Accepted as a true and accurate record:

Proposed – Lyndsey Webb

Seconded – Debbie Duncalf

Vote of Members – Unanimous

Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by agenda items.

Treasurer's Report - David Haines

Note: copies of the report were available for inspection at the AGM.

The Club is in a good state of financial health.

David explained that the club breaks even regarding membership fees but the funds raised from the Half-marathon and Fleet 10k are reserved for future capital spending such as the New Home Project.

Open floor for questions – None

Acceptance of accounts:

Proposed – Dom Lobo

Seconded – Edward Pumphrey

Vote of Members – Unanimous

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner:

We had intended to continue with the appointment of Ms Hilary Parmenter for the independent examination of our accounts as required by the Charities Commission but David Haines was advised just before the AGM that Hilary is no longer available to continue in this role. We had one person from the attendees (Stephanie Greenwood) who said she would volunteer for the role and this will be followed up and agreed by the Trustees in due course.

Membership Report – Sarah Seddon

Sarah reported that membership is currently 130 seniors of which 8 are second claim and 169 juniors. To make it easier for runners to join and for members to renew, an improved process is

being developed. It is anticipated that an online payment method such as PayPal or similar will be integrated into a new website, which is being prototyped. The attendees were asked for suggestions and feedback on the current process and how they think it could be improved.

Junior Section Report – Evelyn Farrell

Evelyn reported that the U15s had won the Border League cross-country last season but the juniors are no longer in that league for this season. Evelyn presented an impressive list of competitions that the juniors had competed in over the last year:

Border XC League, Hampshire XC League, Lord Wandsworth XC Series, Wessex Track and Field, Various Open Track Meetings, Hampshire XC Championships, Terry Fox 5K, Frimley 5K and 10K, Fleet 5K and 10K & Hartley Wintney Fun Run.

The juniors are a great asset to the club regarding their help at events and special thanks were mentioned for the warm-up team who performed at our two club races and also at the Frimley Park Hospital 10k. Two juniors are now qualified as coaches (Ciaran Farrell & Ryan Powell) and two others are helping the club as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award (Caitriona Farrell & Oliver Morris).

Plans for the coming year are to hold a first aid course for juniors led by St Johns Ambulance; to hold a social evening with barbecue and games and to hold information evenings for parents.

The club communicates with the juniors / parents via the closed Facebook group, the club website and via email. Evelyn concluded by saying a ‘massive thank you’ to all the coaches and helpers without whom the section wouldn’t function. Evelyn reminded everyone that we still need more parent helpers to ease the workload on the current team.

Senior Section Report – Penny Abbott

Penny reported that the number of senior members had increased by 25, with increasing numbers attending regular training nights. The new members include some second claim runners who want to run in leagues that their clubs do not compete in. We had three England Athletics coached sessions delivered by Nick Anderson, which were both informative and very popular, providing lots of useful tips. We have four regular training sessions per week offering all types of training on all surfaces.

We communicate via weekly emails and via the closed club Facebook page.

We hold monthly handicap races and out and back challenges, which provide measures for runner’s performance. We have held road and trail championships for the last two years, which encourage more club participation in local races. We are in two cross-country leagues the most successful of which is the Southern CC League where we came overall 5th out of 23 clubs - an impressive result for a small club. There were other successes:

Our mixed team came 15th out of 201 in the Mizuno Endure 24 hour relay race in the summer; One of our ladies teams came 1st in the Hart 4 relay race in August, the men’s team coming 3rd. Our ladies team came 2nd in the Fleet 10k. We also had the 4th male Hampshire Running Club team at the 2017 Fleet Half Marathon and a female Hampshire Running Club team that came 6th. Many attained PBs in their races this year in all distances. Rich Jackson got a special mention as this year he ran his first marathon and ultra in the same weekend totaling 58 miles! We’ve also had many successes for our vets winning age category places and we have welcomed O17 juniors who have run with us in various events and training sessions.

Penny concluded by saying ‘What successes will we all achieve in 2018? Let’s keep F&C AC seniors and vets at the top of the local race scene – “the small club with the big punch”’

Fleet Half-marathon Report – Penny Abbott

March 2017 saw the 36th anniversary of the Fleet Half-marathon, which was the 4th year sponsored by Brooks as our main partner and we also retained our other main partners – Alton Sports, Barons BMW of Farnborough, EveryOne Active (the management company for Hart Leisure Centre), The Park Club, Mackenzie Smith and Alternative Outdoor (Fleet).

The race was dedicated to Lucy Pygott - with a balloon release before the race started and Lucy's Dad successfully completed the run – his first half-marathon. The race sold out – 3600 places including 600 military. The revised course worked well resulting in fewer road closures. We had fantastic support from over 300 volunteers on the day – marshals, water station teams, kit tent, F&C Juniors doing the warm up and medal hanging/goody bags and of course 8 months of work by the organising committee.

