



Cheltenham & County Harriers



Meeting Title	Cheltenham & County Harriers <u>A</u>nnual <u>G</u>eneral <u>M</u>eeting				
Meeting No	01/23	Date/Time	31 March 2023 (19:00 - 21:00)	Held At	Prince of Wales Stadium
Called by	Martin Foster	Chair	Crispian Webb (Vice Chair)		
Attendees signing in	Crispian Webb (CW), Elliot Prince (EP), Jo Wilkie (JW), Ed Grazier, Martin Foster (MF), Andrew Kaighin (AK), Liz Joyce, Jim Meech (JM), Ruth Bird (RB), Paul Wray, Andy Beadle, Libby Marchant (LM), Rob Grey, Lily Marchant, Vincent Thornley (VT), Ben Wade, Anna Bevan, Neil Bevan, Tony Osude (TO), Lucy Osude (LO), Gareth Picken, Marie Burnett-Hockey (MBH), Jodie Burnett-Hockey (JBH)				
Future Key Dates	• 01 April 2023 - Membership Renewal				

Agenda Items
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies 2. Minutes from 2022 AGM and Matters Arising 3. Executive Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Senior Track & Field League 2022. b. U17/U20/Senior Men's Road and Cross-Country 2022/23. c. U17/U20/Senior Women's Road and Cross-Country 2022/23. d. YDL Lower Age Group Track & Field League 2022. e. YDL Upper Age Group Track & Field League 2022. f. Young Athletes - QuadKids, Sportshall and Cross-Country (U11) & Cross-Country (U13/U15). g. Indoor Athletics 4. Finance Report 5. Life Membership Nominations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No nominations received 6. Proposals 2021/22 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. England Athletics Club & Member Affiliation Fees 2021/22. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. EA Club fees remains at £150.00 ii. EA Athlete registration fee increased to £17.00 b. Charity 2023/24 7. Election of Officers 8. AOB

1. Apologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrick Lord, Paul New, Carolyn Franks, Daniel Webb (Jacob Webb - NuStarz), Matt Hampton

2. Minutes from 2022 AGM and Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MF outlined that the only action arising from the 2022 AGM was to agree the new membership & fee structure. An EGM was convened and new structure agreed and launched to the club. • The 2022 minutes were agreed as a true record and signed off by CW/EP.

3. Executive Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MF welcomed all and passed over to CW to provide overall summary before passing to individual members of the exec to provide an update on their areas. • CW provided a brief update of the previous year, club membership bounced back to around 566 members. Outlined investment in the club leading to successful BMG and midsummer opens attracting people from the whole region including those travelling further. Electronic timing and EDM very beneficial and attractive to competitors. • CW talked about new online payment system has worked well despite a few initial hiccoughs. • Venue owned by Cheltenham Council and managed by the Cheltenham Trust. Brings with it a few challenges



