



**ELY RUNNERS - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday 29th February 2016 at 7:30 pm**  
**Paradise Centre Meeting Room**

**MINUTES**

Present (35): Alan Rutterford, Richard Hill, Laura Hill, Matthew Mason, Charlie Barker, Simon Nightingale, Peter Harris, Samantha Collins-Shirley, Ross Payne, Lionel Smith, Andrew Thompson, Charlotte Cook, John Turner, Barry Graves, Gwen Graves, Andy Bonner, Louise Bonner, Emma Greaves, Sarah Bell, Roddie Shepherd, Alan Darby, Stephen Howard, Mark Bell, Sarah Bell, Alex Oakhill, Matthew Holmes, Nicky Ester, Jon Evans, Zoe Shackleton, Lauren Thomas, James Thew, Emma Fordham, Caroline Brown, Kim Askew

Apologies (3): John Crawford, Emily Knight, Darren Murfitt

Presentation of Junior Awards by Samantha Collins-Shirley:

- Most improved Male Junior 2015 (AR, SCS)  
Alex Oakhill – Present to collect award
- Most improved Female Junior 2015 (AR, SCS)  
Libby Bell – Not present, award held by SCS

Presentation by Chairman of Annual Trophies and Awards:

- Eric Drury Shield for the Most Improved New Member 2015 (Committee)  
Gwen Graves – 11 PBs across distances from 5k to 10m, Club records at 5k, 5m, 10k and 10m
- Most improved Male Runner 2015 (Committee)  
A close three way race between Matthew Mason, Barry Graves and Andy Thompson. Narrowly won for the second time by ANDY THOMPSON with 11 PBs including 1m, four at 5k, two at 5m, two at 10k and two at 10m
- Most improved Female Runner 2015 (Committee)  
Louise Bonner – 9 PBs – 5k, 5m, 10k, HM, 20m & Marathon
- Best 10km 2015 (Committee)  
A 10k runner who achieved 3 out of only 6 10ks by ERs of age grading over 75%  
Stephen Howard, Littleport 10k. 38:59 AG 77.69%
- Best Half Marathon 2015 (Committee)  
John Manlow, Stowmarket Half Marathon, 1<sup>st</sup> MV45, 6<sup>th</sup> overall, 1:19:42 AG 80.2%
- Eric Drury Cup for the Best Marathon 2015 (Committee)  
Honorable mention to Kieren Drane, who's 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Beachy Head Marathon would have won it in another year but . . .  
Alan Darby, Berlin Marathon 2:30:07, PB, and new club record replacing 2:31 achieved by founder member Martin Hadnett in London Marathon 1987
- Special Achievement Awards 2015 (club's officers)  
John Crawford – Grunty Fen Half Marathon Race Director (Engraved tankard) – Not present  
Samantha Collins-Shirley – Junior Secretary 2014-2015 (Engraved tankard)  
David Mould – 100 marathons completed, fundraising for RNIB (Engraved tankard) – Not present

1. Chairman's opening remarks and apologies (SH)

Chairman Stephen Howard declared the meeting open at 7:35pm and welcomed members to the meeting, thanking members for attending and moved immediately on to the agenda.

2. Matters arising from the 2015 minutes: [http://www.elyrunners.co.uk/agm\\_minutes\\_feb15.htm](http://www.elyrunners.co.uk/agm_minutes_feb15.htm)

None brought forward

### 3. Treasurer's report (MM)

Treasurer Matthew Mason distributed and presented a comprehensive set of accounts for the year to and as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. These comprised Income Statement, Balance Sheet, separate Income Statements for Grunty Fen Half Marathon and New Year's Eve 10k, plus Appendix. Matthew walked the meeting through the statements, making summary comments as follows:

GFHM Income Statement: Income was down on 2014 by c. £1,100, and expenditure down c. £1,000 (no equipment for fun run this year, less runners so less per-runner payments for chip timing). Profit was down £330 after £1,150 donation provision.

