***MINUTES OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE A.A.A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

***HELD AT
THE GALA CLUB, FAIRMILE GARDENS, TEWKESBURY ROAD, GLOUCESTER***

***ON***

***FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2017***

Present: Sandra Ennis Chair

 Norman Lane Vice-Chair

 Rachel Vines Treasurer

 Arthur Daley Cross-country Secretary

 Albert Gardiner Education & Welfare Secretary

 Andy Hawkins Cross-country Team Manager

 Lynn Hudson Road Race Series Co-ordinator

 Steve Hudson Road Race Series Deputy Co-ordinator

 Norman Wilson Road Running Team Manager

 Anne Wilson Beyond the Limitations

 Derrick Lord Cheltenham & County Harriers

 Elliot Prince Cheltenham & County Harriers

 Julie Walford Stroud & District AC

 Geoff Trueman Stroud & District AC

 Mike Storey Gloucester AC

 John Anderson Life Member

 Elizabeth Anthony Angels RC

 Georgina Emile Angels RC

 Edwina Driver-Dickerson Angels RC

 Mick Morris Secretary

Apologies: Bob Purcell Gloucester AC/Glos Track Management

 Ruth Fulford Cirencester AC

 Dennis Walmsley NCTR

 Lucinda Blandford Tewkesbury RC

 Jim Adams Stroud &I District AC

ITEM 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The minutes of the Gloucestershire AAA annual general meeting held on Friday 3rd November 2017 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 coming and then read out the following report. Once again we have had a very successful year in track and field, cross-country and road. This would not be possible if it wasn’t for the support of the people who selflessly give their time to both organise and officiate at these events and for this the county is very grateful but the numbers of people available for these duties are diminishing due to age and also people who became involved because their children were actively competing and Mum’s and Dad’s ferried them to and from events who are lost to the sport once their off-spring become self-sufficient and either cease the sport or look after themselves. I am not looking forward to next year’s track and field championships as trying to accommodate officials for all events is becoming nearly impossible so I am taking this opportunity to ask you all to go back to your clubs and encourage members who do not participate in track and field or parents who perhaps help at club level to offer their services to assist at the county championships as there are lots of ways they can help without having to be qualified officials. Our track and field championships are also becoming very popular with physically impaired athletes who thoroughly enjoy themselves, the younger ones especially. Likewise their parents who always make a point of saying thank you to organisers and officials.

4. We had our first cross-country league fixture on the 14th October at Blackbridge and once again numbers were up and the pre-entries system worked well with Karen and Vanessa busy with that part. Even so Mick and myself were non-stop with entries on the day not that we are complaining. Tomorrow we are at a new venue and it should be a little quieter with pre-entries but I anticipate a hectic time with entries on the day. I have booked Friday 12th January 2018 at the Civic Suite, Gloucester Docks for our annual presentation evening with the Mayor and his Lady and the Sheriff and his Lady who will be presenting the awards followed of course by the usual buffet. Times are 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start and then finishing at approximately 9.00 pm. I took a quick look at the Citizen before coming along this evening and it was very pleasing to see Almost Athletes selected in the community club of the year category.

ITEM 4. TREASURER’S REPORT

5. Rachel Vines presented the balance sheet for the county finances (a copy is attached to these minutes). Income for the past year was up £3000 compared to the previous year and our costs had also risen, by £800, during the same period. We have just spent just over £1300 on county vests so that we have a stock in hand to cover sales to those athletes who wish to purchase their own vest as well as a good spread of sizes to accommodate those who prefer to take one on loan. The balance on our Instant Access Savings Account is £12854.69 and the latest end of financial year balance on our current account stands at £5217.53.

ITEM 5. SECRETARY’S REPORT

6. Mick Morris said how pleased he was to see such a good turnout this evening, our best for a while. The county has had a successful year in which both our clubs and individuals have achieved much on the regional and national stage plus a number of our athletes have received national representative honours. Our championships on road, cross-country and track and field continue to attract good support from athletes. As Sandra has said, we are very much indebted to our stalwart band of officials and others who work so tirelessly to make these events and other county events so enjoyable and successful. Work continues at all levels of the sport to endeavour to attract, train and retain those who fulfil all these varied tasks that are so essential to enable us to provide proper opportunities for athletes. Our cross-country league continues to prosper under the excellent stewardship of Arthur Daley, our league secretary, and is an essential part of our funding stream. Our thanks go to all those many people for their support over the past 12 months.