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3. Executive Report

- in getting some things done. Although Hammer cage has now been brought up to spec.
- Cheltenham Council has noted that the plan is to upgrade the track at the PoW in 2024.
 - Home fixtures this coming year will be held at Blackbridge for this year
 - Charity – Glos Kidney Patient's Association; monies raised over £3k, the most ever raised.
 - Club will continue to support development of new coaching by supporting the cost in full
 - Then passed onto Team Managers to provide updates
- Senior Track & Field League 2022 (AK)
 - Update of the Senior league, placed in Div 3. Gained promotion to Division 2 in 2nd place behind Yate.
 - Notable mentions for performances which scored bonus points were Annabel Moloney, Jess Duncton, Mimi Davis, Ben Wade and Kiya Dee.
 - Extended thanks as overall team manager to those who assisted in team selection and encouraging athletes, in their representative areas. These were, Ruth Bird, Rob Grey, Carolyn Franks, Tom Samuel, Ben Wade and Jo Wilkie.
 - As well as all the officials who supported the team earning valuable points towards promotion. We will look to continue this successful formula into 2023 where the team will be in a challenging Division 2, including Birchfield Harriers & Coventry Godiva.
 - Club records were achieved on the track & field outdoors with George Watson most notably over 5000m, becoming the first ever Harrier to run under 14mins, at a BMC in Watford. Mike Curneen and Quentin McQuillian threw Shot age group records in 2022.
 - Whilst indoors earlier this year George ran further 3k and 5k records indoors stateside for Bradley University
 - Jane Horder achieved an incredible world record at the Prince of Wales and further lowered her record over 80Mh over the season. Jane secured World Masters titles in Finland and indoors in Poland along with British championship medals for Michael Gardiner.
 - Target to consolidate our position in Division 2
 - U17/U20/Senior Men's Road and Cross-Country 2022/23 (AK)
 - The rebuild and momentum of the Senior men's and ladies endurance group within the club continues to grow in both level of performance and numbers.
 - There were further good road performances across the year and medals in the respective age groups in the county road race series and individual championships.
 - Additional road fixtures for 2023 over 5k are planned to join our long standing Cleevewold & Cleeve Cuckoo races.
 - Cross country season focus remains the Birmingham League
 - The target for the men was consolidating in Division 2 for the season after a difficult previous year at the top level, and relegation from Division 1 owing to the formation of a new rival club. This was achieved with 10th position of 14 teams, of which we will look to improve on this coming winter.
 - A real highlight was the senior men securing the County title in January, and subsequently 4 men were selected to represent the Gloucestershire at the UK inter counties
 - We again hosted a league fixture for the league this February which was a successful event, further progression with hosting 2 XC fixtures across the winter.
 - We will look to increase this to 3 with a short course relays event at Plock court an additional Harriers promotion.
 - In the Gloucestershire league we secured 5th place overall, although first county based team. Several masters' medals were awarded across the age groups for the seasons performances.

U17/U20 Male Endurance Report

- The U17 age group saw strong performances from Isaac Henderson having an excellent season, almost winning a medal at English Schools with a time of 8.35 over 3000m. Isaac placed fourth again at the South West Schools XC in February, with a further year in the U20 age group to come.
- In the Gloucestershire League XC Isaac won the third fixture at home, although we scored neither a U17 nor U20 team overall for the season. Hopefully this will improve with a strong U15 cohort progressing upwards.
- Jamie Bell in the U20 age group ran often for the senior teams over cross country, road and track performing well, with vital contributions over a variety of events.



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3. Executive Report

- Several U17's and U20's stepped up to senior competition in the Midland league winning valuable points, this has always been a feature of successful teams of the past. These included endurance runs by, Bexley Turbard, Sulaiman Ouiles, Tom Gavin, Jamie Bell, Isaac Henderson and Guy Green.
- Sulaiman and Bexley in particular equally showed maturity to complete several events at league fixtures,
- Sulaiman also won the South West combined events title and placed 5th at the England championships at Bedford.

