

Sevenoaks Athletics Club – Annual General Meeting  
Friday April 24, 2009  
Minutes

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:00

**Present:** Peter Ash, Carol Beadle, Rob Carr, Lyndon Collins, John Denyer, Peter Dillon, Jim Duffill, Andrew Dykes, Simon Hallpike, Rob Johnson, Jim Knight, Geoffrey Kitchener, Richard Pitcairn-Knowles, John Robinson, Chris Rowley, Lindsey Shing, David Simpson, Paul Tabor, and Geoff Vine.

1. **Apologies:** Erik Folkesson and Allan Lee.

2. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting** was proposed by Lyndon Collins, seconded by Jim Duffill and passed unanimously.

3. **Chairman's Report:** Paul Tabor, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those that had given their time and energy throughout the year to support the club by either coaching, organising teams and events, marshalling or in a variety of other ways. He paid particular tribute to Ann Third who has been one of the leading coaches of the Juniors for a number of years and who is now leaving the club. Rob Carr who has now qualified as Level 2 Coach has stepped in to take Ann's place at present. Paul also thanked those that would be marshalling at the London Marathon on Sunday and wished those running the best of luck. Paul also made a request for marshals to support the Sevenoaks 7 and reminded everyone that the post race meal would be at Zizzi's.

Paul said that he planned to stage the 5k Fun Run in the autumn again this year and was looking for a replacement for Mike McCarthy who has been the joint organiser in the past. He would also welcome any ideas for the charity to benefit from the event this year.

Paul paid tribute to work of Neil Smith over many years in organising the Kent Cross Country League. Unfortunately no one has come forward within Kent to take on this role and the county have been forced to abandon the league.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

A three page report was handed out at the meeting showing Income & Expenditure, Balance Sheet and Note to the Accounts.

Income & Expenditure Summary: The main incomes from membership and the Sevenoaks 7 race remain strong and up on previous years. If the payment for the jump pit cover is ignored underlying financial performance is in line with previous years.

Balance Sheet Summary: In terms of the balance sheet the club has approximately £26,000 held in deposit and current accounts with the Lloyds TSB Bank. The equipment schedule is dominated by last year's purchase of the jump pit covers. Net assets are slightly down due to the depreciation of this item.

Geoff Vine pointed out that the grants we had received (covers for the long jump pits) had very largely been of benefit to the school rather than the club. He encouraged the club to use such funds in future for facilities that more directly supported the club, in particular the Juniors. Paul Tabor said that the Juniors did make use of the long jumps and that working with the school to improve the facilities at the track enabled us to keep the cost of using the track down. John Denyer also mentioned that the next grant we seek should be to help fund the provision of temporary lighting at the track which will benefit both Juniors and Seniors. The 2008/09 accounts were proposed to be adopted by Geoff Vine, seconded by Andrew Dykes and passed unanimously.

5. **Annual Subscriptions.** Given the satisfactory financial position and limited cost increases incurred it was proposed not to increase subscriptions for 2009. Peter Dillon proposed, seconded by Simon Hallpike and unanimously approved.

6. Allan Lee, **Membership Secretary**, was unable to be at the meeting but provided a written report. The club now has 214 members which is 36 more than this time last year. This is a reversal of the year on year reduction in numbers since 2005 bringing them back to the level of 2007. Of the 36 new members 31 were juniors under the age of 17, that is 86% of the increase. In fact juniors represent more than half of the Club for the first time ever. We have however had a net loss of juniors in the under 15 to 17 age group. Of the 36 new members 21 were female and 15 were male. Females now make up 44% of the membership compared to 41% this time last year. Only 17% of the membership is aged between 15 and 40.

7. **Secretary** had nothing special to report.

8. Reports

**SAC Veterans T&F:** John Robinson provided a summary of the 11<sup>th</sup> season Sevenoaks AC has competed in the SCVAC League. There were six meets and the Men's team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in Division 2. There was unfortunately again no Women's Team. Mainstays of the team were Rob Peers, Rob Carr and Geoff Kitchener, who competed overall in 12, 11 and 10 events respectively. John Denyer appeared in every meeting, most frequently as a M50, and probably did the best individual performance with his 3000m as a M60 in wet conditions in a shade over 11 minutes at Erith. Jim Duffill was injured for the whole season and was sorely missed.

Sevenoaks AC athletes were represented in the BMAF Championships in Birmingham with Geoff Kitchener winning silver in 400m and June Johnson silver in 5000m.

In the SCVAC Championships at Ashford, Geoff Kitchener won gold in the High Jump and 400m Hurdles, silver in the 100m, and bronze in the 200m. In the SCVAC Indoor Championships at Lee Valley he also won gold in the 60m Hurdles, High Jump and Triple Jump.

In the National Rankings Geoff Kitchener as a M55 achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> in 400m Hurdles and 9<sup>th</sup> in High Jump. John Denyer as a M60 achieved 5<sup>th</sup> in 10,000m and 8<sup>th</sup> in 3000m.

