



## AGM MINUTES 2024

DATE / TIME	VENUE:	CHAIR:
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7pm	Institution Café Bar, Bedale	Gemma Wardle

IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBER APOLOGIES
Lynn Inglis, Secretary, Minute Taker Alice Inglis, Membership Graham Finlay, Treasurer Chris Lees, Head Coach Briget Wilson (Committee Member) Sara Sherwood (Committee Member) Ruth Hancock (Committee Member) Tony Jowett Tracey Wise Harriet Homles Amy McDougal Annabel MacGregor Nick Wilson Carolyn Keeble Jane Kirk Polly Oldacres Dave Oldacres	Michelle Slade (Committee Member) Nige Haresign (Committee Member) Becky Williams(Committee Member) Lucille Allen Erin Marley Jill Macrae-Rowson Craig Dennis Claire Rogers Hayley Holmes Charlotte Haskell Liz Haresign Chris Williams Sarah Dosanjh Kate Stead Paul Martinson Cameron Blair Mary Gregory Lesley Whithouse John Leeson David Fox Andy Garner Deborah Rogers Johanna Daniel Craig Dennis Claire Harris Hayley Holmes Richard Slade

Item	Discussion	Member
1	<b>Welcome and introduction to the AGM</b> Gemma opened the meeting and welcomed those members present. Apologies were noted from members unable to attend.	Gemma Wardle

<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Chair's Annual Report</b></p> <p>Gemma opened her presentation by emphasising how proud she feels to be part of a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive club. She asserted that 2023/24 has been the best year yet in terms of club growth, and members' performances and achievements across an array of events, many of which were recognised at the Club's Awards Night in September 2023.</p> <p>Gemma praised Harvey Wilkinson for being selected to take part in the U17 England Athletics National Indoor Championships Shot Put event, notably competing against the grandson of Jeff Capes.</p> <p>Gemma reported that many charities have benefitted immensely from fundraising by members and friends. The HARC Angels event raised £375 for Lucie's Animal Rescue, and £600 was raised for Dementia Forward following participation in the Scarborough Dragon Boat event.</p> <p>Gemma highlighted that the club has seen a steady growth in attendance at sessions, especially over recent months and commented how lovely it is to struggle to fit everyone in to the photographs at the start of our sessions.</p> <p>Gemma spoke with pride regarding two of her favourite moments of the year when positive feedback was received about the club from members of the public. Firstly, at a Fountains Abbey parkrun it was observed by a Team Caterpillar member that HARC members not only supported their own colleagues over the finish line but waited to cheer on other runners. Secondly, the support and kindness witnessed by a volunteer towards all participants at the local Snape 5K and 10K inspired her to join the club.</p> <p>Looking ahead to future events, Gemma advised that current participants on the Couch to 5K programme will officially graduate on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and she encouraged members to attend to lend their support at the Fountains Abbey parkrun. In addition, there will be a curry night on 27<sup>th</sup> March at Spice in Bedale for members to join the participants in celebrating their achievement.</p> <p>Gemma gave special mention to Ruth Hancock, who won our club place for the London Marathon and whose training is now well underway. On behalf of the club, Gemma extended best wishes to her and fellow members Joanne Sinnott and Mary Gregory who also have places.</p>	<p>Gemma Wardle</p>
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	<p>Gemma praised members for their enthusiastic participation in events organised by the social team. Planning is underway for more events in the forthcoming months.</p> <p>Gemma thanked the coaching team for their time and commitment to the club. Thanks were also extended to non-committee volunteers and current committee members. A special thanks was given to Katy Bamber for all her support over the last year, but who is now stepping down from the committee.</p> <p>Finally, Gemma thanked all club members for their support and the warm welcome always extended to new members.</p> <p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <p>None</p> <p>The full Chair's report is available on the HARC website.</p>	
3	<p><b>Treasurer's Annual Report</b></p> <p>Graham commenced his presentation by highlighting that due to the excellent growth of club membership he has recorded well over 500 financial transactions over the past year.</p> <p>He advised that all social events and kit are sold at cost price so there is very little profit or loss on these. We have built up a healthy surplus in the bank account. This has come from membership fees, around half of which goes towards EA affiliations. Some of the remaining half is used to pay for training courses for coaches, equipment, subsidisation of events, and awards. He explained that we have built up a reserve of over £2,500; he stressed that it is important not to build up too much without spending, so he intends to ask the committee for spending ideas to benefit members in the coming year.</p> <p>HARC is currently a limited company, however four weeks ago we submitted our application for Community Amateur Sports Club status which means we will be eligible to receive Gift Aid.</p> <p>Graham also advised that payments via PayPal cost us an average of 70-80p per transaction.</p> <p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <p><i>1. Tony Jowett asked whether the club could utilise payments via bank-to-bank transfer to avoid PayPal charges. Graham advised that using PayPal has been more</i></p>	Graham Finlay

	<p><i>convenient in terms of keeping track of transactions (including to what and whom they relate), but we will be looking to find a more cost and time effective system.</i></p> <p><i>2. Annabel McGregor asked whether when paying for any HARC event via her bank card, if this transaction still goes through PayPal. Graham advised that it does.</i></p> <p>The full Treasurer's report can be found on the HARC website.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Head Coach's Annual Report</b></p> <p>Chris firstly thanked all members for being such great athletes and extended thanks to the coaching team for their time and commitment. With the recent addition of three new coaches, there is more scope to provide additional sessions, with the possibility of adding Sunday sessions to the HARC programme. In addition, the extra coaches will help to ensure cover if the 1:12 runner ratio is exceeded at any session.</p> <p>Chris advised that there has been no intermediate programme this year and a new format for the course is still to be determined. If anyone is interested in completing the course, please contact Chris.</p> <p>Chris is looking for another volunteer to become a qualified Athletics Coach to provide support and to cover for him later in the year when he will be taking some time out. Please discuss with him if you are interested.</p> <p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p>The full Head Coach's Report is available on the HARC website.</p>	<b>Chris Lees</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Membership Secretary's Annual Report</b></p> <p>Presenting her report, Alice advised that the club has continued to develop and this is reflected in the membership numbers. We currently have 95 members (two second claim) which is an increase from 71 at this time last year. In part, this has been thanks to success in retaining participants following our Couch to 5K programmes.</p> <p>We remain affiliated to England Athletics (EA) and members can find their membership number in their profile on the HARC website.</p>	<b>Alice Inglis</b>

