

Minutes for Forest of Dean Athletic Club

AGM, 20th April 2016

Present: Richard Pegler, Wendy Lawrence, Stef Francis, Dave Lucas, Cherry Fowler, Chris Moore, Jacqui Wynds, Julian Boon, Sharla Fleet, Ian James, Bev James, Jackie Green, Fiona Turner, Graham Bennetto, Helen Lipscomb, Jim Storrar, David Jenkins, Darren Creed, Andrew Brooks, Debbie White, Claire Lavender, Kate Dennant, Jane Creed, Angela Bowkett, Jo Edwards, Leyton Fleet, Chris Hawkins, Colin Laver, Sue Shergold, Andrew Kaye, Roger Morgan, Brian Francis, Claire Morgan, Jo Babij, Robert Freeman, Vicky Logan, Sheralyn Turner, Vanessa Pegler

Apologies: Peter Compton, Lynne Parks, Bob Parks

1. Chair's Report

In the absence of Peter Compton, Richard Pegler, as vice chair, chaired the meeting. Richard explained that Peter has decided that due to family commitments he will not be able to stand for the election of chairman again this year. He will continue to coach the U11 team and support the Junior parkrun and the 0-5k groups. Richard thanked Pete for all his hard work and commitment to the club. He also thanked the committee for their work and dedication.

Richard then went on to briefly summarise the last year:

The club now has 500 members, which is an increase of about 100 members in the last year.

We now have a very nice, comfortable new club hut, for which Richard thanked Chris Moore, who put a lot of time and effort into getting the hut and kitting it out. The throwing area is also making progress with a storage hut and new throwing circle which were installed in the past year. Richard thanked Pete and Andrew Compton, who worked hard to get this area sorted. We need a working party to complete the throwing area and the to convert the old hut into a usable space for the juniors.

We supported the setting up of Lydney parkrun, which has been a big success and is well attended. Thank you to everyone involved.

We encouraged more 0-5k and 5-10k groups. These groups were the brainchild of Pete Compton and have helped the club to grow in the last couple of years. Thank you to everyone involved in running the groups.

We had another successful year in the Avon League with more adults now taking part in track and field events.

The Juniors U13 and U15 teams also did very well in the Youth Development League where they were promoted to the next division.

We had a large number of members taking part in the T&F county championships with numerous members winning medals.

The Cross Country season was also very successful in both, Gwent and Gloucestershire Leagues. The ladies team did particularly well last season winning promotion to the next division.

In the Cotswold way Relay our men's Vet team came third, which is a fantastic achievement against very strong competition.

Richard then went on to thank all club members who support the club in any event that we organise and he asked members to continue to help out and support the committee as much as possible.

2. Treasurer's Report

Wendy has produced accounts for the year to the 31st of March. In a brief summary she explained that we spent £ 37,839.41 and our income was £ 28,350.49. The bank balance at the end of March was £13,584.06.

She stated that the committee had decided to spend money, that was kept in a savings account, last year to improve facilities for our members and that this explains why we spent more money than we had income.

The income was made up of Membership fees, races, training fees, kit sales, parkrun (we were holding a grant on behalf of Lydney Parkrun), donations and grants, donations from the 0-5k groups and other miscellaneous income.

Our expenditure consisted of EA membership fees, races, club kit, Parkrun, coaching costs, affiliation costs, admin costs, the new club hut, sports hall and gym hire, equipment and other miscellaneous costs. Wendy listed details of how and where we have spent the money in more detail and anyone wishing to see this information is welcome to get a copy.

Wendy explained that the accounts have not yet been audited, but she enclosed a copy of the current bank statement to the accounts so everyone was able to see the balance.

The 0-5k and 5-10k groups have increased the membership. We also have more Junior members and last winter was the first time that we had to hire the sportshall and the blue gym to accommodate training sessions.

Our electricity consumption has gone up, but that was expected with the new hut which includes heating and a dishwasher.

