

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE GALA CLUB, FAIRMILE GARDENS, TEWKESBURY ROAD, GLOUCESTER
ON FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2019

Present:	Sandra Ennis	Chair
	Norman Lane	Vice-Chair
	Rachel Vines	Treasurer
	Andy Hawkins	Cross-country Team Manager
	Arthur Daley	Cross-country Secretary
	Derrick Lord	Cheltenham & County Harriers
	Philip Jeyes	Almost Athletes
	Geoff Trueman	Stroud & District AC
	Lynn Hudson	Road Race Series Co-ordinator
	Steve Hudson	Deputy Road Race Series Co-ordinator
	Anne Wilson	Beyond the Limitations
	Norman Wilson	Road Running Team Manager
	Edwina Driver-Dickerson	Angels RC
	Georgina Emile	Angels RC
	Gregory Leyshon	Severn AC
	Albert Gardiner	Education & Welfare Secretary/Officials Secretary
	Mick Morris	Secretary
Apologies:	Ian Willoughby	Coaching Secretary
	Ruth Fulford	Cirencester AC
	Elliot Prince	Cheltenham & County Harriers
	Julie Walford	Stroud & District
	Elizabeth Anthony	Angels RC

ITEM 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The minutes of the Gloucestershire AAA annual general meeting held on Friday 9th November 2018 were accepted as a true record.

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING

2. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

3. Sandra Ennis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Sandra then said: I wish to say a big thank you to all our county officials, marshals and general helpers without who none of our events would take place. I must also say thank you to our members who give up their time to manage various teams travelling to a variety of events. Last year I voiced my concern regarding the shortage of officials and this became more apparent at this year's track and field championships. Clubs who compete in various league meetings have to provide specific officials or be penalised. We neither cannot or would want to do this but some clubs who only participate in road races still need qualified timekeepers, recorders, referees, etc and in return could supply general helpers to come along to our track and field championships. Qualifications are not required to return a javelin, shot or discus or to replace a high jump bar or to rake the sand pit for long jump or triple jump. This would be a great help as it would free up the qualified officials to do the technical bit. It is also important that the clubs with track and field athletes also realise there are lots of jobs to be done that do not need qualifications. I am therefore taking this opportunity to ask you all to go back to your clubs and get this item put on the agenda for your next committee meeting. We are not asking for all

day support as even a few hours would be gratefully appreciated. I think the track and field championships will be Saturday 9th May 2020 and Sunday 10th May 2020. I am trying to fix the date for our annual presentation evening but am still waiting for confirmation from the Mayor's secretary for Friday 17th January 2020. Unfortunately last Saturday's cross-country had to be postponed due to adverse weather. The fixture will be rearranged and Arthur will no doubt inform us of the details later. Well I think I have said enough but please think on what I have said about officials and helpers please as it is important if we wish to continue to put on successful meetings.

ITEM 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

4. Rachel Vines presented details of our current financial position. As at the end of September 2019 we had income for the year of £13837.75 and expenditure of £9245.96. This leaves a balance of £12000 in the current account as at this point in time and of £12896 in our savings account. The main increase in our income stems from the increase in the cross-country league entry fee for the 2018/19 season and of course our current balance includes pre-entry fees from the league. A couple of new clubs have affiliated to the association in the past year. Please see the attached balance sheet for further details.

ITEM 5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

5. Mick Morris said that as Sandra mentioned earlier this has been another good year for the county. Our championships, road, track and field, cross-country, have all seen a good level of entries. On the track it would obviously be nice to see a few more seniors enter but we are not alone in experiencing that situation as many other counties report the same lower support from that age group. That said, those that do come along certainly enjoy the event and we had some good competitive races this year. As always, we are very fortunate to have the support of our dedicated group of officials and it is lovely that so many people commented on how encouraging and welcoming they were. I would like here to record my grateful thanks to all those who assisted at our events throughout 2019. We took teams to the senior inter-counties and the South West championships and many of our athletes performed very well at those competitions. We have also enjoyed some success in road running in the south-west where Norman Wilson has worked very hard to try and get out teams that truly illustrate the excellent strength we have in the county in that branch of our sport. Many athletes from the county have performed well nationally and internationally and particular mention in this regard goes to Tom Mortimer, Annie Tester, Charlie Denham and Will Paulson who have all put in some notable performances during the summer. On the notices side please be advised that I will be sending out the entry forms this weekend for the county cross-country championships at Rendcomb College on 4th January 2020. Cotswold Tri and Run have advised that they have a new secretary, Nikki Hitchcock who is contactable via email at: nhitch1994@gmail.com. As to the county track and field championships dates for 2020 we have been informed that the preferred dates for the main part of our championships are 30/31 May 2020 but that counties may elect to go for the traditional weekend if they wish, which is 9/10 May 2020. That seems to be the preference of many other counties in the region and it was agreed that the 9/10 May weekend is our preference. It was also agreed that the date for Part 3 of the county track and field championships (the 10000m, 1 mile, and relays) would be Friday 28th August 2020. Finally, I would like to record my grateful thanks to everyone who has supported our activities this year. Without all the time and effort put in by so many we would not be in such a strong position. Hopefully as some of us reach the stage where we are unable to do quite so much then the younger generation will gradually take over.