NYE10k Income Statement: Income was up on 2014 by c. £680 due to price increase and a successful catering counter. Expenditure was down due to not buying t shirts. Profit was up c. £2,070 after a donation provision of £1,329 was made.

Income Statement: Income from membership down due to change in subscription year necessitating that subscriptions be prorated over 15 months, with only 12 of those falling in 2015. Expenditure up, Matthew exemplified RNR Open Team vehicle hire not being sponsored in 2015 as in 2014. A net surplus for the year of £6,955 down c. £330 on 2014

Balance Sheet: A comprehensive summary of assets and liabilities held. A note on liabilities regarding kit refunds due, these will be repaid where applicable soon. Net assets £67,993. Matthew highlighted that two bonds held would mature in the next financial year, and that this would require review.

Matthew informed the meeting that the club held the entity status of Community Amateur Sports Club and as such does not pay corporation tax on surplus' providing that turnover remains below a level of £50kpa. We are currently well within this limit. This threshold has been increased recently.

### 4. Secretary's report (RH)

At last AGM we voted to change the membership renewal date from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> April to align with England Athletics and simplify renewal payments and processes. This is making the renewals more straight forward for those who combine club membership with EA affiliation, and means everyone has effectively benefited from three months 'free' membership. Due to popular demand 2016-17 renewals opened middle of January and currently 56 members are already paid up – 19% of total membership. Kieren Drane narrowly beating Craig Holgate by less than an hour to be first to renew.

Another change from 2015 was to allow AGM to be held up to one month later in the year. This opportunity has not been fully used in 2016, but it is this year later than previous years. This and the above disentanglement of membership renewals from the NYE10k build up and wind down has hopefully spread the administrative work of the committee over a wider period, and made it a little less fraught.

A brief update on three ongoing projects in the club:

*Clubmark:* This is the UK Athletics recognized standards accreditation scheme for sports clubs. It was suggested over a year ago that we work towards this, and in 2015 we have had two visits by EA Regional Development Officer who has given good feedback to the club. We have been working towards and achieved various suggested standards such as more detailed welcome information for new members, emergency contacts cards for coaches, club approved code of conduct, first aid kit etc. All being well, we will look to schedule an assessment in 2016.

*Website:* Another year and lots more hard work has gone into investigating the possibility of improving and ultimately upgrading our web presence. The position now is that social media play a key role in immediate announcement of club news, but the elyrunners.co.uk website and it's race orientated sub-website remain the definitive source of information and communication about the club.

*KHL:* After several years of participation, we put on our first home league fixture in August, and we have been invited to host an event again in 2016, provisionally 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Witchford Aerodrome course.

#### *Membership statistics:*

Currently 294 = 44% F, 56% M, 29% Juniors

Very similar figures to high point 2014 – 290 = 43% F, 57% M, 28% Juniors

#### *Racing statistics from 2015:*

1907 recorded races run by ERs, 241 PBs, 38 club records, 17 wins in open competition.

Secretary thanks the members of the Committee and the Events Working Group for their time and expertise in 2015, and also everyone in the club who has been part of a successful 2015.

## 5. Team captain's report (JT)

Club XC 2015 - up to 36 seniors/vets and 15 juniors entered

TTR - 7 x ER teams vs 7 x St Radegan HHH teams

KHL - races well attended by members and our new Ely event was like by the League

10kH - up to 59 entries

1mH - up to 34 entries

Round Norfolk Relay - Open & Club Teams ran. The Open Team (Richard & Laura Hill organised) were outright winners for first time after several years of being 2nd. Also ARC LDR Champ winners again. Some large and strong clubs took part.

Hereward Relay - 4 teams (thanks Louise for organising) - post meeting comment

Club XC 2016 - up to 38 seniors/vets and 10 juniors entered

FFL - mixed results but latterly poor turnouts resulting in seniors being 16th of 16 teams at Bourne Woods - a venue at which we once excelled. FFL races suitable for all standards and good opportunity to make and measure progress.

