

Item 4 – Chairman's Report

The last year has seen significant success for the club across the board. We have a burgeoning membership, very favorable balance sheet and success on and off the road with some great individual performances. This is underpinned by a strong committee with talented officers and a growing and innovative coaching team. Am I boasting – you bet!

Membership currently stands at its highest ever at around 270. Jan will be telling us more about that later but a healthy membership gives us more strength in depth right across the board from more income to greater participation and success in our local leagues. Our participation in Couch to 5K in the last couple of years has opened up running to a wider audience and we still have a steady stream of individuals joining the club from just seeing us around and catching the website or Facebook page. Our challenge is to make sure we maintain the small, friendly and welcoming club feel as we grow.

The Couch to 5K series gave us an injection of funds last year which have been used mainly to set up funds to ensure we are able to invest in coaching and equipment to benefit the club. Jim will give us more detail of how these are managed in his report but it means we are able to fund several coaching courses each year and make some significant purchases like a new gazebo for use at races and events. We are in a sound financial position and generating a surplus each year for reinvestment.

Our road running teams had an amazing season last year. The Ladies A team captained by Jo and Beth were riding high in Division 1 all year, mixing it with the mighty teams from Winchester, Stubbington and Lordshill and were second for much of the season and being literally piped at the last and having to settle for 4th. I must single out Jackie Lloyd for an incredible season finishing 2nd in the individual rankings for the whole league scoring 97.2 average. The Men had a great year under the new leadership of Paul and achieved a double promotion. The A team won and the B team were runners up in their respective Divisions. The Men's regular A team of Paul, Dan, Zack and Dave Howard all achieving individual scores of 90+ and finishing in the top 20 in the rankings.

Off the road, our cross country teams also enjoyed a good season with the Men's Team winning Division 3 to gain promotion. Zack also starred off road and came top of all the under 20 men in the Hampshire League. We also did well in the Southern Cross Country league last season, many people's introduction to cross country running. Thanks to Graham and Kevin for organising us last year with Andy Smith and Andrew Wright getting more involved this season. A special thank you of course to Marilyn who does so much to ensure the club is well represented at XC and in particular the Championship races.

Our own running events kicked off with another success story at the Selsey 10k with Dan Bailey assisted by Pete Harding and a cast of several dozen Victory members delivering a first class race, coping with course changes and the introduction of chip timing in their stride.

The Hayling Billy 5 organised by John Gallagher with help from Pete Harding and another long list of helpers had a bumper year enabling us to donate over £2,000 to Cystic Fibrosis Kids.

These events take a lot of effort to organise and any help given by club members is much appreciated. Not only do we raise significant amounts for charity, they provide a welcome source of income for the club and enhance our visibility and reputation in the running world.

Our club event, the Hayling Relay again provided a superb day out with good friends and more money for the RNLI. Thanks as always to John Gallagher, this year assisted by Beth, Dave and several others. Most importantly on a personal note, I was finally able to get my

hands on one of Christine Gallagher's works of art after many years of hard slog!

I have a lot of people to thank, both personally and on behalf of the club:

Belinda Harding – my predecessor and chairperson for nearly 5 years. Belinda worked tirelessly for the club, representing us in many ways and taking advantage of opportunities such as the Couch to 5K, Sport Relief Mile and even raising money from Waitrose!

Jim Clow – Jim is stepping down as Treasurer this year and has not only been helping us count the pennies, he has advised on a new financial approach including the setting up of key funds within our accounts for important areas. He was also the driving force behind introducing the online payment method so many of us now use.

Malcolm Hagan – Malcolm has decided to step down from the committee after serving the club for over 17 years in various capacities including stints as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. His wisdom and knowledge will be missed by us all.

Yvonne Hawley – Took over the Flyer in the summer, building on the good work done by Andrea Collier since last year and taking our weekly newsletter to new heights. I constantly see and hear praise for the new Flyer, I must add mine too, it is superb.

Pete Harding – Has been Head Coach on and off for many years and is still providing leadership for our newer coaches coming through. I could list superlatives but it's probably easier to say to all our other coaches, look at Pete, that's how it's done!

Dave Lown – A central figure in the club for a number of reasons; Dave has been a key committee member and has proved his coaching credentials not just in practise but in volunteering to step up and become a senior coach. His innovative course to take runners from 5K to 10K fills a gap in runners' development and will enable members new and old to cope with our full training schedule and enjoy taking part in races.