This year we had aerial camera footage to add to the appeal, which is being released on the event Facebook page and website. The race is considered to be great value for money, brilliantly supported by encouraging marshals and residents and one which people keep coming back to – we must be doing something right.

Once again F&C AC should be very proud of themselves – the feedback for the half-marathon is amazing and it really is one of the best events in the area.

Next year we return to our former sponsor ASICS. We had been partners with ASICS for 10 years – ending in 2013 when they had a change in marketing focus. Brooks have now had a change in focus and ASICS were delighted to have us back when they were approached.

All the other partners from 2017 will continue to support us. The nominated charity will be Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (North Hants branch). The maximum entry numbers have been increased to 4000 and there is to be a junior fun run, which Lucy's parents have agreed will be named 'Lucy's Loop'. Maximum entry number is 200. All finishers will receive a t-shirt, medal and will run over part of the half-marathon route experiencing the crowds at the Oatsheaf crossroads. A change in requirements by Hampshire Highways does mean we have had to enter an agreement with a traffic management company. The positives of this is that it does take away a lot of hard work from the team over race weekend and also puts the responsibility of the traffic management planning before and during race weekend onto an external partner - the negative is an extra bill for £9.5k but we have no choice – if we don't do this, there will be no half-marathon. At the time of writing there are over 1000 entries to the HM and 45 to the Fun Run. All the plans are on schedule but we do need more volunteers before and during the event. Penny noted that local volunteering can lead to greater things such as volunteering in national and international athletic events.

Fleet 10k Report – Richard Jackson

Richard, as Race Director, is planning to hold the event again in 2018. The 2017 event was filled early with 1300 entries. We have had good feedback from the race. Road closures will impact next year as we will have to hire a traffic management company for this and this will result in an increase to the entry fees. We have reached maximum capacity for the number of entries. We need more volunteers and an assistant or full race director to enable the event to continue. E.g. an assistant could help with the various reports that have to be submitted.

New Home Report – Declan Farrell

Declan recapped the background to the New Home project: the New Home committee was set up some years ago to find a new base for the club because of redevelopments at the Peter Driver centre. The committee is responsible to and reports into the Board of Trustees. The committee is comprised of Trustees, club members and parents.

He said that those of you that were here last year may recall that as a result of our meetings with the parish council, we were progressing through to the next phase of the plan which was to appoint a professional project manager. We interviewed a number of companies and at the beginning of this

year we appointed James Bretel of Supergreen Architecture as project manager. James accompanied us to one of our meetings with the council and as a result we felt we required a written statement of intent before we began to invest any capital in the project. We held a further meeting with the council facilities sub-committee to address this and left the action with them to get back to us with a clarification.

However over this period there were also changes in personnel on their subcommittee, as some councilors had not stood for re-election. Having not heard anything from the parish council over the summer. We contacted them again in an effort to move things along. We received the following response from the council:

'Church Crookham Parish Council agreed at its meeting held 13th November, that it is still too early in the process to be able to respond to the requests for guarantees, terms etc. in relation to the Athletics facilities at Crookham Park. CCPC is however, open to considering Fleet & Crookham Athletics Club proposals and as much as the parish council would like to engage in these discussions to move them along, it is unable to do so at this time due to the uncertainty of when handover of the area is likely to take place.

The land identified in the S106 agreement is to deliver a grassed area suitable for a running track. Some remedial work was identified to deliver such a facility and work has been carried out, but early indications suggest this is not adequate and hence the potential for a delayed handover.

The Parish Council holds an Annual Parish Assembly in May which is a less formal meeting open to residents to hear about the activities of the PC throughout the year and in the year to come. The Parish Council would like to invite the Athletics Club to present your vision to the public outlining your proposals for additional facilities; explain what funding you have to support installation and ongoing maintenance of the investment being proposed for the area and to explain the evidence base for the demand for these facilities in Church Crookham.

The Parish Council believe this would be a good opportunity for community engagement that would benefit the ongoing discussions between the Parish Council and the Athletics Club. This meeting is due to take place on Wednesday May 9th and please feel free to let me know if following your AGM you would welcome this opportunity.'

Declan continued by saying 'This effectively puts us back for an unknown period and does not address the important questions regarding surrounding fencing, public access, insurance and length of lease. The current situation is one where we can still progress this with Church Crookham Parish Council however given the lack of any written statement of intent about the site it would be prudent to also pursue other avenues. The club are in a strong position financially and I know some members have already put forward thoughts on how we should progress, indeed the New Homes committee would be keen to hear any thoughts and opinions you may have.'

Declan concluded 'As you know David is standing down and regrettably too so am I as other commitments are impacting the time I can give to this important role.'