County XC Champs - 2 junior golds (Isaac Morris & Dana Fraser) and 1 junior silver; 1 vet gold (Peter Harris) & 1 vet silver

Craig Holgate's continued ultra-race success - 2nd Anglo-Celtic 100km Plate, in GB team for World 100km Champs where he became age 30-40 World Champ, 1st in Thames Trot 50m

In the Berlin Marathon, senior man Alan Derby broke club's longest standing record (previously 2:31 in 1987 by Martin Hadnett) in 2:30:07

Kieren Drane was 2nd in the Beachy Head Marathon - the best ever place by an Ely Runner.

A small overall increase in entries to county, regional and national championships but mainly same members. These opportunities are paid for by the club to encourage championship entries so look forward to more.

Club well represented in local races and also in many faraway events.

## 6. Training report (JT)

Good turnouts, especially on Tuesdays, often with 40-50 seniors. Two new training sessions introduced into already wide-ranging programme.

Pre-Christmas training run from Woodditton was well attended by members with up to 45 entries and about 40 runners.

Turnouts for Sunday training variable (about 5-15 seniors), partly depending on member's races. Perhaps still a missed opportunity for some members to enjoy the benefits of long, relaxed training runs to provide a basis for their more intensive training.

## 7. Coach's report (AR)

AR summarised that there are 19 qualified coaches within the club, at different levels of qualification, 10 of these working with the Junior Section. Coaches primarily engage with juniors and Lionel Smith's Beginners Courses, and additional help for both sections is received by 'turn up' runner helpers and parent volunteers. There are several inactive coaches registered, they and all active coaches were encouraged to attend at least one refresher training session per year.

## 8. Junior section report (SCS)

SCS reported a high turn out in the spring due to a number joining us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, these young people have now finished and we have seen that the juniors in the age bracket 15+ drop due to other commitments and going on to sixth form. Due to the recent closure of Ely Athletics club we have seen a good interest and more of these are joining us. We average 45 juniors each session.

Good attendance of coaches, SCS gave our thanks to them. A couple of coaches/coaching assistants lost this year but some joined also. SCS expressed that we should be looking longer term at the coaches as with work commitments if people are unable to make sessions we are short, and recently we have had to combine groups 2 and 3 which can mean a large number of juniors on the streets in one group. We also have a couple of regular parent helpers which is great.

*Summary of Junior Section structure:* The juniors are split into three groups, this is based on a mixture of ability and age. Group 3 tend to have the younger, new or slower runners while we assess them, group 2 are faster but tend not to be competitive and group 1 those who want to race, We have a large number of U13 boys in this group to try and form a team ethos.

This Christmas we decided to try something different this year and instead of bowling we went swimming and then had pizza, even though the numbers for this were lower than previous years the ones who did attend had a good time.

SCS reported a poor turnout at various races this year, I am not sure why as the races are shared by email and for races such as frostbite lifts are offered. We have a small amount of juniors who are keen to race and these few regularly turn up for club races along with other races. We have had a couple of juniors be selected to represent Cambs Schools Cross Country and one junior who competed in the Southern and is competing in the Nationals Cross Country for Cambridgeshire. We are starting to look at target races for the groups as we move into the spring and summer.

To try and publicise the races, events and even changes in training we now have a junior facebook page, this is a closed page for members only. (Facebook is for juniors age 14 and over only, but bearing in mind all communication we have is with the parents anyway via email this just adds another opportunity.)

Ely Athletics club has sadly closed, our coaches did attempt to try and keep it going and were very enthusiastic however only a limited few could make the time and day it was currently on, and another venue/time or day was not available. Additional venues and days continues to be high in our coaches' discussion, and other opportunities continue to be looked at. Whether we look at providing an additional session is one of the options being discussed.

Over the last couple of years with the increase in numbers and responsibilities the duties of the Junior Secretary has increased, therefore SCS has under consultation with others, recruited some helpers to support the role. SCS will continue to be the link person between the juniors and committee, however one of our parents Emma Fordham will be updating my membership lists for me and distributing this and any medical conditions to the coaches.