Jan MacDonald – It always seems that if something's going on that Jan is usually organising it. She is Membership Secretary, organises all our trophies, sorts out all the kit and of course is behind all our handicaps. So that's nearly everything, thanks Jan.

The Handicap Crew – we couldn't enjoy these without someone taking the names, keeping the times and generally keeping us in order. Thanks to James, Mike, Malcolm, Bill and Hamid.

The committee – too many to list but I have had wonderful support and counsel from you all in my short stint of being chairman this year. Although we lose experienced members, they are usually offset by superb replacements and sources of new ideas for the future. I believe the club is well served by our current committee.

Finally the membership at large – the club is its members and although we've grown quite a bit in the last 2 years, it's so good to see new members join, develop and achieve their goals. It doesn't really matter if you're a racer up at the front or someone further back in the pack, the important thing is to enjoy it and that also means challenging yourself to reach new heights of performance. We've seen so many personal bests this year, achievement of personal goals and even club records in addition to the league successes I mentioned earlier, to know that as a running club we are successful.

Item 5 – Secretaries Report

Nothing to Report.

Item 6 – Treasurers Report

Please refer to the ANNEX A for details of income and expenditure.

The club's financial position is good, and subscriptions will not change in 2016.

Income and Expenditure:

Both income and expenditure have been higher than we expected. The growing membership has provided more in subscriptions than ever before, and the club funds were boosted by the surplus from the Hayling Billy '5' and Selsey 10k.

On the expenditure side, we have invested in training and equipping the coaching team.

Two new awards were introduced this year, Club Member of the Month and refunds of D-Day 10k entries for those who had run at least six previous HRRL events. We also replaced a number of old trophies. Together these items increased considerably our spending on trophies and awards.

In other areas, the pattern of income and expenditure has been very similar to previous years.

Funds for Coaching, Equipment and Handbook:

These funds were set up using the grants received by the club in 2014. The Coaching Fund in particular has been heavily used, and we are on the point of buying a good quality gazebo for cross country and other events.

This year's surplus has been used to top up the funds for next year.

Charity donations:

As usual, the club supported many local charities, listed on the accounts overleaf.

2015/2016 Outlook:

Our bank balance is very healthy, and if the number of members is maintained, the club's income will be ample.

Jim Clow,

Approval of Accounts:

Proposed by: Nicola Stott

Seconded by: Helen Boiling

That the treasurer's report at ANNEX A, be accepted?

Outcome of Vote: Carried.

Item 7 – Membership Report

Jan MacDonald told of the numbers within the club at present, 270, this is the highest membership than at any point previously. Jan gave a breakdown of the membership statistics, regarding renewal, re-join or new joiners, which can be seen at ANNEX B. Jan also informed the meeting about the Club demographic by age, with several members under the age of 21 and 12 at 70+.

Jan highlighted the difficulties, when the time to re-new comes around. Particularly with those that pay late, and asked that when the time comes, could you re-new as soon as possible, or let her know that you do not intend to.

All

Item 8 – Coaches Report

I would like to take the opportunity to appraise members of the coaching successes throughout the year. I am very proud of what the club has achieved during the course of the year.

We now have a coaching contingent of circa 10 coaches and looking to increase that number during the course of this year. The club has invested in the coaches and will continue to do so. We have two Level 2 or Coaching In Running Fitness coaches and would look to increase this number. VAC recognises these people are volunteers and sometimes sacrifice their club runs to assist in other sessions.

So what have we achieved... the ability to offer alternative sessions on club nights, a measured 10k route that members can use to monitor progress, an extension programme in taking people from 5k to 10k enabling them to feel confident of running the club distances and to develop and coach people to complete in leagues for the club. The number of people participating in the sessions is steadily increasing hopefully reflecting the quality and relevance of the sessions. The coaches are willing to listen to feedback and meet to discuss improvements to sessions and courses.

So next year, if the members are in support because we are going to need some of you to help, we are going to develop a programme of Beginner to 5k followed by a 5k to 10k programme. We will start in the New Year running it in parallel with the main club session on a Tuesday. Experience this year has shown that the “newbies” look to the main group to aspire to. While there is Couch to 5k or parkrun 5k I am in no doubt the demand exists to develop people beyond 5k, in a friendly, supportive environment and one that provides a platform to help develop their potential.

I would like to thank all the new coaches and those that are currently in the process of qualifying, you are helping to make VAC a force in the local leagues and area.

Pete Harding

Head Coach.

