

**MINUTES OF THE DORSET DODDLERS AGM**

**Held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - 9pm**

**The Bow Room, The Exchange, Sturminster Newton**

**1. Welcome and apologies (Jane Ward)**

Jane opened the meeting and thanked the members for attending.

The agenda had been distributed by email prior to the meeting and was unanimously approved at the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Flora Brooke, Nick Brooke, Molly Rasch, Neil Cranidge, Matt Clayton, Pat Clayton, and Jill Watson

Jane continued by saying the club has had a good year, with an increase in the number of members, and a recovery of the number of active member at both races, summer runs and training (especially Shaftesbury Hills). However, it was noted that there was still a lower number of runners (not just Doodlers) at races compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Jane went on to thank members (and partners of members) generally, the committee for all their hard work, and everyone who has got involved in helping the club, at races, marshalling, organising, and turning up for club internal races. Support has been good, although it was noted that much of the help and support came from the same familiar faces and that a wider contribution would be welcomed.

**2. Previous minutes and matters arising (Jane Ward)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed by email prior to the meeting; they were taken as read, were held to be a true record of the meeting, and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**3. Treasurer's report (John Cowley)**

John distributed a detailed summary of the club's accounts for 2022 including the 2021 as a comparison and went through them. In summary, the clubs' finances continue to be strong in terms of money in the bank.

Compared to the previous year, which was hindered by the Covid pandemic, the club had seen more profits this year as more races had taken place.

**Stur Half** made a profit of £3,084.38

**Stickler** made a profit of £3,668.69 (but no donations have yet been made for 2022).

**NDVM** made a profit of £6,002.48.

**Wessex Ridgeway** made a profit of £197.93

**Total income from all 2022 races** £12,953.48 compared to £6,134.26 in 2021.

The spend on club kit arises because we buy stock to sell on to members at a subsidised price.

Expenditure on the website fluctuates due to the bi-annual fees. And the club purchased 2 new gazebos and PA system in the year.

John asked the meeting for suggestions for club purchases or donations. Peter Waterer suggested that we could buy some additional race signs, and Paul Russell suggested that the club should purchase a defibrillator that would be available to use at club training, including summer runs and internal events. We would also be providing a training session on the use of this device.

Membership income £1,331.00 compared to £243 (but most members had a free year in 2020-21 because of Covid)

Total charitable donations across all races for 2022 will amount to £7,301 vs £750 in 2021 (when some races weren't held due to covid).

The year end bank balance was £13,861.95, compared to £11,835.25 in 2021.

No queries were raised, and the accounts were accepted as a true record of the club's financial affairs and position as at the year end.

#### **4. Membership Report (Julia Slade)**

Julia reported that the current number of members in the club is 113, made up of 79 affiliated and 34 unaffiliated members. There are 15 life members, some of whom still compete and are affiliated.

Last year we had 124 members, 85 were affiliated. So overall we've decreased by 6 affiliated athletes and 5 unaffiliated members since last year. Several members benefited from the free covid membership last year so hadn't intended to re-join, whilst other personal circumstances such as moving out of the area or other commitments meant some didn't re-join this year. However, we've had a good intake of new members from C25K, through our races and word of mouth and lots of good feedback from both new and existing members about how much they enjoy being part of the club.

All members, both affiliated and unaffiliated are registered on the England Athletics portal and it's advisable for all members to log in and check their details are correct or update them as necessary.

#### **5. Membership Fees (Julia Slade)**

Julia explained that last year the EA registration fee increased from £15 to £16 and for next year they're implementing another £1 increase to £17. Dorset Doodlers subsidises the affiliation fee which is a benefit not offered by other clubs.

This coming year we have an offer to save members money - if you pay your membership before 1st April, you can access the current rate of £26 for affiliated or £15 for unaffiliated members.

From 1st April onwards the new rate will take effect and you'll pay £30 for affiliation or £17 to be an unaffiliated member. Both are still excellent value for money.

Benefits include EA discounts (see My Athletics EA portal) as well as £2 off races for affiliated runners, free entry to races as part of a DD team, internal club races, structured training by qualified coaches, together with all the social aspects of being part of a friendly and supportive club.

#### **6. Captain's Report (Jane Ward)**

Jane reported that it's been a great year for members participating in races, and that the club has been competitive. Dorset Doodler members competed in 138 different races and 99 Doodlers competed in at least 1 race. During 2022 there had been 580 Doodler race efforts.

As a club we were represented at 33 10k races, 12 at the 10-mile race distance, 29 half marathons, 5 at the 20-mile distance, 28 full marathons, and 13 ultras. And 22 Doodlers ran at least 1 full marathon.

