

Swindon Harriers Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held in the Clubhouse, County Ground Athletics Complex

From 20:00 on 19th November 2025

Present:

Committee: Howard Moscrop (Chairman), John Dill (Vice-Chairman), Ray Bell (Treasurer) Bryan Clinton, Gemma Scott, Jon Hughes, Kieran Golding, Luke Byrne, Matt Prosser, Phil Smith, Sarah Bellamy, Steve Connolly, Steve Sparkes, Val Godwin

Others Present: Alan Brown, Andy Symon, Ben McIntyre, Chris Varley, Craig Scott, Matt Nicholls, Harry Woods, Ian Spencer, M Bellamy, Martin Smith, Michael Affleck, Paul Gassner, Rachel Oram, Simon Dill, Teresa Iannitelli.

A total of 29 members were present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Bernie & Helen Merron, Emily Swaine, Geoff Wickens, Mike Beard, Robin Nathan, Mike Beard.

Emily Swaine and Geoff Wickens confirmed they are stepping down from the General Committee alongside any existing commitments.

2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Reports – No comments from the floor to the reports that were circulated ahead of the meeting. Approved by Chris Varley, seconded by Val Gibbons.
- b. Treasurer's Report (Ray Bell)
Key highlights for 2024/25:
 - Income: £127k (mainly membership fees, less EA affiliation c.£100k)
 - Overall profit: £3k
 - Track refurbishment reserve: £43,500
 - Major expenditure: replacement/new equipment, £10k spent on track washing/remarking, a £7k electricity bill, addressing perimeter fencing and the double gates, re-laid throwing circles, lockers installed, Trackmark recertification, takeover of the two Swindon Borough Council (SBC) containers.
 - First £10k repayment made to SBC for track lighting.

Looking ahead to 2025/26:

- Track refurbishment projected to be near £100k.
- Uneven assembly area paving needs attention.
- The photo-finish hut roof requires attention.
- Proposal to engage an independent reviewer for the club's annual accounts.

Motion: Proposed by Val Godwin, seconded by Matt Nicholls. Passed

Actions:

- The Treasurer to revisit what is required to move the club from a Community Amateur Sports Club model (CASC) to a Charity model, and to consider the merits.**
- The Treasurer to provide multi-year forecast in future AGM reports. The proposer (Matt Nicholls) suggested through to 2030 when the track surface is projected to require addressing.**

4. Track Developments

- The Executive continues to identify funding sources. Belief at this time is a target of £300k is a figure to work toward. The Chairman explained the club could get there in its own right, however would prefer matched funding. Conversations are ongoing with a number of parties.

The Chairman explained the General Committee shall be looking to maintain a balancing act between funding ongoing activities e.g. replacement cost v setting money aside. General Committee to review any expenditure requests, which is normal practice.

Following an enquiry of Nigel Belgrave at last year's AGM, the Chairman and the Treasurer confirmed despite many requests, SBC have been unable to provide the club with a copy of the track refurbishment contract.

- Regarding fundraising initiatives:
 - The Chairman highlighted that the club's website advertising page has been updated to encourage sponsorship opportunities through trackside hoardings:
www.swindonharriers.com/advertising.
 - Steve Sparkes highlighted the potential to access grants from companies and organisations offering Community Grant schemes. He cited the example of Nationwide Building Society, which awarded the club over £2,800 in Summer 2025 to purchase equipment for the club's Under 11s. He stressed the importance of ensuring such opportunities are brought to the attention of the General Committee.

5. Subscriptions for 2025/2026 (Due 1st April 2026)

- a. The Treasurer proposed:
 - i. An increase of 25p/month for Under 13s and older due to an increase in the annual England Athletics (EA) affiliation fee, which shall be £23 per member for 2026.
 - ii. Under 11 subscriptions remain £21 a month (no EA affiliation required).
 - iii. Off Track members' track use fees to rise from £7/£9 to £8/£10.

Motion: Proposed by Val Godwin, seconded by Martin Smith. Passed unanimously.

6. Executive Positions

- a. The Chairman explained the club has a number of vacancies in key supporting roles, specifically Secretary, Assistant Memberships Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, plus three General Committee vacancies.

Roles can be divided into smaller responsibilities if needed.
Matt Nicholls suggested skeleton role profiles be made available.

Action

The Chairman to organise readvertising the vacancies and leveraging a wider range of channels this time, including all club social media outlets as well as the web site, the latter which has seen a significant uptick in visits the site has been refreshed.

b. Other Committee Positions

Membership Secretary	Gemma Scott
Officials Secretary	Kieran Golding
Coaching Co-ordinator	Bryan Clinton
Welfare Officers	Jon Hughes and Sarah Bellamy
Health and Safety Officer	Matt Prosser
Press and Media Officers	Kevin Fahey and Josh Paradise
Two representatives of athletes aged 8 to 19 years of age.	U11: Steve Sparkes
Schools Liaison Officer	U13-U17: John Dill
Community / Business Liaison Officer	Phil Smith
Six member of the General Committee	Vacancy
	Steve Connolly, Luke Byrne, Val Gibbons (possibles Teresa Ianatelli, Harry Woods, Ben McIntyre)

Motion: Proposed by Phil Smith, seconded by Jon Hughes. Passed unanimously.

- c. Thanks were extended to Tom Haworth for managing c.100 monthly requests via the club website's Contact Us channel.

7. London Marathon Ballot

- a. To recap, this is for club members who have been unsuccessful securing a place in next year's London Marathon.

There was a discussion around eligibility criteria in future years. The outcome of the ballot was:

- 1st: Jon Hughes
- Reserve: Paul Bonner

Action

The Chairman to propose revised eligibility criteria at the next General Committee meeting.

8. Any Other Business

- a. The Chairman announced Long Service Awards were given to Neil England, Val Gibbons (present).

Note: At the Juniors Presentations Evening, a Long Service Award was presented to Steve Connolly.

9. Open Forum

- a. There were nine minutes remaining to allow for open forum discussion:
 - i. Kieran Golding asked what the Secretary role involved.
 - ii. Facebook – A request from Harry Woods to get a Middle Distance representative to cast an eye on Middle Distance content before publication to ensure the content is complete, accurate and representative. The Vice-Chairman welcomed others submitting content for Kevin to publish. Refer to the Vice-Chairman.
 - iii. Harry Woods and Teresa Iannitelli expressed an interest in the General Committee. The Chairman extended invitations to attend the January committee meeting and then to review potential next steps.
 - iv. No further matters raised.

10. Close of Meeting

- a. With no other business, the AGM closed at 21:26pm.