**SOLIHULL AND SMALL HEATH ATHLETIC CLUB**

**Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, Solihull, on Thursday 24th March 2022, commencing at 8pm**

The Chairman, Robert Pinton, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 11 members present, their names are listed in the AGM Attendance Register.

Robert asked everyone to stand for two minutes silence as a sign of respect to mark the passing away of Ella Swann, Maureen Blore and Peter Vine.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Daniel Allen, Sharon Jacks, Gareth Jones, Cameron & Gillian Lindsay, Phil McDonald, Ian Mitchell, Sue Taylor, Sarah Whapples

Note: Since tendering their apologies, Cameron and Gillian Lindsay have resigned from the Club.

1. **MINUTES OF THE 40TH AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 15th MARCH 2021**

The minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on 15thMarch 2021, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken ‘as read’. One correction was made to the Chairman’s report. It was proposed by Becky Freeman and seconded by Lynne Moody, that the Minutes be duly adopted as an accurate record of the proceedings – carried unanimously. They will be signed by the Chairman, Robert Pinton. There were no matters arising.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT**

A copy of the written report prepared by the Chairman, Robert Pinton, and read to the members present, is included as Appendix 1.

It was proposed by Malcolm Payne, seconded by Chris Lawrence and carried unanimously that the Chairman’s Report be adopted as presented.

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Honorary Treasurer, Robert Davies, presented a summary of the Club’s accounts for the years ending 31st January 2022.

Accounts are prepared on a monthly basis for the committee to review to ensure that the financial position is understood and that decisions on expenditure are made knowing that they are affordable.

The accounts have been independently reviewed by David Paulin and provide an accurate summary of income and expenditure.

The cash balances at the end of the year, 31/01/2022, were £5,390.91 in the current account and £7,719.11 in the deposit account, giving a total cash balance of £13,110.02.

Robert pointed out that the Club does not exist to make profits and is on an even keel.

There has been a large outlay for a new storage cabin to replace the old cabin that was beyond repair. The Club is also now paying full rates for track hire to Everyone Active. The Kit Sales account is positive as stock is now being sold.

As accounts are done on an income and expenditure basis, the cost of the cabin is recorded as a single expense rather than an asset.

Robert Pinton commented that the deficit would have been larger had the Club not been reimbursed for competitions that did not take place in 2021.

It was proposed by Steve Webb and seconded by Malcolm Payne and carried unanimously that the Accounts be adopted.

1. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following Officers and Team Managers were elected for 2022/2023, all of whom are entitled to attend Committee Meetings.

**PRESIDENT** Chris Lawrence

**PRESIDENT ELECT** Lynne Moody

**CHAIRMAN/FIXTURES SECRETARY** Robert Pinton

**TREASURER** Robert Davies

**HONORARY SECRETARY** Steve Webb

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** vacant

**MINUTES SECRETARY** vacant

**FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR/** Annette Brown

**PROMOTIONS SECRETARY/**

**OFFICIALS SECRETARY**

**WEBSITE MANAGER** Steve Howes

**SOCIAL SECRETARY** Yemisi Takwoingi (has indicated it will be her last year)

**NEWSLETTER/PUBLICITY OFFICER** Sarah Davila

**SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER** Richard McIlwraith

**CHILD PROTECTION**  Robert Davies

**& WELFARE OFFICERS** Lynne Moody

**ADDITIONAL MEMBERS** Rebecca Freeman

Phil McDonald

Malcolm Payne

**TEAM MANAGERS**

**CROSS COUNTRY & ROAD RELAYS**

**Senior Men:** Steve Howes

**Senior Women:** Rebecca Freeman

**Young Athletes:** Stuart Albutt & Robert Pinton

**TRACK & FIELD**

**Midland League**  Robert Pinton & Rebecca Freeman

**YDL U13/U15** Lynne Moody

**YDL U17/U20** Sharon Jacks

**H of E (female)** Caroline Conduit **H of E (male)** Sue Taylor

**Sportshall** Lynne Moody & Phil McDonald \*

Proposed by the Committee, seconded by Peter Bacon and carried unanimously.

\* Note: The Birmingham Sportshall League has no fixtures again this year and it is doubtful if it will continue. BRAT joined the league prior to the Covid Pandemic and are keen to continue but other Clubs are struggling. The lack of face to face contact with parents as a result of Covid has had an impact.

Annette referred to the England Athletics Club Standards, introduced in January 2022, which specify that a club must have a designated Membership Secretary and the same person should not hold more than one major committee post. Rebecca Freeman agreed that, for registration purposes and access to the EA portal, her name could remain against this post until a new Membership Secretary is appointed.

Chris Lawrence pointed out that the club is required to have a designated Welfare Officer. The meeting agreed that the post of Child Protection Officer be extended to Child Protection & Welfare Officer and that Robert Davies and Lynne Moody would continue in this role.

1. **ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS**

There were no nominations.

1. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION**

It was recognised that updates to the Club Rules (constitution) were needed to reflect current practice. Proposed amendments had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Amendments to the constitution were proposed by Lynne Moody, seconded by Chris Lawrence and carried unanimously.

The revised constitution is attached to these minutes.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting to be over at 20:43 hours.

**Signed by Chairman……………………………………………………………………….**

**Date………………………**

**APPENDIX 1 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

This last 12 months has finished on a very sad note with the passing away of one of our young athletes, Ella Swann. She was 14 years old & had been a member of the Club for 5 years. The tragic incident occurred at North Solihull swimming baths on the 28th February from which she subsequently died. The details are still being investigated. She is a great loss to the Club & our girls’ middle distance group in particular. We cannot imagine what her parents are going through.