Sarah Bell has also agreed to help me publicise the events and races by sending out the emails and also updating the facebook junior page....thank you both.

Sharon Leonard will continue to organise the Christmas party and Sarah Bell is also taking over the trophies and medals side of the juniors from Conan Fryer.

#### 9. Chief Marshal's report (CC)

CC reported on her first year in role. All events covered with enough marshals, though at one event this was only just achieved – GFHM. ER has 294 members, there are approximately 80 marshal spots at GFHM and only some 60 members assisted on the day with these. We had to rely on beginners who were not yet members, March AC and local scout/guide groups in exchange for a contribution. Of those members that did help, the majority were the same people who reliably assist at all other events through the year. CM expressed that she was extremely grateful for this. With only 1 week to go to the event, we were very close to not having enough marshals meaning that the event would not be safe to go ahead.

It should not be considered as the nature of chief marshalling to struggle with numbers – it should be reasonable to accept that all members should contribute in one way or another and it should be questioned why some are not but are attending both club events and other events frequently.

CC expressed understanding and empathy that people have other concerns and busy lives, but even if it's just car parking at an event, any assistance is needed and appreciated. An example: at KHL when assistance was needed in the car park and many club members were not assisting.

I am more than happy to be CM for another but need to be clear that support is required from all club members to make the events successful. NYE10k was the best event in 2015 with a great atmosphere, event and vibe from all marshals, which is rewarding in itself.

#### 10. Election of Committee of three officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) and twelve members:

- Chairman - **Stephen Howard (pRH) sCC**
- Secretary/Membership/Website - **Richard Hill (pSH) sRP**
- Treasurer – **Matthew Mason (pRH) sPH**
- Training - **John Turner (pRH) sSH**
- Club Captain – **Matt Holmes (pRH) sSH**
- Beginners Representative - **Lionel Smith (pRH) sMB**
- Social Secretary – **Lauren Thomas (pRH) sSH**
- Ladies Representative – **Zoe Shackleton (pRH) sJT**
- Club Welfare Officer – **Emma Greaves (pRH) sSCS**
- Club Time Keeper/Watches & Club Kit - **Emily Knight (pRH) sZS**
- Head Coach - **Alan Rutterford (pRH) sSH**
- Junior Section Secretary - **Samantha Collins-Shirley (pRH) sZS**
- Race Results – **Claire Geary (pRH) sLH**
- Race Reports – **Mark Bell (pRH) sSCS**
- Press Liaison & Newsletter Editor – **Andy Bonner (pRH) sMM**

None against - carried

## 11. Election of Events Working Group

- Race Director Grunty Fen HM - **vacant**
- Race Director NYE 10k – **Nicky Ester (pRH) sMM**
- Deputy Race Director Open Events – **vacant**
- Race Director KHL – **Charlotte Cook pRH sSH**
- Open Event Sponsorship – **Jon Evans** (Supporting Member renewal) **(pRH) sMB**
- Course Director and Stores - **Martin Courtney/ Matthew Mason (pRH) sSH**
- Race Entries – **Steve Tovey (pRH) sMM**
- Race Websites and Results – **Steve Tovey (pRH) sMM**
- Club Events (XC, TTR, 10kHC, 1mHC) – **committee/ to be split up. Matt Holmes agreed to do XC, Louise Bonner agreed to do 10kHC or 1mHC**
- Chief Marshal Open Events – **Charlotte Cook (pRH) sJE**
- Chief Time Keeper & Place Keeping – **Emily Knight (pRH) sSH**
- Assistant Time Keeper – **Emma Greaves (pRH) sCC**
- Assistant to Chief Marshal - **Darren Murfitt (pRH) sCC**
- Start/Finish Areas & Place Keeper – **Emma Greaves (pRH) sLH**
- Event Refreshments – **Nigel Reynolds & Ashley Blackmore (pJT) sRH**
- Assistant to Course Director (set up/clear) - ~~Eric Drury (pJT)~~ proposal withdrawn
- Frostbite Manager - **Alan Rutterford (pRH) sJE**
- RNR Open Class Team Manager – **vacant**
- RNR Club Class Team Managers – **Sarah Starr (pRH) sAT**
- Hereward Relay Team Manager – **Louise Bonner (pRH) sSCS**
- Photographer (Events & Websites) & Trophies - **Charlie Barker (pRH) sMM**