7. Entry forms are now ready for our 2018 county cross-country championships which will take place at the same venue as last year, Olddown Country Park. I will be emailing the forms out to clubs next week and Arthur will place the form plus all the details on the county website shortly. We look forward to a good turn-out this year and to our being able to select strong teams for next year’s inter-counties championships which again take place at Loughborough. Richard Ayling, the coach and club support officer for the south west, has emailed with details of the South West cross-country championships for 2018 which will take place at Aldon Hill, Yeovil on Sunday 7th January 2018 (which is the day after our county championships). He also informed that the South West Road Relays will take place at Exeter racecourse on Saturday 7th April 2018 (Arthur Dally advised that this date clashes with the Midlands relays) and gave details of Movement Skills courses and Event Specific Workshops taking place in the upcoming weeks and months. The chair of the SW council, Keith Reed, has emailed inviting the county to send a representative to the COFSECS meeting at Exeter Harriers pavilion on Saturday 25th November 2017 – this is an additional person rather than just the county officials secretary who will have received a separate invitation. Bob Purcell has notified us that UKA have now adopted Racerunning as a full event in the sport with classifications of T31 and T32 and the event will also feature in the 2020 paralympics. As Gloucestershire were the first county to include the event in their championships this is very welcome news especially for those athletes who take part in the event of who there are a number in our county. Active Gloucestershire have contacted us through Richard Ayling regarding opportunities to access satellite club funding for schemes benefitting youngsters in the 14-19 age group. All of these notifications should also have gone to our clubs but if anyone has not received any of the information and would like a copy please let our Hon Sec know.

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

8. Lynn Hudson reported that this year we have not completed all of the events in this year’s series before tonight’s AGM. The final race in the series, Tewkesbury’s Guy Fawkes 5, takes place on Sunday (the day after this meeting). Shona Crombie-Hicks has retained her crown being ladies county champion. We do have a new men’s champion – Mark James of Cheltenham Harriers who is also a member of the men’s open team which have dominated both the open and vets team categories this year. This year both of the ladies team honours go to Almost Athletes. Looking forward to next year’s series the first two events are the CLC 10 mile event and the Linda Franks which both take place in January. The 10 remaining events will be decided at the January executive committee meeting. A few clubs have stated their interest for their event to be included. It has been mentioned by a few county runners that online entries have been opened before they realised. We wonder if race directors – especially those whose club has requested their event be included in the series – could publicise when online entries are to go live in the same way that the Bourton 10 km for example announces this side of Christmas when their entries will open. We look forward to seeing everyone at the presentation evening in January 2018.

9. Geoff Trueman questioned inclusion in the series of events where their entries fill up and close very quickly. Rachel Vines said that CLC Striders let Entry Central only have 180 of their 200 entry limit so that they are able to cater for county runners who email to enter if they have missed out on the normal online entries by virtue of holding back this small percentage of the race entries. There was then some debate on whether we should include races in the series whose entries fill so quickly that it is a virtual lottery as to whether you are able to get an entry. Some at the meeting suggested that clubs in this position should notify county clubs before entries open as to when this is to happen so as to improve county athletes chances of gaining entry. Arthur Daley suggested this could be to him or to Mick Morris, county secretary, which would allow us to advertise this through the county website and via email to our club contacts i.e in the main club secretaries.