- **U17/U20/Senior Women's Road and Cross-Country 2022/23 (JW)**
 - JW updated, target to gain promotion back to Division 1 in the Midland League was achieved as champions. We finished 4th, a little disappointing not to be in the medals, particularly after a strong start, but the league (for women) is probably the highest standard and biggest I've ever seen it. It was also more a case of other clubs focussing more towards then end of season that affected our results, (eg. Western Tempo had a number of new recruits and started turning out in force.) So, given the lack of priority we had put on this league then this was a good result.
 - Ella Burfitt was stand out individual, coming 2nd SL in the League, having won the 1st fixture and never being outside top 3.
 - U20s: Kiya Dee and Tallulah Robin-Redmond both placed highly in their races (2nd and 2nd) (2nd and 6th off back of injury) but only did 2 each so no individual medals or team placing in that category.
 - U17s race in the same race as the Seniors and U20s for XC albeit they are scored separately. Isobel Watt had a strong season, finishing 1st U17 in 3 out of the 4, the other one she was suffering from a cold and finished 3. It isn't the most fiercely contested age group for complete teams, but Cheltenham do well to field a complete team throughout and taking the league win, with Milly Foster and Isobel Burfitt also both doing all 4.
 - Vets team was 3rd. and Clare Hawling picked up Gold in her age group.
 - County Championships in January seemed slightly better turned out in the women's race, including Harriers representation, than in recent years although missing many of the league contenders. Ciara Thornley finished as 2nd female and 2nd U20, and we had gold and bronze in Senior ladies, Nicole Frith and Kate Alhadeff. Ellie Balfe bronze vet 40, Jane Fairbairn Silver V45. Team gold and yet another vets bronze.
 - Doing 2 leagues means we can't push for teams at Midland and Nationals but some individuals chose to race these. At the Nationals Rach See was 154th in SL race and U17 was Isobel Watt (68th). At the Midland Champs Rach See 31st senior and Milly Foster (U17) 33rd.
 - Internationals: Kiya Dee represented England U20s at Xc in Spain and Ireland, coming 7th and 11th respectively, this winter. Autumn Road relays (4 stage), was the 1st time there was a Master's competition and we came away with bronze, (Petra, Clare, Ellie and Jane) whilst the Seniors came in a very strong 6th place. Our team for the Nationals a couple of weeks later was not as strong, so a few minutes down on Midlands' time but a very creditable 37th! (Ciara, Kiya, Jo and Ali).
 - Back in the Spring we were 15th at the Midlands. And then an amazing 20th at Nationals on which was one of the poorest turn outs I've ever witnessed. Falling at half term seemed to be a real issue.
 - Team prize at Bourton 10k last month, Ella Burfitt, taking the overall win in pb time of 35:48, Nicole Frith in 2nd also pb 36:19 having done 36:48 at Telford and Kate Alhadeff 8th and sub 40min. Ella has also done a 17:10 5k at Battersea, and 78:28 for 8th at Bath Half in the last year, great performances.
 - Clare Hawling ran a pb in Farnborough Half to qualify for her age group to represent England Masters at Chester half in May.
 - Lot of positives, growing with a lot of younger athletes coming through. Not lost many athletes.

- **YDL Lower Age Group Track & Field League 2022 (EP)**
 - YDL very regionalised with us being placed in the South West of the Midlands Premier Division. Last year we were up against Cardiff Athletics, Newport Harrier, Swansea Harriers, Swindon Harriers, Yate. We won our division across 3 fixtures and qualified for the Midlands Final.
 - We were against the top 3 teams from our division along with the top 3 from the parallel division, which included Milton Keynes Dons and Rugby and Northants. We performed well to come 2nd to Rugby and qualify for the National Finals.
 - Against the top 7 teams in the country, our U13s and U15s, so Y6 - 9 athletes, finished in 5th place - a fantastic achievement and our best ever for this age group to my knowledge.



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3. Executive Report

- YDL Upper Age Group Track & Field League 2022 (EP)
 - New management team – Libby & Elliot thanks to both
 - Breadth of events gets wider but athlete field does not
 - Competing against composite teams as a club. We narrowly missed out on reaching the regional final after tying on points with Swansea Harriers (very narrowly) and missing out only on overall athlete points. Therefore, we took place in the Playoff fixture where the team rallied and we retained our premier division place for the 2023 season.
 - Looking to change system for 2024 currently
- Young Athletes - QuadKids, Sportshall and Cross-Country (U11) & Cross-Country (U13/U15) (CW)
 - The Gloucestershire Sportshall League has now been running for 15 years and I am delighted to say that we welcomed Stroud into the fold this year, after a number of years away, to join Gloucester AC, Yate, Swindon and Dursley.
 - Next year, we hope to welcome Cirencester too.
 - Cheltenham dominated many of the age groups and had a similar number of competitors to usual competing with approx. 45 - 50 U11s, 30 U13s and 15 U15s each time. Age group wins were had by U11 boys and girls (where we dominated in many cases), U13 girls and U15 boys and girls. We did have a lull in the U13 boys this year so hopefully can build on what they did achieve this year.
 - At the Regional and Inter-County Competition, Our U11s performed exceptionally, with most of the County team coming from our club, as we have become accustomed to. The U11 boys won the South West competition with U11 girls coming narrowly 2nd and arguably it may have been 1st and may still become so. The u13 girls won their Inter-County competition and subsequently have qualified for the National finals, which take place tomorrow in Stoke on Trent (1st April 2023). The boys also performed well as did some individuals within the U15 age group.
 - We had never had a team reach the National finals before last year, where we had 3 teams do so, but arguably part of the reason for that could be that some counties did not take part due to Covid. As such, with counties back in action this year, it is an excellent achievement.
 - At cross country, our U11s had a stellar season. Although a slow start for the boys with only 4th in the first fixture, they strengthened and finished a close 2nd across the season with good numbers turning out.
 - Our girls did dominate and easily won the league as well as being first and second team at the XC County Championships in January. Some of the main scorers will remain in the age group next year, particularly for the girls, and so I expect the standard to go up if anything amongst our athletes. Cross County – Glos league
 - Cross County – Glos County champs
 - Looking forward Glos County Champs to be amalgamated within one of the league fixtures
- **U13/U15**

