



Bridport Runners Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7th March 2018, Beach and Barnicott

Present	Brian Shelley, Ben Renshaw, Claire Wynn, Jess Maskrey, Vicky Ackerman, Clive Whaley, Ray Woodman, Ruth Camps, Hagen Gerle, John Smith, Ben Loudon, Tony Bird, Erin Dean, Kazy Vincent-Janes
Apologies	Niamh Vercoe, Sam Rose, Stephen Potter, Paul Eaton, Emma Eaton, Adam Slater, Jodie Tuck, Chris Monteith, Les Hawkins

2. Overview of the 2017/18 year

Brian (as Chair) began by asking the members present to reflect on their favourite/most memorable part of the 2017/18 year and received the following comments:

- The Crossing (the 35-mile run across Dartmoor, Clive's face at the end of it!)
- 5K series
- Night runs
- The crowd that turned out for the AGM, more people involved in running the club!
- Unconditional support of the club
- Feeling of it becoming 'my club'
- Cider Frolic (crazy team run around random fields in North Dorset, in fancy dress!)
- London Marathon place
- Social runs
- Stepping up from 5K
- Couch to 5K training
- Setting up of Facebook group

It was mentioned that it would be good to go on another 'Bridport Runners on Tour' (outside of Britain) and to consider how to hold on to new runners. Although even if runners are no longer training with Bridport Runners, they have been spotted out and about running around Bridport, which is great to see.

3. Chairs Report

Brian explained the club is developing and it's encouraging to see not just numbers, but the number of athletes entering races including taking part in the new championship and 5K series. There is an ever-increasing amount of expertise and experience including networking for different runs i.e. groups of two or three meeting at different times, Friday evenings runs etc...

The continued success of the wellbeing group and the trickling of beginners joining the club and staying is promising. It's heartening to see the progress of the beginners and the confidence of them entering races.

Moving forward Brian would like to see our presence in the community grow and the committee agreed that Brian approach the Council re. a signed route. The Youth Club are keen for us to help with sponsorship by organising a race for them i.e. 5K for youth age group, in return for use of their gym i.e. for strengthening and conditioning sessions.

4. Annual Accounts

Erin explained the club account currently has funds of £1000 (£1200 in 2016/17). The main income streams came from club subs, beginners fees (£200) and fundraising from Waitrose (£400). Expenses included fees to England Athletics, publicity and kit, which totalled £900.

5. To agree Club Fees for 2017/2018

Majority vote agreed to raise fees to £31.00 this year (as England Athletics contributions have increased by £1).

6. Coaching report

As Clive is stepping down, his report is more of a 'signing off' and therefore an overview of the last three or four years.

- £1700 of funding has been raised via Palmers and Waitrose, with £500 diverted to T-shirts and hoodies.
- There were no coaches at the beginning of Clive taking on the role. We now have three coaches and 4 leaders.
- We have held 8 'From Couch to 5K' beginners courses (nearly 100 runners).
- The 'wellbeing group' has been successful. It was originally a separate session, now part of the regular Wednesday night session.
- A coaching rota and 5K series has been established.

7. Race Programme

Thanks to Adam and Ben for establishing the Championship race series consisting of 15 races throughout the year. Athletes can choose to run 4 races throughout the year to count towards the series. There are different races of varying distance, designed to be local and affordable.

Action: To post race reminders on Facebook.

8. Jurassic Coast Run

Sub-committee set up to organise this year's Jurassic Coast run. John Smith is currently consulting with the Council re. permissions. The Council would like to know the agreed route, location of water stations and marshals.

Action: Ben and Adam to run and record routes in the next three weeks.

9. Marathon Place

All set up and organised, Sam Rose has the London Marathon place for this year. Good luck Sam!

Action: Reminder email to all members to confirm if they wish to be considered for the London Marathon place via Bridport Runners, they must enter the London Marathon ballot initially.

10. Membership report

We currently have 40 paid up members for Bridport Runners, which includes 9 new members this year.

All athletes become affiliated with England Athletic as part of their membership fee. The fees for England Athletic are currently £14 per athlete but will be rising to £15 for the 2018/19 Affiliation Year. The annual club affiliation fee will remain at £100 per club.

To re-iterate your membership gets you:

- Weekly coached training sessions with England Athletics qualified coaches
- 2 official club sessions per week (Wednesdays and Sundays) plus regular 'informal runs' such as Friday night trail runs.
- Invitation to the Bridport Runners Members noticeboard on Facebook
- Wealth of knowledge and experience from all our members
- Friendship and support (good Christmas do's!)
- Entry into the Bridport Runners Club Championships
- Affiliation with England Athletics which means rights with regards to support, services and resources. These benefits include insurance, club places at the London Marathon, specialist coaching visits to clubs and preferential entries to events.
- Entry on Power of 10 ranking.
- Opportunities to become a Bridport Runners volunteer (e.g Committee, coaching, helping with the organising of the Bridport Jurassic Coast Run)
- **Opportunity to purchase our fabulous club kit and get to race in our striking black and white striped vests. This year we are giving away to every competing member a free race vest – first come first served as limited sizes.**

New for 2018/19 – Claire hopes to be able to set up the online payment method through the EA athletes portal, however there has been some teething problems which she hopes to sort out for the 2018/19 affiliation year. Hopefully this will make it much simpler for runners to pay their fees on time.

11. Publicity and Press

- In 2017 we sent out 12 press releases (2016: 11), had 33 posts on the website (2016: 37) and a couple of nice articles in the local media, especially about Bridport Runners doing different races and, once, more Bridport Jurassic Coast Run a the main (media) event for the Club.
- Challenge is that traditional printed media is getting less important (e.g. View from Bridport stopped trading at the start of 2018) but stories and mentions about Bridport Runners online are picking up. Therefore: BR website was refurbished end of last year (e.g. new column on front page "5 reasons to join BR")
- Many thanks to the FB team (Claire, Erin) with whom we share stories; website and FB really compliment each other. Many thanks, as well, to all contributors of the race reports, especially to Jess, Sam Rose and Adam for their amusing way of describing races a bit differently. Also to Clive for photos.
- One wish of press officer: We need more race pictures, meaning people really *racing* not standing together in groups before or after a race.

Action: At the next committee meeting discuss utilizing the 'like the wind' article about Les for the Bridport Times.

Action: Discuss change in Data Protection laws and implications for the club at next committee meeting.

12. Election of Officers and Committee - (all present officers will stand down each year).

Nominated officers for 2017/18 are:

- a. Chair – Brian Shelley (**although a Vice Chair to assist Brian would be welcomed**)
- b. Secretary – Vicky Ackerman
- c. Treasurer – Erin Dean
- d. Welfare Officer – John Smith (with Kazy Vincent-Janes in support)
- e. Membership Secretary – Claire Wynn
- f. Coaching and coach development – John Smith (coach development) and Vicky Ackerman (to prepare coaching rota)
- g. Races and Fixtures – Ben Renshaw
- h. Publicity and Communication – Hagen Gerle
- i. Kit Coordinator – Ray Woodman
- j. Committee Members – Ruth Camps, Jess Maskrey

Date of next committee meeting: Wednesday, 25th of April, 7:30 pm, in the Beach & Barnicott

Thank you for your continued support and attendance at the AGM, training sessions, races and socials!