None against - carried

## 12. Consideration of donations (pMM)

Matthew offered that the donation provision set aside for 2015 was £2,479 plus £1,000 brought forward allowed the meeting to allocate up to £3,479. MM presented two proposals:

ACT on Cancer for who CC is currently fundraising, in recognition of the support given to member Jon Pennington (sSH) <http://www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk/supporter/LeGrandPlod2016>

RNIB who member David Mould fundraises (sSH) <https://www.justgiving.com/David-Mould100forRNIB>

Jon Evans proposed a donation to GFHM bouncy castle provider Discover Your Mojo in recognition of a turbulent 2015 experienced by the company and its owners, and their support for the club's event. Suggested donation £200 (sH)

Matthew suggested £1,000 pledge to each of ACT and RNIB. Chairman seconded all proposed donations.

None against – carried

## 13. Proposal (pMM) to keep membership fees for 2017-18 at £20 seniors aged 25+; £10 Juniors (U17) and £10 Young persons (18-24) (pMM).

sRH - None against – carried

## 14. Annual review and re-approval of the ~~£20,000~~ £23,259 set aside for the Track Fund (pJT)

John reported that the Track 4 Ely (T4E) committee had convened with renewed vigour several times in 2015, welcoming Matthew Mason as treasurer.

sRH - None against – carried

## 15. Renewal of Affiliations/Joining (pRH)

- ARC - and continue with open event ARC permits  
£320 club no individual. An alternative sports governance body, Ely are founding member, no nonsense race permits and clear simple advice to member clubs on a wide range of subjects. Allows members of affiliated clubs discount race entry to ARC races
- ABAC - represents and lobbies for interests of clubs  
£25 ARC lobby group

- UKA - individual EA registrations (£13 for 2016-17) are now being paid by members if required £100 club, £13 individual.
- SEAA Competitions Ltd - provides championships in the SE region £20 - Allows members to compete in regional championship events
- CAA - provides championships for Cambridgeshire £50 – allows members to compete in CAA championships and leagues
- GCAN - Greater Cambridge Network of Clubs, especially to support Juniors EA support pulled in 2015, continues in 2016 £50 per club – provides coaching bursaries and free talks for members e.g. Mara Yamauchi
- Friends of the Roman Road & Fleam Dyke £25 – supports these Scheduled Monuments of great historical and archaeological interest, as well as Sites of Special Scientific Interest which members access to run on between Fulborn and Linton

sJT - None against - carried

16. Proposal (pSH) To hold presentation of Annual Achievement awards at Christmas Raffle in December rather than at AGM. an event separate to the AGM in December.

sJE - None against - carried

17. Proposal (pSH) To consider a new open or club event in late summer/ early autumn, and not present Grunty Fen Half Marathon 2016 to allow proper consideration of possibilities and resources. To not hold Grunty Fen Half Marathon in 2016

Chairman re-presented and simplified the original proposal: To not hold the Grunty Fen Half Marathon in 2016.

The rationale being that:

- After 25 years there was a sense that the event although well established lacked novelty and was becoming a chore.
- The club has limited resources and must constantly assess whether its efforts are channelled into the most appropriate endeavours.
- The effort taken by club members to put on the event was considerable. Often this meant some members feeling obligated to do the same job year after year.
- It is a struggle to find sufficient volunteer marshals, leading to fears it could not go ahead safely. This suggests lack of support for the event within the club.
- Attempts to increase attendance above the sellout 800 in 2012 and 2013 had not been successful; indeed attendance had been falling in 2014 and 2015.
- The venue was no longer ideal – showers often not working, parking no longer possible on school grounds, double booking with a football tournament in 2015.
- As of the 2016 AGM no-one had come forward to act as Race Director for the 2016 event.
- Ely Runners still supported the running community through its NYE10k. Many clubs only stage one open event per year.
- Although the Grunty Fen had been profitable in recent years, the NYE10k funds were sufficient to support the club at its current level of activity.
- There had been talk of replacing or re-siting the event. However it was felt this would not happen if committed to the 2016 event as GF would take away attention.