ITEM 6. ROAD RACE SERIES CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

6. Lynn Hudson reported that this year's series concluded on Sunday with the well supported Guy Fawkes 5. Mark James and Shona Crombie-Hicks have retained their titles, Mark for 3 years now and Shona for 8 years. Having advance notice as to when entries opened for the popular races seemed to work well this year. Also the idea of staggering the number of places available per session seemed to help rather than watching places disappear as you are trying to enter (someone said that it is easier getting into Glastonbury than a place in some events!). After the presentation evening this year Cirencester AC and Running Somewhereelse very kindly donated two more shields making a total now of 21. Note was taken of the wishes of clubs as to which events they would like included in the race series and we have also taken account of the wish to try and have more of a balance of distances. Based on this the following event are proposed for the 2020 series:

19 Jan 20	Linda Franks 5 mile	Almost Athletes
26 Jan 20	Staverton 10 mile	CLC Striders
15 Mar 20	Gloucester 20 mile	Gloucester AC
1 Jun 20	Stroud Beer Race 7.2 mile	Stroud & District AC
7 Jun 20	Fairford 10 km	Running Somewhereelse
14 Jun 20	Bourton Hilly Half	Bourton RR
18 Jul 20	Bourton 1 mile	Ali & Norm Lane
30 Jul 20	Gloucester 5 km	Beyond the Limitations
5 Aug 20	Burgatti 10 km	Almost Athletes
Sep 20	Angels 10 km	Angels RC
1 Nov 20	Guy Fawkes 5 mile	Tewkesbury RC
22 Nov 20	Gloucester 10 Km	Beyond the Limitations

The Gloucester 10 km in November will also include the award of the Dave McNamee trophy. The following races in the series are also designated county championships races that will see the award of county medals on the day: Bourton Hilly Half, Bourton 1 mile, Gloucester 5 km and Angels 10 km. Please let members of your clubs know of this decision so that they all have ample opportunity to gain county titles. As Lynn and Steve will be standing down from organisation of the series after our presentation evening next January we are pleased to announce that Philip Jeyes of Almost Athletes has kindly volunteered to take over the responsibility for organising the series beginning with the 2020 series.

ITEM 7. CROSS-COUNTRY SECRETARY'S REPORT

7. Arthur Daley read out a letter from the organiser of the recently postponed Charlton Park cross-country meeting in which that gentleman had detailed the difficulties he had experienced in getting everything together. Lack of club support meant the load falling on the one person leading to a stressful situation whereby he was reliant on assistance from friends to get things moving. The meeting discussed the letter in detail and it was apparent that others experienced the same or similar difficulties when trying to put on events which goes some way to explaining why fewer and fewer clubs are willing to host fixtures such as the league one. The upshot of all of this was that Chippenham are not able to put on the fixture on the alternative date of 1 March 2020. Enquires have been made to see if anyone else would put on the fixture but no one has volunteered yet. That means that the other option is that the county put on the fixture themselves maybe at somewhere like Olldown Park or Cattle Country. Some other venues have also been considered but have proven unable or unwilling to host a match. Arthur confirmed that finding suitable venues is becoming extremely difficult. Arthur will pursue the possibility of two or more clubs combining to host a fixture at a suitable venue. A lengthy discussion then took place regarding alternatives for the 1 March fixture but without any definite decision being reached other than for Arthur to continue his efforts to secure somewhere.

ITEM 8. EDUCATION & WELFARE SECRETARY'S REPORT

8. Albert Gardiner reported that we had had four officials' courses held in the county in the past year. He said he continues to encourage attendees to support county events after they have qualified as well as to encourage established officials to upgrade. England Athletics website enables Albert to upload county fixtures which gives officials the chance to find meetings to use to either gain experience or to seek upgrade support. On the safeguarding side of things Albert reported that he had dealt with three low level cases during the year.