*DRRL* - There were 23 men and 18 ladies from Dorset Doodlers participating in Dorset Road Race League races, with no Doodlers completing at least 7 out of the 12 races, so no-one qualifying for the end of year rankings. The men's team finished 7th in division 1, behind Bournemouth AC. And the ladies were 2nd in division 2 behind Dorchester RIOT, however our score of 83 would have put us in 5th place in division 1, so plenty to look forward to in 2023.

We encourage all Doodlers to enter these races as you will score points for yourself and the club, there are awards for top scoring individuals and top scoring teams and there's also a fidelity award for anyone completing all 12 DRRL races.

The DRRL fixtures for 2023 have been announced: Broadstone Quarter (1 Jan), Lytchett 10 (12 Feb), Marnhull 12k (16 Apr), NDVM (30 Apr), May 5 (21 May), Puddletown Plod (11 Jun), Portland 10 (2 Jul), Sturminster Half (6 Aug), Hoburne 5 (24 Sept), Gold Hill 10k (8 Oct), Weymouth 10 (22 Oct), and Boscombe 10k (26 Nov).

*Wessex Ridgeway Relay* – 5 Doodlers entered teams and we took 2nd and 5th over all places, and first ladies' team. We look forward to hopefully putting up 6 teams in 2023, it's a fantastic day out much enjoyed by all who take part.

*NDVM Relay* – there were 3 Doodler teams taking part, with plenty of friendly rivalry and banter between the Doodler teams. Our men's team 'Dorset Blue Blazers' finished 3rd overall and our lady's team 'Dorset Blue Birds' were 2nd female team.

*Club Championships* – there are 12 Club Championship races, spread throughout the year, with broadly 1 per month, plus any officially timed 5k (including Parkrun) and any official marathon. 53 men and 22 ladies competed in at least one club championship race, with 9 men and 10 ladies qualifying. The competition is very tight and still to be decided at the Stur 5 on 2 Dec.

For 2023 you must let Jane have your fasted marathon race time and your fasted 5k time no later than 1 week before the Christmas Party to be included in the Club Championship results. Results must be verified with a link to the race result.

*Club Champs races for 2023 are:* Milborne 10 (22 Jan), Lytchett 10 (12 Feb), Up On The Downs (5 Mar), Marnhull 12k (16 Apr), Broad Oak Hilly (27 Apr), Hardy Half (14 May), Tarrant Valley 10k (18 Jun), The Beast (3 Sept), Black Hill 10k (23 Sept), Gold Hill 10k (8 Oct), New Forest Stinger (26 Nov) and Stur 5 (7 Dec). Jane thanked Angela Jamieson for her hard work in compiling this list of races.

*Keith Vine Handicap League* - Just 16 races have qualified this year, having more than 6 members competing vs 18 in 2021. We usually have over 30 races qualifying but covid has seen less races being held than in previous years. 38 men and 24 ladies competed in at least one qualifying race, with 11 men and 10 ladies qualifying. Again, the results are close at the top and final standing will be decided at Stur 5 and The Full Montycute on Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.

*Cross Country League* – There was little interest in members to compete in the Cross Country League, mainly due to clashes with local races that are popular with club member. However this is something that our new team captain has expressed an interest in revitalising within our club so watch this space.

Well done everyone who has represented the club this year, whether contesting prizes or getting your money's worth, you're all worthy ambassadors of the club.

Jane confirmed that all race dates would be confirmed and listed on the DD website.

## 7. **Coaching Report** (Ian Pollard)

Ian thanked all the Runners for attending the clubs' official training sessions, on Tuesdays in Shaftesbury through the winter months and on Thursdays in Sturminster Newton year-round. Ian extended his thanks to Shams and Paul for their ongoing support with all the coaching duties, particularly the Shaftesbury sessions, primarily led by Paul, and when Ian was not in attendance on Thursdays.

This year we enjoyed a full year of running and training activities post the pandemic limitations of the previous two years. An anonymous online membership training survey was conducted at the end of 2021, giving members an opportunity to have their say with anything regarding club training. As a result of the survey, session timings were tweaked according to member responses, however all other comments were complimentary of the training structure, the sessions and activities provided.

It was noted that Shaftesbury sessions regularly received a good turnout, whereas attendance at the Thursday sessions was at times disappointing, given that it was the main year-round coached session of the week. Any thoughts members had on how training numbers could be increased, or what they might like to amend, would be welcomed if people wanted to get in touch with Ian, Paul or Shams with their suggestions.

During the summer months 5 track sessions were held, using the grass 400m running track at Sturminster high school. These were again popular sessions, enjoyed by all in attendance.