There was a good wide-ranging discussion of the pros and cons of the proposal. Various members spoke up both in support and against the proposal, as due consideration was given to matters causal, financial and the possibility of continuing the event in its current or alternative guises. Speakers included (may be others ) Jon Evans, Matt Holmes, John Turner, Louise Bonner (offered to act as RD), Emma Fordham, Charlie Barker, Peter Harris, Ross Payne, Roddie Shepherd & Charlotte Cook.

Points made included:

- The event had an established high reputation and slot in the local running community race calendar.
- Regular runners of the event (e.g. St Radegund HHH) would be disappointed that it was no longer held.
- Once the event were stopped the arrangements and expertise would quickly dissipate. (e.g. Stall-holders would find other events).
- Starting a new event is considerably more effort than continuing with an established one.
- One member said that if lack of Race Director were a deciding factor she would be prepared to step into the role as it would be a shame to lose the event.
- The Fun Run was much enjoyed by younger members of the club and their siblings, who would be very sad if it did not continue.

- Treasurer Matthew Mason pointed to the increased revenue from NYE10k, offering that repeated or further grown this could mitigate loss of revenue.
- Secretary Richard Hill pointed to the inclusion of a KHL league event promotion as a third commitment to host large scale events for non members in 2015.

Eventually Chairman Stephen Howard called the assembled members to vote on the simplified proposal,

sRH – One against, 25 for – carried

18. Authorise Committee & EWG to organise the following events (pSH):

- Turing Trail Relay (3rd Sunday in March) - Private Club Event with other teams by invitation only
- Club 10k Handicap on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in June
- Club One Mile Handicap on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July
- KHL 5k Race on a Thursday evening April – August TBC
- ~~Grundy Fen Half Marathon on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in September including (if offered) the ARC Championships, Cambs County Championships, and Cambs Road Race League (subject to outcome of proposal 17 above)~~
- New Year's Eve 10k on 31<sup>st</sup> December
- Club Cross-Country Championships on a Sunday morning in January/February 2017

sMM - None against - carried

19. Authorise the Committee (pSH) to enter the club for relay, team and league events, including:

- Round Norfolk Relay (Open and Club Teams) and stage 14-15 changeover with 4-5 staff  
*Open team subject to team manager*
- National, Regional, Area and County Championships including relays
- Frostbite Friendly League
- Hereward Relay
- Kevin Henry 5k League

sRH - None against - carried

20. Proposal (pRH) for the club's Officers or Committee (subject to the Treasurer's advice on the threshold reserve of funds) to authorise reasonable expenditure, to the benefit of the club and its members, including:

- Club membership (due 1st October) of the Paradise Centre for members to change/shower FOC after training or events
- Running/training/stretching/injury books for members to borrow
- Food after the 10k Handicap, One Mile Handicap and for the Christmas Drinks
- Club team entries for relays, league membership, and championships
- Fund appropriate courses (subject to commitment) for members
- Supplies for events, equipment for club use, race kit, and bibs for night training
- Mileage at 30p/m for official duties on behalf of the club and/or carrying stores from/to Ely or HQ for the club's open races, selected teams in events, and training events
- Electronic race processing and recording equipment
- Trophies & engraving
- Support of new, local area races attended by and for the benefit of members
- Charities
- Kit store
- Hi-viz bibs (added on night by SSC & LS)

sMM - None against - carried

21. Any other business

- Pay any due subs to Treasurer (MM)
- JE suggested a press release regarding the GFHM not taking place in 2016
- CC offered the club's thanks to JE for his contribution to GFHM over the past two years

Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:55pm