**Kent Road Race Grand Prix:** Geoff Vine reported that the club had focussed on achieving a high turn-out at selected events such as the Harvel 5 and Weald 10k and also including a social side to the day. As a result the club had won a number of individual and team prizes, particularly at Harvel. It was hoped to repeat this again this year. In addition the club now held a social evening on the last Tuesday of each month at the Sennockian after the normal Tuesday training run and this was proving popular. In the Kent Grand Prix the Men finished the year in 8<sup>th</sup> place and the Women in 10<sup>th</sup>. Individual results of note were David Ives 1<sup>st</sup> Man and Sally Shewell 3<sup>rd</sup> W45.

**Cross Country:** Rob Carr reported on the Kent Fitness League. We started strongly and were in the top 4 teams in the early part of the season. However, we faded in later fixtures and finished 6<sup>th</sup> as a combined team, with the Ladies finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Men 6<sup>th</sup>. Rob Murray had an excellent season to finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall and Chris Desmond was 1<sup>st</sup> M45. Keith Brown was 20<sup>th</sup> overall. We suffered with the lack of an M50 scorer with M60's John Denyer (53<sup>rd</sup> overall) and Geoff Vine (73<sup>rd</sup> overall) filling this slot. For the ladies Heather Fitzmaurice was 10<sup>th</sup> overall, Cathy Hughes 16<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey Shing 20<sup>th</sup> and Vicky White 23<sup>rd</sup>. Caitlin Carr had a very good season winning the U16 girls category. David Simpson gave a report on the Kent Cross Country League season. In the first three races we achieved a good team placing with 11<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> but failed to field a full team in the final fixture to finish the season 9<sup>th</sup> overall. The best performance was Allan Lee's 3<sup>rd</sup> place at Danson Park.

**Handicap:** Simon Hallpike reported that participation levels remain consistent overall although only 42 different people ran, the least since 2003. However, 19 members ran 4 qualifying races, the most since 2000. David Lee won the series, with Linsey Shing second and Rob Carr third.

**Club Grand prix:** John Denyer reported that participation remains consistent across the three Grand Prix series. The 2008 T&F was dominated by runners in the M50 and M60 age groups. For the sixth year Geoff Kitchener was the clear winner with John Denyer 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lyndon Collins 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Most Improved category the winner was David Simpson with Rob Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lyndon Collins 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Road Running series, Geoff Vine, Chris Desmond and David Ives all led at some stage but with two races in the final month John Denyer was the eventual winner with Geoff Vine 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chris Desmond 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Most Improved category the winner was Erik Folkesson with Geoff Vine 2<sup>nd</sup> and Carol Beadle 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Junior series the Baxter sisters Simone and Christelle, both good sprinters, were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with Tabitha Adams achieving some good middle distance performances to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Juniors:** Rob Carr reported on the progress made by the Juniors. He is now leading the U11's having achieved his level 2 Coaching License. In terms of overall numbers the Juniors were doing well but there was a lack of boys over 15. In addition to the Grand Prix results already reported Tabitha Adams performed particularly well at both the National and County Cross Country Championships. Both Tabitha and Megan Hawes, another talented middle distance runner, had been jointly given the Athlete of the Year award. The boy of the year was Lewis Church, the U11 boy was Matthew Collins and the U11 girl Christelle Baxter. The Junior presentation evening is to take place on 28 April.

9. **The Committee:** The existing officers and committee members were all willing to stand for the coming year and with no other nominations their election was proposed by John Robinson and seconded by Chris Rowley. They were elected unanimously. The committee is as follows:

Paul Tabor, Chairman      Peter Ash, Treasurer  
Erik Folkesson, Secretary Allan Lee, Membership Secretary  
Robert Carr              John Denyer  
Andrew Dykes      David Simpson  
Darrel Smith

10. **Presentation of Awards:** Paul Tabor presented the Alex Wilson Trophy for Athletic Achievement to John Denyer for his strong performances over the year on the road, track and cross country. Ann Third was awarded the Challenge Cup for Services to the Club reflecting her valuable contribution over a number of years as coach to the Juniors. In addition to the Grand Prix and Handicap prize winners already mentioned prizes were presented to Chris Desmond and Vicky White as the Male and Female Cross Country Runners of the Year 2008-09 respectively.

#### 11. **Other business**

Rob Carr raised the idea of an Annual Club Weekend Away, in particular the running tours organised by Running Tours GB at [www.runningtoursgb.com](http://www.runningtoursgb.com) There was good support among those attending for the idea and Jim Knight and Geoff Vine agreed to take the lead on the idea by contacting the organiser.

Chris Rowley raised the idea of a clubhouse for the club and urged the committee to talk to Sevenoaks School with a view to reaching a solution.

The issue of attracting and retaining new members was discussed. It was thought that new slower runners might be left behind on a Tuesday evening and become discouraged.

Resurrecting the beginners group was discussed but no conclusion reached. Jim Duffill did suggest that we ought to advertise ourselves at the time the London Marathon places are confirmed to provide the support of a club environment to those preparing for the Marathon. Geoff Vine praised the Handicap competition organised by Simon Hallpike for many years. However, he did feel that we still had to solve the advantage gained by members who had been out of action for a prolonged period and having received a handicap time on the basis of one run were often able to gradually improve race by race while at the same time winning successive races. He asked if Simon could give some thought to how this advantage could be minimised perhaps by requiring them to run more than one race to establish a more realistic handicap time.

The chairman closed the meeting at 21:33.

Attachments:

Accounts for 2008 and Budget 2009

List of Trophies and Awards