Item 9 – Resolutions

1. Proposed by: Jan Macdonald

Seconded by: Jim Clow

Proposal from the committee to change Rule 5

from ".....1st January annually"
to ".....1st April annually". (refers to subscription renewal date)

Jan outlined the proposal,

1. It would ease the admin burden and remove any confusion when paying EA subs.
2. Removes the pressure to pay around Xmas/New Year.
3. Will provide a once only 3 month's free membership to members prior to 31st March 16.
4. The one disadvantage being the summer handicap results for those paying late.
5. There was some further discussion ref EA membership and late payment, Marilyn confirmed that no EA subs are paid until the club membership including EA fee has been paid.

Outcome of Vote: Carried

2. Proposed By: Pete Harding

Seconded By: James Tolson

Proposal to change the first sentence of Rule 3 to read

"The management of the club is vested in a committee consisting of the following officers, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer plus a minimum of five further committee members, all elected annually at the AGM"

Pete Harding presented the proposal. A short discussion prevailed with favourable comments throughout.

Outcome of Vote: Carried

3. Proposed By: Pete Harding

Seconded By: James Tolson

Proposal to add the following to Rule 7

"Where it is necessary to investigate a matter of suspected malpractice or impropriety by a club member then the committee will nominate an independent club member to determine facts and recommendation of action to the committee"

Pete provided his view of the proposal to the meeting. It was asked where the independent person would come from and what would they be independent of? There was input from several club members with the main point being that matters of malpractice and/or impropriety were few and far between and the committee had, with the assistance of others, managed the situation in the proper manner.

It was also pointed out that Rule 7 was not invoked due to the individual concerned making the decision to leave the club.

Web Master to
update web site.

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Outcome of Vote: Not Carried

Item 10 – Election of Club Officers and Committee Members

Martin informed the meeting about the current committee members that had taken the decision to stand down, he then stated the names of those that wish to be considered for election and requested any more names from the floor.

Proposed by: Neil Tolfrey

Seconded by: Kevin McTaggart

The Victory Athletic Committee for 2015/16 is as follows;

Position	Name
Martin Coles	Chair
Beth Pirie	Vice Chair
Secretary	Dave Howard
Treasurer	Ian Pirie
Membership Secretary	Jan MacDonald
Committee	Jim Clow
	Marilyn Crocker
	Nicola Stott
	David Lown
	Gary Heather
	Lesley Allen
	Chris Turner
	Yvonne Hawley
	Will Hahn-Griffiths
	Helen Boiling

Item 11 – Any Other Business.

1. Martin had previously received a question regarding the size of the club and the committee's views on that.

Martin informed the floor that this had been discussed at a committee meeting and the situation is constantly under review. It may become an issue if many more than 50-55 people attend training on any one evening. The coaching team are prepared to offer alternative sessions in order to keep the situation as manageable as possible. However alternative sessions are not likely in the short term, other than V2-5k and V2-10k.

2. Chris Turner asked about the likelihood of changing the start time of the Thursday session from 18.00 to 18.15/30, due the ever increasing problems with traffic in the local area.

This was discussed with several issues and opinions coming forward. Beth suggested that a survey of the whole club would be more appropriate.

3. Martin informed the meeting that Jan was standing down from the handicaps and as the Trophy Member in the near future and requested a member of the club to replace her. This would also be put in the Flyer.
4. Andrew Wright asked if the previous changes to the long handicap were worthwhile

Committee

Flyer

and were there any statistics to back this up.

Jan responded by saying that no official stats had been collated and reviewed but generally it felt very much the same.

Andrew then provided some numbers which indicated that the numbers were slightly down on the previous year. However it was stated by Pete Harding that the numbers would likely go up with the introduction of the Victory to 10k programme.

5. Nicola Stott gave an update on the Club Handbook. Nicola outlined the plan and the problems encountered whilst trying to produce the publication. Nicola informed the meeting that the Victory AC Club Handbook would not be taken forward. Martin offered Nicola a vote of thanks for all her hard work and effort in trying to resurrect the club handbook.
6. Dan Bailey gave a brief update on the Selsey 10k. The date has been set for the 06 MAR 16. Dan pointed out the need for a significant number of help in the run up and especially on the day and asked all club members to try and make themselves available to help make it a safe and enjoyable day for all.
7. Finally in a small token of appreciation for their service to the committee Martin presented a bottle of Champagne to both Malcolm Hagan and Jim Clow.

Item 11 – Meeting Closed.

The Chairman again thanked all those who attended, the meeting was closed at: 21.04.