



## MINUTES OF WHITE HORSE HARRIERS AGM 2010 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010, OLD MILL HALL, GROVE

### Present

Simon Atkin, Bruce Charles, Neil Druce, Castel Fairlie, Kevin Harris, Paul Jégou, Richard Jégou, Marion Jones, Tom King, Dave Martin, Clifford Mills, John Peake, Geoff Phillips, Gareth Smith, Dene Stringfellow, Graham Wiggins, Pete Wilson

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Sheila Bailey, Peter Bainbridge, Angela Briscoe, Frances Briscoe, Frank Briscoe, Roland Briscoe, Ros Burgess, Bob Harrison, Jan McCabe, Chris Powell, Nick Portsmouth, Roger Turnbull

### 2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM

Gareth Smith asked for comments on the 2009 AGM Minutes. Dave Martin replied that felt the minutes were inadequate in that they did not contain enough detail. He stated that this had been the case for several years and cited examples from previous minutes. Gareth Smith responded that minutes prior to 2009 had been already been approved by the subsequent AGMs and there was no discussion to be had on those. Dave Martin stated that he felt the Secretary had been negligent and should resign from the Club. Following an exchange between Richard Jégou and Dave Martin, Richard Jégou withdrew from the meeting.

Gareth Smith adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes to seek a minutes secretary for the duration of the AGM. The meeting recommenced with Simon Atkin agreeing to take minutes.

Geoff Phillips suggested a clarification to the Treasurer's Report: rather than "Membership fees up thanks to Mark..." it should read "Membership fee receipts up thanks to effective collection by Mark..." to show thank income had increased rather than the level of fees.

Amended minutes: proposed by Dene Stringfellow, seconded by Paul Jégou.

For: 9      Against: 0      Abstention: 1

Minutes approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

### 4. Chairman's Report

A paper copy of the Chairman's Report was circulated to all present at the AGM.

A copy is available on the Club website at

[http://ridgedale.powweb.com/WHN/clubadmin/chmnrpts/2010\\_ChairmansReport.pdf](http://ridgedale.powweb.com/WHN/clubadmin/chmnrpts/2010_ChairmansReport.pdf).

Gareth Smith highlighted some of the key points in the report.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Dave Martin and seconded by Marion Jones.

No questions were raised.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Paper copies of the Audited Accounts to August 2010 and the Financial Summary were circulated to all present.

Copies are also available on the website; the Audited Accounts at:

[http://ridgedale.powweb.com/WHN/clubadmin/accounts/2010\\_WHH\\_Accounts.pdf](http://ridgedale.powweb.com/WHN/clubadmin/accounts/2010_WHH_Accounts.pdf) and the Financial Summary at: [http://ridgedale.powweb.com/WHN/clubadmin/accounts/2010\\_WHH\\_FinancialSummary.pdf](http://ridgedale.powweb.com/WHN/clubadmin/accounts/2010_WHH_FinancialSummary.pdf).



Neil Druce presented the accounts and explained the key points of them and the Financial Summary. Geoff Phillips raised a question concerning the auditor; discussion was deferred until item 9 on the agenda.

## 6. New Constitution

Gareth Smith stated that as the meeting was not quorate he did not propose to take a vote on accepting the proposed constitution. However he would go through several suggested amendments in turn, have a short discussion on each and take an indicative vote. The Committee would then take the members' views into consideration in a review of the proposed constitution.

*All references to the new constitution are to version 2.2 as approved by the committee on 8 Oct 2010.*

### Proposal 6.1

To delete paragraph 2.1 b. Proposed by Dave Martin

Dave explained that he felt this was only being included as a means to justify fund-raising via the Half-Marathon, and as such should be removed. Simon Atkin explained that this aim had come from the Clubmark constitution template. It was intended to encourage the Club to promote itself through participation in sport, advertising (website and the new leaflet), and other means such as word of mouth. It was intended to encourage participation in athletics and the Club, not to justify fund-raising.

For: 0      Against: 13      Abstention: 2

### Proposal 6.2

To amend paragraph 6.2 to remove the option to co-opt members to the committee, instead requiring them to be elected. Proposed by Dave Martin.