Ian concluded with a general appeal for members to embrace the clubs excellent training environment, and to see the sessions as opportunities to enhance and develop their running within the positive and enjoyable group dynamic. As customary, training is geared around club targeted activity, notably the Club Championship and DRRL races, but should equally offer enjoyment as well as overall fitness and improvement for all club members whatever their aims and objectives.

### **Couch 2 5K** (Paul Russell)

Ian also reported on the two 10-week C25K courses coordinated and coached by Paul Russell and his team of assistants - Amanda Ackroyd (LiRF pending), Vics West (LiRF), Ange Jamieson and Craig White. Some 40 people registered for the courses with c20-25 commencing each one, with 12 runners completing the January course and 8 completing the May course. Both courses concluded with their 5k run at the Henstridge Parkrun as their finale, with many DDs turning out to supported and run with them. To Pauls great credit and delight, several participants have subsequently joined the club as members and continued their running 'journey' with us through the year. Paul and his team received many fantastic and grateful comments from the participants, a selection of which were read out.

The next C25k course was anticipated to start on 9th Jan. Members were requested to spread the word amongst likely participants.

### **London Marathon DRAW** (Paul Russell)

Paul set out a new points system to allocate entries into the club draw for the club entry to London Marathon. The following criteria were proposed:

- Membership needs to be paid before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Then earn points over the year,
- Every 10 points, you get an extra entry
  - Committee members 10 points
  - RD 10 points
  - Internal RD 5 points
  - Marshall/water stations or DD event – 5 points

- If you do 'something' good publicity – 5 points
- Marshall 1 point
- Volunteers or training 1 points
- Internal club race – 1 point
- You will have a better chance of winning by being one of the very best advocates for the club (but it's still a draw from a hat).

#### QUESTIONS for the Marathon point system and outcome

How does illness and ailments affect your point scoring, would that affect whether you amass points

Standard criteria – member for past 2 years, must send proof rejection to Club Sec.

Please give feedback

Paul to keep tally of DD points

Paul said he wouldn't enter but that was overruled

People in favour – YES

People in favour of Paul being in the draw

#### 8. **Summer Runs Report** (Lynda Faulkner)

Lynda reported that there had been record turnouts this year with up to 50 runners attending individual runs. Lynda asked that people should let her know if they would like to organise a summer run and not to worry if they had not done before as she could guide them. Runs should start either from a pub or a suitable picnic spot and have 2 distance options plus a walking route if possible.

There were lots of highlights during this year's runs, including: Graham Smith's run with a river crossing, Peter Waterers run finishing with a fantastic spread of food and topped off with fireworks, As always there's Matts coastal run finishing with a picnic on the beach and unconfirmed rumours of skinny dipping, Dave Burrows run from Worth Matravers with a picnic under the Wood henge, Wendy's run which included a train ride, Ines' run from Swallowfield.

Lynda thanked all those who put on a run this year, but she had needed to organise more than expected herself and so welcomed ideas for new summer runs.

Jane indicated that we planned to do a new run from Studland, broadly using the Studland Stampede route with a BBQ to follow. Lynda indicated that the coastal runs were very popular and much enjoyed.

#### 9. **North Dorset Village Marathon Report** (Ines Braun)

Ines reported that there were 259 finishers out of a record 339 starters entered.

The race donated a large amount who helped, including £1,000 to the air cadets and other small charities, a total of £3,400 was donated from the race this year.

There were some impressive results this year with the race being won in 2:40:30 Bournemouth runner. The lady's race was won by a young runner Daisy Baker (from Millfield Triathlon Club) in 3:04:59. The second female and first Doodler was Tracy Cook in 3:15:05.

Next year's race will be 30 April 2023, and entries would open soon, advertising will begin next weekend. The race committee meetings will start shortly.

Ines thanked the Marshals and everyone else involved in putting on this year's event.

**Medoc Marathon** (the ultimate wine marathon)

Ines reported that the Medoc Marathon would take place on 2nd September next year and that she would be organising a Doodler trip. She has contacts with the race organisers and is able to get us preferential entries before the ballot opens. Ines asked that members contacted her directly if they would like to take part.

**10. Wessex Ridgeway Report** (Paul Russell)

Paul reported that the race didn't sell out this year with 20 teams entering. There were 5 Doodler teams this year, with Team Captain, looking to increase DD teams.

The race made a small profit in the region of £200. But it was noted that this race is put on as a Doodler social and is not expected to make a profit.

Steve Rigby enquired as to whether the race would like access to the toilets at the start as he could arrange. Paul thanked Steve and would be in touch.

**11. Stur Half** (Chris Willis)

Chris reported that it was the race's 30th anniversary

261 finishers – 2 more entered but did not finish, plus 8 didn't start

5k - 20 entries and will grow next year

The race was won by Chris Weeks in a time of 1:14:04 (no club), and first lady was Molly Rasch in 1:23:05 for Dorset Doodlers.