Last December Peter Vine died at the age of 74. He coached at the Club for about 15 years starting in the late 1980s. Earlier this year Maureen Blore passed away & I believe she was in her mid 80s. She had been involved with athletics, both as an athlete & volunteer, for most of her life & much of this at Small Heath Harriers prior to the merger with Solihull AC in 1980. She was a track official at this club for about 20 years. We have much to be grateful to all of them for their contribution to this sport.

This year we have purchased a new portakabin which is 4 feet longer than the previous one. This is mainly to store our equipment but there should be spare room for other purposes. Many thanks to those who helped with the moving of equipment & in particular to Steve Webb for arranging the purchase & for fitting it out, so professionally, with racks & shelves etc.

Competition on the track last year was somewhat reduced but at least there was the opportunity for athletes to test their form, with probably more open meetings than usual.

**The Midland league** did not work with the usual divisions but clubs competed on a local basis normally with only 4 clubs & a reduced programme lasting about 4 hours. This served its purpose in providing some team competition. We were with Birchfield, BRAT and Sutton, and finished 3rd overall which was quite respectable.

**YDL UAG** also competed against local clubs having 4 matches with Birchfield, Coventry, Rugby and Sutton. Birchfield were clear overall winners with Solihull 4th.

For our **YDL LAG** team, it was a little disappointing. The first match which we were hosting was cancelled because the judges stands were not considered safe and we did not attend the 2nd meeting because of a local outbreak of covid. In the 3rd and final match against Worcester, K&S, B&R and Dudley & Stourbridge we were clear winners. A pity there wasn’t a 4th match so we could win again.

There were 2 matches in the **HOE league** both won by R&N and we finished 4th in both matches. Our under 11 girls were our top performers being 2nd in the first match and 1st in the 2nd match.

**Club Records.** Chris McLeod broke the previous senior record for 5000m which had stood for 35 years with a superb performance clocking 14 mins 23.21 secs set at Oxford, Missouri, USA in April last year. Dan Scott added another one to his list, this time for the U15 Boys 300m with 37.1 secs at the August HOE meeting.

**The English Schools T&F Championships** took place in July but on a much restricted basis. Erin Troop gained selection for the inter girls long jump and finished 12th. Maddy Whapples performed brilliantly in the senior girls 200m and finished 2nd in the final to receive the silver award.

In the **Midland T&F Championships** we had 2 double Champions. Dan Scott won the U15 Boys 200m & 300m and Grace Golinski was first in both U17 women’s 1500m & 3000m.

At the **Warwickshire T&F Champs** Grace Golinski repeated her Midland successes in winning the women’s U17 1500m & 3000m. Other County Champions were Erin Troop U20W long jump, Maddy Whapples U20W 200m, Jack O’Leary U17M 3000m, Harvey Nelson U15B 80mH, and Luca Deakin U13B long jump.

Turning to **cross country**. In the **B’ham league**, the men were 11th out of 14 clubs retaining their position in division 2. Jenson Williams was their outstanding performer finishing joint first for the juniors and 8th senior. Our **Midland Women’s** team, also in division 2, were 6th overall with their top performer Abi Wheelhouse having a superb season to be the first junior athlete.

Our young athletes in the **West Midland league** were 8th out of 21 clubs. Our best age group was the U15 Boys in fifth place. Peter Mitchell 7th in the U15Bs and Grace Golinski also 7th for the U17 Women were our highest ranked athletes.

At the **Midland Championships** in gale force conditions in Mansfield our U15 Boys team of Daniel Wort, Peter Mitchell, Ben Duncan and Matthew Bate performed bravely to finish 3rd and to be awarded the Bronze medals.

Unfortunately the **Warwickshire Champs** were cancelled because of an outbreak of covid in the adjoining college. This made it very difficult for the county team managers to select athletes to represent Warwickshire in the **British Athletics Inter Counties Champs**. However the following Solihull athletes, with their finishing positions, were included:-

U13B Oliver Burtenshaw 169; U13G Lola Barker 278; U15B Daniel Wort 72 (2nd counter), Peter Mitchell 175, Ben Duncan 275. U17W Grace Golinski 137 (4th counter). U20M Jenson Williams 58 (2nd counter). U20W Abigail Wheelhouse did not run.

For the **English Schools Champs** the following athletes were selected to represent the West Midlands:-

Junior Boys Peter Mitchell, Ben Duncan. Junior Girls Lily Conduit. Inter Boys Jack O’Leary, Tom Dainty, Daniel Wort. Inter Girls Mia Conduit. Senior Girls Rachel Batchelor.

We are now looking forward with confidence to a full year of competitions for as many athletes to compete as possible. Hopefully we can do that but the situation of recruiting volunteers to take on responsibilities and/or obtain qualifications is desperate. We cannot continue to expect the limited number of committed volunteers to keep taking on additional workloads. Certain roles have to be filled and at present two of these, Minute Secretary and Membership Secretary, are vacant. The latter role includes paying the Club & athletes’ affiliations to England Athletics & without this being done, athletes cannot compete so the club would cease to exist.

Many clubs and competition providers are finding it very difficult these days to recruit to fill vital roles. Solihull & Small Heath AC was formed in 1980 from the merger of two clubs. Since then we have been successful in providing the training and a range of competitions which our athletes have enjoyed. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for the time and commitment that so many have given. However we are desperate to have more helpers to gain experience and, where appropriate, achieve qualifications so we can continue to provide this marvellous sport of athletics to Solihull and surrounding areas.

It must now be a top priority for us to do all we can to encourage more people to give their time and commitment so this Club can continue to flourish. I dearly hope I’m not saying the same thing next year.

Rob Pinton