Wendy wanted to thank anyone who took the time and applied for a grant towards any costs. She explained that grant applications are difficult and time consuming and that the club did very well getting almost £ 5,000.00 through grants and donations.

Special thanks to Pete, who applied for a number of grants.

Wendy also thanked Chris Moore for his effort with the new club hut. She was particularly impressed with the small details that Chris thought about to make the hut functional and very usable.

She asked members to think of anything they may want the club to purchase and to approach the committee with their thoughts.

Brian Francis asked if there were any other plans in the pipeline. Wendy explained that the new committee would have to discuss any new expenditure. The question of the track fees was also raised and Wendy stated that they are likely to stay the same.

3. Coaches' Report

The coaches had a meeting last Friday and Dave explained a couple of points that were made by the coaches, which involve the start of Junior sessions. Parents should not leave their children at the start of a session, unless the coaches have agreed that they are ready for the children, as sometimes, although they are there, they are still in the process of setting up for the session and cannot look after the children until they have done this. We also need more parent helpers to help with the registration of Junior Athletes. Please let one of the coaches know if you are willing to help out.

Dave explained that we are still short of coaches for Juniors on a Tuesday evening, but on a Saturday we have 2 coaches for each age group from U7 to U15.

There will be an endurance coaching session for older Juniors on Saturdays after parkrun from 10.00am.

Dave was very pleased that we have more adults entering Track and Field events now. The open meetings during the summer were very well attended.

The Avon League is a good introduction to T&F and we are now affiliated to the Midland League which will give older Juniors from U17 upwards and adults a chance to compete in a stronger league.

The new YDL League for this year will also be tougher as the Juniors will be competing against much bigger clubs.

The Juniors website is now working well and is used a lot more and the communication with the parents has also improved.

Walter is doing a very good job coaching the large group of adults and there are no problems. We could do with a level 2 endurance coach for the adult sessions.

Dave wanted to point out that we had some help from Chepstow Harriers for the 0-5k/5-10k groups, which is very much appreciated.

Dave is standing down as Head Coach and at the moment there will be no-one appointed as new Head Coach.

The coaches will still be meeting regularly to discuss coaching issues and will cooperate with the committee.

4. Membership Report

Cherry Fowler has been appointed as new membership secretary. She stated that the club now has 500 members, but that so far only a quarter of members have renewed their membership and she would like to remind members that cut-off time for membership renewals is the end of June. If you have not renewed your membership by the end of June you will no longer be a member of FODAC.

5. Election of Officers

The new committee were elected as follows:

Chair person	(Trustee)	Andrew Kaye
Vice Chair	(Trustee)	Richard Pegler
Treasurer	(Trustee)	Wendy Lawrence
Secretary	(Trustee)	Stef Francis

Membership Secretary	Cherry Fowler
Press Officer	Chris Moore
Social Secretary	Bev James
General Committee	Julian Boon
	Ian James
	Andrew Brooks
Race Organiser	
Head Coach (Trustee)	

Unfortunately, we were not able to fill the positions of Head Coach or Race Organiser.

The Track and Field Captains for the coming season will be:
Chris Penny and Roy King
Angie Sonn and Debbie White

6. Amendment to the Constitution

The trustees asked for votes for the following amendments to the constitution:

- a. The re-joining dead-line should be brought forward to the end of June instead of the end of September to come in line with the EA re-joining deadline.
This was voted for unanimously by the members present.

- b. The family membership should now include any over 18 but under 21 year olds in full time education, to encourage more young people to stay members of the club. Although this was voted for unanimously by the members present David Jenkins pointed out that we will have to check the HMRC guidelines on family membership. We will implement this once we have had confirmation that we may do so.

7. Any other Business

The meeting ended with a presentation of flowers and gifts for Jacqui Wynds, Sharla Fleet and Dave Lucas you are all standing down from the committee. Richard thanked them all for the hard work and dedication and they assured us that they will still be around to help out. Jacqui also received a Life membership as she has been on the committee for almost 10 years.

Chris Moore also received a thank you gift for his efforts with the new club hut.