Steve Rigby (who ran with Molly) won first local man, and Helena Bastable (who ran with John Willis) won first local lady in 1:51:27.

Honeybuns have sponsored since 2001, for which Chris was very grateful.

Since 2001 there have been 8025 finishers and the race has donated over £18k to local charities/organisation.

Chris would like in particular to thank Peter Waterer for his efforts before, during and after the race, Sarah Perrett for her expert Marshall organising. Barry Jenkins for fantastic assistance on the day. John Willis for his help and enthusiasm. Also thank you to Chris Cussen for his tireless help on the day.

**12. Stickler Report** (Justin Perry)

Justin reported that it's the same people helping and getting involved at every event and every year.

Race itself – entries down – 500 entered, 419 started, 1 DNF – no injuries (600 entered in 2021).

Timing Monkey are expensive but overall, the cost is certainly worth it. They are professional and do a great job.

The race mementos always appreciated by runners.

**13. Election of club officials** (Jane Ward)

Jane explained that we would only be voting on the five main committee positions, each candidate was duly nominated and seconded, none of the positions were contested (although Jane did request any further nominations or any interest at all in contesting these positions) and the following officials were elected unopposed:

Chairman

*Jane Ward*

Secretary	<i>Victoria West</i>
Treasurer	<i>John Cowley</i>
Coach	<i>Ian Pollard</i>
Membership	<i>Julia Slade</i>
Team Captain	<i>Molly Rasch (new to the role)</i>
Race Director Rep	<i>Inès Braun</i>
Without Portfolio	<i>Angela Jamieson</i>

**14. Election of Race Directors and Other Club Roles** (Jane Ward)

Jane introduced the many other club roles, explaining who would be doing what and the following roles were elected unopposed:

Stur Half Race Director	<i>Christine Willis</i>
Stickler Race Director	<i>Lucy Edwards (previously Justin Perry/John Townsend)</i>
NDVM Race Director	<i>Inès Braun</i>
Wessex Ridgeway Relay Race Director	<i>Paul Russell</i>
Broad Oak Hilly	<i>Tim Cotton</i>
Suzy Vivian Hill Climb	<i>Spencer Mogridge</i>
John Deacon Handicap	<i>Paul Russell</i>
Doddler Duathlon	<i>Spencer Mogridge/Stuart Martin</i>
Sturminster 5	<i>Paul Russell</i>
Webmaster	<i>Christine Willis &amp; Ines Braun</i>
Press Liaison	<i>Paul Russell</i>
Summer Runs	<i>Lynda Faulkner</i>
Ladies captain	<i>Molly Rasch</i>
Mens captain	<i>Roger Teasdale</i>
Club Championship Results	<i>Jane Ward</i>
Keith Vine Handicap Results	<i>Jane Ward</i>
Chief Race Marshals	<i>Sarah Perrett/Sara Cross</i>
Christmas Party Organiser	<i>Nick Summons and Suzanna Baker (previously Ruth Readman)</i>
Summer Party	<i>Jill Watson</i>
Kit Supplies	<i>David Hurst</i>
Club equipment	<i>Pete Waterer</i>

Jane encouraged members to help assist the above role holders and to get involved as much as you can, volunteering is great fun and invaluable to the club. Our races are a vital source of income, without which our club would not survive, so please consider volunteering if you possibly can.

**15. Any Other Business** (Jane Ward)

- a. It was noted that 2023 was the club's 40th year and that we would be organising celebrations and events throughout the year. It was suggested that we should invite our main race sponsors and other suitable persons to the various events including the Christmas Party.
- b. Sarah Perrett reported difficulties with communicating with the race team, including marshals in the lead up to races and that it might be good to have a WhatsApp group for the various groups. Discussions included investigating SPOND for this purpose as some felt the conversation trail in a WhatsApp group can become too big and intrusive. It was agreed that Sarah could initiate groups on whatever media she felt was most useful.
- c. Spencer Mogridge (Duathlon RD) questioned the race distances in the duathlon and asked whether the bike section in particular could be extended. Discussions concluded that it was meant to be a fun event accessible to all members, even those who only cycled once a year, and so preference was for the bike route to stay as it is, however it was felt that the run stages could be extended.
- d. It was reported that the Christmas party was in final stages of organising and the menu was being finalised.
- e. Peter Waterer said that he will be doing a stock take of all the equipment in the trailer, so if anyone has any stakes or signs, please return them.

There were no further items raised and so Jane thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. John thanked Jane for her continued contribution to the club and for chairing the meeting.

**Meeting closed at 10.30pm.**

Minutes submitted by: Victoria West

Approved by: Jane Ward