ITEM 9. COACHING SECRETARY'S REPORT

9. Unfortunately Ian Willoughby was unable to attend the meeting so there was no report under this heading.

ITEM 10. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

10. The Chair confirmed that all current county officials were willing to continue in post for a further year except for Lynn and Steve Hudson who as previously reported have decided to stand down. An invitation was then extended to the meeting for volunteers to fill the vacant posts or to stand for any of the currently filled posts if there were any willing to put themselves forward. Philip Jeyes was proposed as the new road race series co-ordinator but no other volunteers came forward for any other committee posts. It was then proposed by Albert Gardiner, seconded by Derrick Lord that the following be elected to serve on the Gloucestershire AAA committee for the next year:

Chair	Sandra Ennis
Vice-Chair	Norman Lane
Treasurer	Rachel Vines
Secretary	Mick Morris
Officials Secretary	Albert Gardiner
Education & Welfare Secretary	Albert Gardiner
Coaching Secretary	Ian Willoughby
Road Running Team Manager	Norman Wilson
Cross-country/League Secretary	Arthur Daley
Cross-country Team Manager	Andy Hawkins
Webmaster	Charlotte Hall/Arthur Daley
Road Race Series Co-ordinator	Philip Jeyes

All were duly elected. For the record, the vacant committee posts are: Track and Field Secretary, Track and Field Team Manager, Facilities Manager.

ITEM 11. SELECT RECIPIENT FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE AAA ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2019

11. The following candidates were put forward for consideration for the award of the Gloucestershire AAA Athletic Achievement Award for 2019. A brief synopsis is listed below for each:

JOEL TOWNLEY – GLOUCESTER AC

A young triple jumper who is a multiple England Schools champion and has competed successfully at a high level for quite a few seasons now. He is very close to achieving 15 metres plus in the triple jump and is an exciting prospect for the future.

JANE HORDER – CHELTENHAM & COUNTY HARRIERS

Jane is a multiple masters champion in various age groups where she has competed with distinction for many years now. Jane has been a regular world record setter and continues to excel at the highest level while turning in performances that many younger athletes would love to achieve.

IAN WILLOUGHBY – GLOUCESTER AC

Ian is another masters athlete who competes to a very high level. He is a consistent points scorer for his club in league fixtures throughout the year as well as being a respected and accomplished coach and athletics official. He is also a record setter and medal winner both on the track as well as in the jumps.

JOHN JAMES – SEVERN AC

John is another masters athlete competing in the county. Whilst not at the level of the previous two mentioned above he is particularly notable for having continued to compete regularly and well despite some serious health issues lately. A regular competitor on road, track and country John is an example to all with his commitment and determination despite these setbacks.

LYNN & STEVE HUDSON – BOURTON ROAD RUNNERS

Lynn and Steve have worked hard for a considerable number of years in support of the county road race

series as well as supporting the cross-country league with results and entries. Lynn has been the main one in respect of the road race side of things but Steve has brought all his undoubted IT talents to bear to the benefit of the county, clubs and the wider athletic community through his development of the IT systems to support the series and the cross-country league and road running events. Steve's efforts and those of Lynn have led to great improvements in how we deal with entries and results at meetings and they have been an immense credit to the sport during their 12 years tenure of the road race series co-ordinator post.

After a counting of the vote Lynn and Steve Hudson were selected as the 2019 recipient of the Gloucestershire AAA athletic achievement award.

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. Support for Clubs hosting Cross-country fixtures. Arthur Daley stated that clubs who host our cross-country league fixtures and county championships no longer receive any benefit from this other than the pleasure of a job well done and the thanks of our association and the competitors. In the past before changes in regulations and on the part of venues stopped the practice clubs used to be able to organise the sale of refreshments and thereby achieve a financial benefit from hosting a fixture. This is no longer the case. Many clubs find that they need to meet the costs of supporting activities to put on matches, e.g. Dursley paid for hire of a tractor to cut back overgrowth for the Wotton-under-Edge match. This may also be a factor in the reluctance of clubs to host fixtures. Arthur therefore proposed, seconded by Derrick Lord, that we make a small payment to clubs that host our cross-country matches to show our thanks for and support of their efforts. After discussion the sum of £100.00 to each club putting on a league fixture or the county championships (therefore a total of £500 per season) was proposed and agreed. This sum is to be paid to those putting on the 2019/20 events and this will be reviewed at our June 2020 executive committee meeting. Rachel Vines agreed to provide some costings of the league in due course for a more informed consideration of this subject to be conducted in case we wish to review or improve this payment.

ITEM 13. DATES FOR 2020 GLOUCESTERSHIRE AAA MEETINGS

13. Dates for next year's meeting were discussed. The following dates were agreed for 2020 meetings:

Executive Committee Meetings:

Friday 24 January 2020

Friday 20 March 2020

Friday 19 June 2020

Friday 4 September 2020

Annual General Meeting:

Friday 6 November 2020.

All meetings will take place at the Gala Club, Fairmile Gardens, Tewkesbury Road, Gloucester.

MICK MORRIS
Hon Sec