Dave Martin expressed concern that this meant the Committee could co-opt anyone to its ranks, and they would not be answerable to the membership as they were not elected. The current constitution allows for three general members to be elected. Neil Druce pointed out that the co-opting approach gave the Committee the flexibility to call upon members with skills in particular areas when required. Gareth Smith also commented that not all posts on the Committee were filled as people would not stand for election, so having the option to co-opt members part way through the year was useful.

For: 1      Against: 10      Abstention: 3

### Proposal 6.3

To amend paragraph 6.4 to increase the quorum for Committee meetings to three-quarters and all voting to be by two thirds majority. Proposed by Dave Martin.

Dave expressed the view that this change would make the Committee more accountable to the membership. Following a discussion the vote was:

For: 5      Against: 5      Abstention: 5

### Proposal 6.4

To amend paragraph 6.7 by removing the phrase granting the Committee the ability to obtain retrospective permission to exceed the constitution in urgent matters, and to clarify the word conferred. Proposed by Dave Martin.

Following a slightly confusing discussion about the exact meaning of 'conferred' a vote was taken.

For: 4      Against: 2      Abstention: 9

### Proposal 6.5

To amend paragraph 6.8 to state that sub-committees must consist solely of the Committee members and must report back to it. Proposed by Dave Martin.



Dave expressed the view that sub-committees, particularly the Half-Marathon committee, acted on their own and were not accountable to the Club. Gareth pointed out that 3 members of the Committee are also on the Half-Marathon committee, and 2 on the Jog Wantage committee. Reports on their activities are given at Committee meetings. Pete Wilson asked the Committee if the suggestion was workable. Committee members present all agreed that it was not, there are not enough Committee members to do the jobs and this would increase their workload.

For: 2      Against: 11      Abstention: 2

### Proposal 6.6

To amend paragraph 7.6 to include a clause require an AGM to approve a Club event to raise funds for charity. Proposed by Bruce Charles.

Bruce explained that paragraph 7.6 covers donations from Club funds, and this amendment clarifies the situation where the Club raises money by a charity specific event. Pete Wilson explained that he had suggested paragraph 7.6 to the committee (following last year's AGM) to clarify the rules concerning donations to promote the Club.

For: 11      Against: 0      Abstention: 4

### Proposal 6.7

To replace paragraph 7.6 with one prohibiting the Club from giving money to any charity. Proposed by Dave Martin.

Dave again raised the issue of donations to Helen and Douglas House, and how the arrangement has been reached originally. He felt that it was wrong for the Club to overtly support charity and to seek publicity for doing so by advertising a charity on race entries, and gaining press coverage for any donations. He expressed the view that donations should be given quietly and privately.

For: 2      Against: 12      Abstention: 1

At this point, Tom King remarked that we were not really making progress through the agenda, and suggested that proposals 6.8 (to raise the AGM quorum to 31), 6.9 (to change all votes at AGMs to two-third majority) and 6.10 (that minutes from all committee meetings be circulated to the president and Vice-Presidents) be deferred. The meeting concurred, and following a short adjournment resumed at item 7.

## 7. Election of Officers

Gareth Smith reported that he had received some offers from people to stand for post, but appealed for more to come forward. Marion Jones agreed to stand as a General Committee Member. The follow candidates stood unopposed and were duly elected.

**Chairman:** Gareth Smith

Proposed by Paul Jégou      Seconded by Marion Jones  
For: 15      Against: 0      Abstention: 0

**Secretary:** Richard Jégou \*

Proposed by Gareth Smith      Seconded by Simon Atkin  
For: 13      Against: 1      Abstention: 1

**Treasurer:** Neil Druce

Proposed by Peter Wilson      Seconded by Bruce Charles  
For: 14      Against: 0      Abstention: 1

**Road Running Secretary:** Dene Stringfellow

Proposed by Neil Druce      Seconded by Kevin Harris  
For: 14      Against: 0      Abstention: 1