	<p>Although membership fees have increased this year, pricing still represents very good value for the coaching and sessions available each week.</p> <p>Alice advised that current memberships will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and members can register for the coming year at <a href="https://harc.uk/membership">https://harc.uk/membership</a>. New memberships will be valid until the end of March 2025.</p> <p>Alice reminded members that they are required to log into their profile on the EA website and agree to the Codes of Conduct relevant their role(s). This is a requirement of our continued club affiliation.</p> <p>The average age of our members is 42 years old and there is now a more equal gender split.</p> <p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <p><i>Tony Jowett asked what is meant by second claim? Alice answered that under EA rules an athlete may compete for up to two clubs, one of these is known as first claim and the other optional club is the second claim.</i></p> <p>The full Membership Secretary's report is available on the HARC website.</p>	
6	<p><b>Annual Funding Report</b></p> <p>Alice informed the meeting that since the last AGM, we have continued to raise funds for the club, and most successfully via EasyFundraising. We have held the EasyFundraising account for 7 months now and with only 27 supporters we have raised £342.45. This platform is a simple and fast way to raise funds for the club every time you shop online with no cost to yourselves. Alice encouraged more members or friends (you do not need to be a HARC member) to join. If you require further information or support to set up an account, please speak to Alice or see our Easy Fundraising page at: <a href="https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hambleton-athletics/">https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hambleton-athletics/</a>.</p> <p>We are now eligible to reapply for another Tesco Community Grant and this application will be submitted following the next committee meeting later this month.</p> <p>Alice requested that members speak to the committee if they would like to support the club or have ideas for fundraising opportunities in the future. There is no requirement to be a member of the committee and</p>	Alice Inglis

	<p>individuals will be very welcome to support the funding officer with grant applications or events.</p> <p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <p><i>Tony Jowett asked about Crowdfunder as a fundraising option?</i></p> <p><i>Alice responded that establishing a successful Crowdfunding campaign continues to be an option and any volunteers wishing to support this are welcome, as it requires a lot of time to set up and manage.</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Election of Committee Members for 2024/25.</b></p> <p>As there were only single nominations for the following elected roles, the following members were automatically elected:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Treasurer (Vice Chair) – Graham Finlay</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Secretary – Lynn Inglis</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Head Coach – Chris Lees</p> <p>Two nominations each were received for the elected roles of Chair and Membership Secretary – Gemma Wardle and Alice Inglis. In accordance with our Club Rules, a ballot of members attending the AGM was executed. The members present were asked to vote for the person they would like to see elected to the role of Chair, with an explanation that the candidate in second position would automatically be elected to the role of Membership Secretary.</p> <p>Prior to the vote, both candidates gave a short speech about why they wished to be considered for the role of Chair.</p> <p>The votes were counted and verified by Lynn Inglis and Graham Finlay, and it was announced that Gemma was elected to the role of Chair and Alice to Membership Secretary.</p> <p>Since the number of nominations for general committee members was equal to the number of posts available, the following members were elected:</p> <p>Ruth Hancock, Sara Sherwood, Becky Williams, Tony Jowett, Nigel Haresign, Bridget Wilson, and Michelle Slade.</p> <p>Gemma extended a warm welcome to new member Tony Jowett.</p> <p>Specific roles to be held by the committee will be decided at the next committee meeting. However, there is still the opportunity for members to volunteer on an ad-hoc basis or</p>	<p><b>Gemma Wardle &amp; Graham Finlay</b></p>

	<p>to fill one of the volunteer roles which can be held by either committee or non-committee members.</p> <p>If anyone is interested in the following volunteer roles, please email Lynn, <a href="mailto:secretary@harc.uk">secretary@harc.uk</a> by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddy Coordinator</li> <li>• Grants &amp; Funding Officer</li> <li>• Kit Coordinator</li> <li>• Mental Health Champion</li> <li>• Parkrun Liaison</li> <li>• Route Scheduler</li> <li>• Running Events Promoter</li> <li>• Social &amp; Fundraising Events Coordinator</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>Annual Charity Shortlist and Vote</b></p> <p>Members present were asked to vote for an annual charity to be supported by the club, from a shortlist of four local charities. With a majority vote of 11, The Dales Centre in Bedale was the winner. They will be the recipient of all fundraising during the 2024/25 year, whether it be a planned event such as the HARC Angels 5km or via informal means such as donating loose change at the end of a club social event.</p> <p>Ruth Hancock also advised that she will be very pleased to raise monies for this cause through sponsorship of her London Marathon race. It was also suggested that a Just Giving page could be set up.</p> <p>Gemma will inform the manager at the Dales Centre that they will be the recipient of our fundraising for the next year.</p>	Gemma Wardle
9	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>There were no further items to discuss.</p> <p>Gemma thanked everyone again for attending and thanked Institution for opening to host the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 19.45.</p>	Gemma Wardle

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at Graham's House (address to be made available via the Committee WhatsApp group)