Membership Fees

There will be a small increase in the club membership subscriptions for the coming year amounting to £2 per person to cover the £1 increase in UKA fees and the anticipated additional costs of providing online club payments. Affiliation to UK Athletics brings a number of benefits to members such as discounts on race entry fees, free participation in county cross-country events, club marathon places, conference places and training opportunities so it represents excellent value for money.

Proposal for 2018 - Club Membership fees to increase by £1 to cover the additional costs of providing online club payments:

Family Membership	£62 (charge based on fee for two members)
18s and over	£31
Under 18s	£23
Pensioners	£23
Second Claim / Associates	£21

Coaching fee for junior members £100 (no change)
Non-Competing Coaches £0.01
+ England Athletics Affiliation Fees (£15 per person)

The coaching fee for the juniors remains unchanged at £100. The fee is refunded if the athlete competes for the club in at least 6 competition events.

Acceptance of Proposed Subscriptions for 2018 with compulsory UKA fee £15 per member:

Proposed – Penny Abbott

Seconded – David Haines

Vote of Members – Unanimous

Chairman’s Report - Dave Long

David said that he is standing down as club chairman. He mentioned the sad loss of two long-standing members over the past year: Elaine Fearne and Jon Spelman. Jon was cleaning our club hut until just a year ago.

David went on to say that we are a small club batting well above our size. We organise two great races and have a great future ahead of us. But added that to continue in our constant theme we need more help from volunteers. The work is falling on too few members. Sarah Seddon was thanked for taking on the Membership Secretary role in place of Alison Holdway who had to step down over other commitments.

David then asked Jon Capel, the newly appointed chairman, to stand up and introduce himself. Jon thanked David Long for all his work for the club and remarked that there is so much work that goes on behind the scenes. Jon says he is going to be the ‘conductor’ and is keen to spend the accrued funds for the benefit of the club and to get more adults running.

Election of Officers

President - Malcolm Steggles

Chairman – Jon Capel (new appointment)

Vice Chair - Richard Simpson

Secretary - Penny Abbott

Treasurer - David Haines

Junior Section - Evelyn Farrell

Fleet 10K Director - Richard Jackson

Minutes Secretary - Bob Cornwell

Membership Secretary – Sarah Seddon

Past Chair – David Long

The current incumbents except David Long are willing to continue in the above posts and there were no other volunteers for the posts apart from Jon Capel who is standing for Chairman. All the above officers are Trustees with the exception of the President, Malcolm Steggles.

Acceptance:

Proposed – Stacey Marshall

Seconded – Debbie Duncalf

Vote of Members – Unanimous

Other Appointments – for info

Welfare Officer Kerry Carl

Coaching Chairman *Vacancy*

Development Officer *Vacancy*

Social Secretary *Vacancy*

P O Box 1	Edward Pumphrey
Fleet Half Marathon Director	Penny Abbott
Website	Bob Cornwell
Trophies	Debbie Duncalf
Club Kit	<i>Penny Abbott takes orders for club hoodies, hi viz bibs & kit bags.</i>
Male Team Captain	David Long (<i>track & field</i>) / Bob Cornwell (<i>cross-country</i>)
Female Team Captain	Janet Leggett

All current incumbents are willing to continue in the above posts. Volunteers are needed to fill the posts of Development Officer, Social Secretary and Coaching Chairman.

AOB

Penny had a box of surplus tee shirts left over from this year's Fleet half-marathon, which were offered free to anyone wanting one.

The club has one London Marathon place, which goes to one of the eligible runners who put their names into the annual draw. (6 applied for a place) This year David Haines pulled a name out of the hat resulting in the 2018 marathon place going to Sue Capel. If the club had 151 first claim members or more we would be able to claim two places!

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Cameron Marshall, who is the Area Manager for Alton Sports covering Alton & Farnham. He gave a short talk on the importance of wearing the right running shoes and then outlined the fitting process undertaken at their specialist shops. He explained the types of running shoe that are available, which are Road, Trail, Trail Hybrid and Racing Flats. Choice of shoe also depends on the degree of support needed for runners who roll their feet when running i.e. pronation (inward roll) or supination (outward roll), both of which cause extra stress on the ankles. Those that don't roll their feet are classed as 'neutral'. As a note of caution, some makes of shoe are a wider fitting or narrower fitting than others for the same nominal size. Club runners can enjoy a 10% discount across the wide range of sports shoes and apparel on sale in their shops.

Awards Ceremony

After a short break with refreshments, David Haines read out the names of the recipients and David Willis, who is a Life Member of the club, presented the awards.

Sam Ruffle presented the prizes to the juniors who had competed in the Handicap League.

David Long concluded the meeting by thanking all those attending and congratulating the award winners. He wished everyone success in the coming year.

The meeting closed at 19:48hrs.