**Press Representative:** Simon Atkin

Proposed by Dene Stringfellow      Seconded by Dave Martin  
For: 14      Against: 0      Abstention: 1



**General Committee Member:** Bob Harrison

Proposed by Dave Martin      Seconded by Marion Jones

For: 15      Against: 0      Abstention: 0

**General Committee Member:** Jan McCabe

Proposed by Dene Stringfellow      Seconded by Neil Druce

For: 15      Against: 0      Abstention: 0

**General Committee Member:** Marion Jones

Proposed by John Peake      Seconded by Dene Stringfellow

For: 14      Against: 0      Abstention: 1

\* Richard Jégou had agreed to stand as Secretary prior to the AGM, and was elected as such. In light of events on the evening, Gareth Smith would confirm with Richard that he still wishes to remain as Secretary following the AGM.

## 8. Charitable donations from the 2012 White Horse Half Marathon

Gareth Smith reminded the meeting that we had already discussed charitable donations at some length on this and previous occasion so people were well acquainted with the arguments for and against. In light of this, and in view of the time, he proposed that the matters were put to a vote without further debate.

i) *That a donation be made from the profits of the 2012 half marathon.*

For: 11      Against: 0      Abstention: 4

ii) Votes were taken for each of the four suggested charities, no suggestions were received from the floor. People were allowed to vote for as many of the charities as they wished.

Against Breast Cancer	2
English Federation of Disability Sport	10
SeeSaw	3
Sports Aid Southern	4

iii) Gareth Smith proposed that a limit on the donation be set at a maximum of 25% of the profits. Neil Druce proposed that this be capped at £1000. Dave Martin proposed that a decision on the sum be deferred until after the race (i.e. the 2012 AGM).

*The maximum donation is 25% of the profit capped at £1000.*

For: 12      Against: 0      Abstention: 3

*That the size of the donation be deferred until the AGM following the 2012 half Marathon.*

For: 2      Against: 13      Abstention: 0

Geoff Phillips commented that he was disappointed with the post-race publicity of the 2010 race, especially as it was intended to be a memorial to Barrie Strange. He suggested that another memorial event be held on another occasion.

## 9. Appointment of Auditor for next year

Neil Druce reported that Malcolm Wetherill, who has audited the Club accounts for several years, is retiring so will not be able to audit the accounts next year. Neil has found a replacement auditor for next year, Maxine Thomas, who is treasurer of several local organisations (Friends of Millbrook School and Grove Scout Group) and an accountant.

The meeting expressed its desire to thank Malcolm for his work over the years. Neil would arrange something suitable, probably in a liquid form.

**Auditor for 2010-2011:** Maxine Thomas

Proposed by Neil Druce      Seconded by Dave Martin

For: 15      Against: 0      Abstention: 0



## 10. Any Other Business

- i) Geoff Phillips noted that the Club had adopted several policies, in readiness for Clubmark. He noted that they were not referred in the proposed constitution and question whether they should be. The Committee agreed to review this.
  
- ii) Dave Martin raised the subject of past donations to Helen and Douglas House. He summarised the donation from Half-Marathon profits over the last few years (since 2005). He recounted details of a meeting he had with staff at Helen and Douglas House and that he had obtained a copy of the correspondence between them and White Horse Harriers. He read out an email from Kevin Harris written in 2005 regarding the first donation to Helen and Douglas House. He reported that he has sought the meeting because the Committee had refused to provide him with details of how the Half-Marathon started supporting Helen and Douglas House. Gareth Smith reminded Dave that the Committee had provided him with answers to all the questions he had raised over the past two years on this matter. Gareth stated that he had not released Committee meeting minutes because there was not unanimous agreement to do so. Regarding the donation in 2005, Gareth reminded Dave that he was on the Committee then, and was present at the meeting which agreed the donation; Gareth produced the minutes to support this.

Tom King commented that this matter had been discussed before at length, the events being discussed again are in the past and cannot be altered. He felt it was time to move on. There are other important matters for the Club to focus on, such as winter training facilities for the young athletes.

The caretaker arrived to lock the hall so Gareth thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 10:30pm.