ITEM 7. CROSS-COUNTRY SECRETARY’S REPORT

10. Arthur Daley stated that he started this year feeling confident that we could identify all 5 venues quickly for the county championships and the four league fixtures. We have however lost two venues and been unable to reach agreement with the owners of a third. Despite this all our cross-country matches now have venues although for the first time one has had to be moved to a Sunday. It is good that Stroud are marking and marshalling the county championships at Olddown Park. Chippenham are for the first time promoting a league meeting and Bitton RR have offered for next season. I am grateful to all the people who have put in a lot of time and effort into helping me solve the difficulties. Dursley and Tewkesbury both spent a lot of time trying to find venues without success and we are very grateful to them for trying so hard. The decision to run the M65+ with the women has been largely welcomed but running M17 and M20 together has not seen favour with the M20s. I will try to speak to the M17s to see if they prefer the longer distance but smaller fields and also speak to M15s; next year we may revert to the format of previous years for these age categories depending upon how things proceed during the season and also the feedback received from our discussions. The U17L and U20L run with the senior women as the distance is the same. The U20L seem to want to be treated as seniors and the U17L must be treated as a separate race as they cannot move up two age groups. It may help to distinguish the U17L with some form of marker so that they know who they are racing against. This is something we will look into. These changes have caused some difficulties with the result processing which I think have now been resolved.

ITEM 8. EDUCATION & WELFARE SECRETARY’S REPORT

11. Albert Gardiner expressed his gratitude to coaches and others for all their work this year. Two Level 1 and two Level 2 courses were held this year in the county. Albert has also been busy processing 61 licence verifications. Gloucestershire have been asked to be part of a pilot scheme for an enhanced officials availability data base. For this trial we need to provide key dates of events being held in the county that we require officials for. The new data base would give access to officials from outside of the county as well as county ones thereby widening the pool we are able to approach for support of our events. There is an officials Level 1 course scheduled for next year in the county at Cheltenham around April time and those interested should check the England Athletics website for dates and booking.

ITEM 9. COACHING SECRETARY’S REPORT

12. There is nothing to report under this heading.

ITEM 10. ELECTION OF COUNTY OFFICERS

13. All current county officers were available for re-election. Sandra Ennis asked if there were any further individuals who wished to be considered for appointment but other than Albert Gardiner, who offered himself for formal election as officials secretary in addition to his Education & Welfare appointment, there were no other nominations. The vacancy as officials secretary had arisen due to George Williams standing down due to ill health. George had performed these duties for us with distinction for many many years but had been forced to relinquish this in recent years and Albert had therefore been filling in on an unofficial basis. The meeting was then requested to agree the election of the following to serve the county for the next 12 months and on a show of hands all agreed to the election of the following with no objectors:

 Chair Sandra Ennis

 Vice-Chair Norman Lane

 Treasurer Rachel Vines

 Secretary Mick Morris

 Road Race Series Co-ordinator Lynn Hudson

 Road Race Series Deputy Co-ordinator Steve Hudson

 Cross-county Secretary Arthur Daley

 Cross-country Team Manager Andy Hawkins

 Education & Welfare Secretary Albert Gardiner

 Officials Secretary Albert Gardiner

 Coaching Secretary Ian Willoughby

 County Licensing Officer Arthur Daley

 Webmaster Charlotte Hall

 Road Running Team Manager Norman Wilson

 Track & Field Team Manager VACANT.

ITEM 11. SELECT RECIPIENT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AAA ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2017

14. Mick Morris informed the meeting that he had received four nominations for the county Athletic Achievement Award:

 1. Steve Edwards, NCTR. Steve has achieved a number of records this year due to having

completed the amazing total of 800 marathons in an average time of under 3 hours 20 minutes. The final race in this total was achieved at the recent Birmingham marathon

and Steve has quite rightly been the subject of considerable reports and articles in national

and local press. The longevity, determination and strength of character displayed by

Steve while carrying out this endeavour makes him a most noteworthy candidate for this

 award.

 2. Joel Townley, Glos AC. Joel is an under 17 triple jumper who has had a marvellous 2017 during which he has become ranked No 1 in the UK for triple jump in his age group with a

distance of 14.73 metres, an improvement of 1.28 metres since last season. He is also ranked 6th in the long jump with 6.87 metres to back this up. Joel won the English Schools,

and the England Under 17 championships in triple jump, also won the triple jump in the

Sainsbury’s school games international at Loughborough and finished second in the schools

International in Dublin. All of this also makes Joel a very noteworthy candidate.

3. Sophie Yorke, Chelt & C H. Sophie has converted this season from an exceptionally talented flat sprinter to a hurdler with considerable success. A 60m H finalist Sophie finished 2nd in 8.34s and ended the indoor season ranked 7th against all ages. At the Midlands under 20 championships she claimed silver in the 100m in 11.72s. She ran a wind assisted 13.31s to claim the Midlands title and a legal 13.47s a week later when claiming silver in the England under 20 championships which secured Sophie’s place in the GB team at the European under 20 championships in Italy. Sophie qualified for the 100m hurdles final in Italy where she finished 5th to cap off an exceptional first season as a hurdler. Yet another very worthy candidate for the award.