Glos League XC. Very succesful season overall with 42 athletes competing for the Club across the u13 / u15 boys and girls.

 - U13 girls – produced a clean sweep overall, with Evie Avery, Olivia Avery, Martha Marsden placing 1st 2nd 3rd, with the corresponding Team gold.
 - U13 boys. In the League, top five places were CCH athletes. Again, the Club took 1st 2nd 3rd (joint) through Patrick Paul, Teddy Spurr, Jack Pennel & Caleb Green; and won the Team competition.
 - U15 girls . Of the overall top 10, 6 were from CCH. Maddie Thomson won silver. In the team competition, Chelt A placed first Chelt B third.
 - U15 boys. CCH athletes Dom Martin and Sam Wilson continued their form over the winter placing 1st and 2nd respectively. In the Team competition – Chelt A placed 1st, B 3rd.

County Champs .

 - Great results, with the 13girls , 13 boys, 15 girls 15 boys all winning their respective team competitions, and with nine individual medals.

Midland Counties Road Relays, Sutton park

 - Highlights – 15 girls won silver through Olivia Avery, Evie Avery, Scarlett Eagland. In the under 15 boys – Sam Wilson, Tom Wightman and Dom Martin won bronze;



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3. Executive Report

MCAA xc relays

- Completely dominant performance from Cheltenham: 13 boys won gold through Jack Pennel/ Teddy Spurr/ Patrick Paul. 13 girls won gold - Olivia Avery, Evie Avery, Scarlett Eagland. The 15 girls also taking gold – Bluebell Heath-Smith, Amelie Paul, Maddie Thomson.

MCAA xc championships

- 13 girls won silver - Olivia Avery, Evie Avery, Scarlett Eagland, Ellie Thomson.

4. Finance Report

- The financial report talked through by MF
- EP noted issues potential increase in entry fees – hiring in photo-finish, using Blackbridge will cost us more
- Promotion of new races – despite relatively low profit margins
- Kit Sales – Club supporting national YDL final kit
- TO requested that Note on paragraph 2 relating to surplus should be changed to read reserves – MF to amend
- Proposed to the meeting & accounts accepted

5. Life Membership

- No nominations received

6. Proposals

6a England Athletics Club & Member Affiliation Fees 2020/21.

- EA Club fees remain at £150.00. **Agreed.**
- EA Members fees increased to £17.00. EA increase for 2023/24 **Agreed.**
- C&CH to review on an ongoing basis Membership fees and training fees as a result of any EA increased fees or increases in hire costs from the Cheltenham Trust

6b 2023/24 Charity

- 4 charities proposed
- Emilys Gift – voted by members as Club Charity for 2023 – CW to send out a message

7. Election of Officers

- MF stated that both Aaron Avery & Rachel See had resigned there roles prior to the meeting so would not be standing for re-election.
- MF stated that he would like to propose that the Chair & Vice-Chair roles are combined as an interim solution and that he nominates CW. Opens to the meeting for any other nominations.
- Question from the floor about who the Welfare Officers at the club are and what their role is and whether they hold any specific qualification to hold to role. CW noted that these question can be raised and answered in AOB.
- It was stated that at a meeting with parents discussing a Welfare Issue a member of the Executive has incorrectly advised the meeting that he was a welfare officer. The Exec went onto clarify that the statement should not have been made and apologised to parents for any confusion it may have caused.
- Further notes on this can be found in AoB
- The following Election of Officers for 2023/24 were agreed by all as:

Position	In-Post 2022/23	Name	Proposer	Secunder
President*	Carolyn Franks	Carolyn Franks	CW	Jo
Chairman*	Aaron Avery (resigned March 2023)	Crispian Webb	MF	RG
Vice Chairman*	Crispian Webb			
Secretary*	Martin Foster	Martin Foster	CW	AK



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7. Election of Officers

Treasurer*	Paul New	Paul New	EP	PW
Membership Secretary*	Crispian Webb	Crispian Webb	PW	MF
Coaching Co-ordinator				
Volunteer's Co-ordinator	Elliot Prince	Elliot Prince	CW	AK
Para Athletics Coordinator*	Ed Grazier & Gareth Picken	Ed Grazier & Gareth Picken	MF	CW
Welfare Officers*	Carolyn Franks, Ruth Bird, Derrick Lord	Ruth Bird confirmed she would not be standing for re-election	On hold – MF to contact remaining welfare officer	
Senior Men's Team Manager*	Andrew Kaighin	Andrew Kaighin	MF	JW
Senior Women's Team Manager*	Jo Wilkie	Jo Wilkie	CW	LJ
Youth Development League (YDL) Representative*	Elliot Prince	Elliot Prince	MF	MBH
Communications Officer*	Rachel See	Email to be sent out		
Historian	Andrew Kaighin	AK	MF	LJ
Auditor	Brian Forsbrook	Brian Forsbrook	MF	CW
Grant Officer	Vacant	Elliot to email – Fiona Saidi	EP	MF
Kit Manager	Jenny & Paul Beardsmore	Jenny & Paul Beardsmore – to confirm	MF	JW
Mental Health Officer – new role		Ruth Bird	MBH	GP

*Executive roles

8. AOB

- Item: Welfare Complaint
 - There has been an ongoing welfare investigation this year, and parents of athletes within the coaching group effected wanted their comments raised within the AGM.
 - Parents of athletes would like on record that feel they have been let down by the club in the handling of a significant welfare issue in the year.
 - Significant issues with communication right from the initial point of complaint. Short notice, but 3 weeks after initial suspension. No communication was passed on to them about an offer from other coaches to take on athletes.
 - MF and CW noted that EA had not been helpful through the process with mixed messaging and changing documentary requirements through the process.
 - Welfare officers – RB updated the meeting on the experience, reaffirming that the Club have had the welfare of athletes as the focus, and we've done what we've done to safeguard members of the club.
 - RB not standing for welfare officer again. In response to a question, RB confirmed that and noted that training for Welfare officers was provided and mandated by England Athletics.
 - MBH – had noted that she had offered her services to continue coaching the athletes but this had not taken up. Potential communication issue as parents weren't aware of this offer
 - LM - People missed out the most are the children, LM was not happy to be in the middle. Should be a complaint procedure, what circumstances, what is the process. Whole chain needs support, no child should be put at risk. Questioned also if there was support available for a coach in this situation.
 - LO – stated that a number of parents had written to the club in support of MW/SW but that these had not been acknowledged.
 - Complaints Officer – As a potential role. HR Officer for the club (independent) investigate the possibilities.



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8. AOB

- Cheltenham & County Harriers - Executive formally acknowledge that the overall investigation and welfare process could have been handled differently particularly in the nature of and timing of communications to athletes/ parents/ guardians.
- Parents would like to note that their children enjoyed being coached by Mark Wanklyn & Sally Walker and it is now likely that their children would seek to become members elsewhere despite other children having enjoyed their experience and Cheltenham Harriers.
- Item: Multi Events
- MBH – possibility of offering multi events specific competition opportunities. EP noted that he currently does all of the organisation for our existing events but it takes a significant amount of time. Potential to form a sub-committee to help reduce the workload on an individual would help if the club wishes to follow up on this proposal
- Item - VT -Photos online, for each executive on the website. It was noted that some members of the exec have photos already but would be good to have more visibility. MF noted that a review of the whole website was due to be kicked off.
- Run Through have offered spaces at the Cheltenham Half/10k event – JBH drew the submitted names - Adele Potts & Steve Bradley
- MBH – again offered training and noted that she trains, Sat morning, Monday & Wednesday, JM also offered noting that he trains Tuesday & Thursday.
- CW Closed the meeting at 21:10