4. Mollie Courtney, Chelt & C H. Mollie is another exceptional talent at 100m hurdles and has now won junior and senior national honours as well as international recognition. Following an exceptional breakthrough season in 2016 this year Mollie has continued her upward trend and continued to shine. Mollie won the senior 60m hurdles indoor title in 8.32s. She ran a 100m PB of 12.4s for her club. In addition Mollie improved her PB at high jump with 1.76m. At the inter-counties Mollie this season acted almost as a one-person team and was instrumental in keeping Gloucestershire firmly in the division they have occurred for a while now with her 2nd place in the 100m hurdles and 5th place in the high jump. She has also been prominent at a national level and has aspirations to go to the Commonwealth Games in Australia next year to represent Northern Ireland having won their national championships in 100m hurdles this year. Mollie remains Cheltenham’s fastest and highest ranked track and field athlete and is yet another very worthy candidate for the award.

Following a very close vote Mollie Courtney was selected as the 2017 recipient of the Gloucestershire Athletic Achievement Award. The secretary will write to her advising her of this and inviting Mollie to our presentation evening in January to collect the award.

ITEM 12. FUTURE OF THE COUNTY WEBSITE

15. Arthur Daley informed the meeting that the new (currently temporary) website [www.athletics4u.co.uk](http://www.athletics4u.co.uk) costs £8.39 per month which is £100.68 a year. The first 12 months were at a discount price of £1.12 a month but this finished in July 2017. The old website, [www.glosaaa.org.uk](http://www.glosaaa.org.uk) costs £71.99 a year plus £8.39 annual domain renewal making £80.38 a year. The new website can be modified easily using a drag and drop technique. Access to upload files is share by Arthur and Steve (Hudson) which makes uploading results quick and simple. The old website needs a specific program (C Plan) to create and upload pages. None of us have experience of that program which is also outdated. We have subscribed to the old website until October 2018 with domain renewal due in April 2018. Arthur has downloaded all the files of results and photographs from the old website and started uploading them to the new one. It is therefore proposed that we discontinue the old website from April 2018 and maintain the new website making it our permanent one. The treasurer is requested to make arrangements for the regular payments needed. Although the new site is slightly more expensive it is much more user friendly and thereby much easier to maintain. The proposal was approved by the meeting.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. Funding for attendance on officials and coaches training courses. John Anderson asked if we still had any money remaining to fund attendance on courses. Mick Morris advised that the sum previously allocated to us by England Athletics for this purpose had all been used.

17. Clubs and Coach Support Officer for the South West. Derrick Lord advised that Richard Ayling, the current occupant of this appointment, had met with Cheltenham and County Harriers recently. Derrick questioned him as to why courses mainly took place in the Exeter area. Derrick suggested that venues should be sought In other parts of the region on a more regular basis to hopefully make attendance more easy for individuals in, say, the north of the region and thereby encourage and increase attendance. Richard promised that this would be take into consideration.

18. 2018 County Track and Field Championships Dates. Sandra Ennis said that if the county track and field championships were to take place on the same weekend in May as last year then that would mean Saturday/Sunday 12/13 May 2018 would be the dates for Parts 1 and 2 of our championships. After discussion it was agreed that we would look to hold Part 3 of the championships on 7th September 2018. Venues in 2018 would be Gloucester for Parts 1 and 2 and Cheltenham for Part 3. Mick Morris undertook to contact Bob Purcell to book the Gloucester track for the May dates and Elliot Prince agreed to check on the availability of the Cheltenham track for the September meeting.

ITEM 14. DATES FOR OUR MEETINGS IN 2018

19. The following dates were agreed upon for our executive committee meetings and annual general meeting in 2018:

 Executive Committee Meetings:

Friday 19th January 2018

 Friday 16th March 2018

 Friday 1st June 2018

Friday 3rd August 2018

Annual General Meeting:

Friday 9th November 2018.

MICK MORRIS

Hon Sec