

SOLIHULL AND SMALL HEATH ATHLETIC CLUB

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, Solihull, on Thursday 20th March 2025, commencing at 8pm

The Chair, Emma McLeod, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 14 members present; their names are listed in the AGM Attendance Register.

1. APOLOGIES

Rachael Easton, Steve Howes, Sharon Jacks,

2. MINUTES OF THE 43rd AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2024

The minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on 21st March 2024, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken 'as read'. The Minutes were duly adopted as an accurate record of the proceedings – carried unanimously. They were signed by the Chair, Emma McLeod. There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the written report prepared by the Chair, Emma McLeod, and read to the members present is included as Appendix 1.

It was proposed by Rob Pinton and seconded by Becky Freeman that the Chair's Report be adopted as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Honorary Treasurer, Karen Baker, presented a summary of the Club's accounts for the year ending 31st January 2025.

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. David Paulin has indicated that this is the last year in which he will be able to examine the accounts. An advertisement for a new reviewer will be placed in the next Club newsletter.

The accounts show a day-to-day surplus of £1,831.38 after paying £4,360 for our portion (75%) of the new high jump bed. There was a surplus of £777.50 on kit, representing sales of a lot of kit that was purchased in the previous year. The presentation evening cost the club £1,361.83. This gives an overall surplus for the year of £1,247.05. The closing bank balances were £1,543.50 in the current account and £13,093.09 in the reserve account. We did not need to transfer any money from the reserve account to pay for the high jump bed but £2,000 was transferred after the year end to give a bigger buffer in the current account to allow for payment of the track hire invoice before February membership fees were received.

A motion to adopt the Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts was proposed by Steve Webb and seconded by Malcolm Payne. The report and accounts were unanimously accepted.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following Officers and Team Managers were elected for 2025/2026, all of whom are entitled to attend Committee Meetings. Proposers and seconders are shown for newly elected members/positions. The remainder of the committee had indicated their willingness to continue in their existing roles. All votes were carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT	Annette Brown	
PRESIDENT ELECT	Sue Taylor	proposed by Emma McLeod seconded by Lynne Moody
CHAIR	Emma McLeod	
DEPUTY CHAIR	Malcolm Payne	proposed by Annette Brown seconded by Becky Freeman
TREASURERS	Karen Baker, Robert Davies	
HONORARY SECRETARY	Steve Webb	
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Emma McLeod	
MINUTES SECRETARY	Rachael Easton	
COACH & ATHLETE CO-ORDINATOR	Lynne Moody	
FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR	Annette Brown	
PROMOTIONS SECRETARY	Annette Brown	
OFFICIALS SECRETARY	Annette Brown	
FIXTURES SECRETARY	Robert Pinton	
WEBSITE MANAGER	Steve Howes	
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Rachael Easton	
SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER	Richard McIlwraith	
WELFARE & SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS	Robert Davies (Lead) Lynne Moody, Rebecca Freeman, Steve Webb	
WEBCOLLECT OPERATORS	Robert Davies, Karen Baker, Robert Pinton, Steve Webb, Emma McLeod	
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS	No further nominations	
TEAM MANAGERS		
<u>CROSS COUNTRY & ROAD RELAYS</u>		
Senior Men	Steve Howes	
Senior Women	Rebecca Freeman	
Young Athletes	Stuart Albutt & Robert Pinton	

TRACK & FIELD

Midland League

YDL U13/U15

YDL U17/U20

H of E (female)

H of E (male)

Sports Hall

Robert Pinton, Mike Bracken & Sharon Masters

Lynne Moody

Sharon Jacks

Sue Taylor

Sue Taylor

Lynne Moody, Sue Taylor

6. ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

This honour is bestowed upon a Club member who has either given an extraordinary amount to the Club over a long period of time or has accomplished a particularly high standing in the sport.

Everton Caines

Everton was an athlete as a youngster at Sparkhill Harriers. In 1991 he started coaching at that club so his volunteering for our sport stretches back 34 years. In 2010 we were desperately short of a qualified coach for our older track athletes. Everton was encouraged/persuaded to join us. His best athlete at that time was Remy Barrett and she soon followed him and joined Solihull.

In addition to Remy, Everton has had a number of excellent athletes, including Maddy Whapples and Harvey Nelson. They have all competed at English Schools T&F Championships and have set club records which still remain here.

In addition to our standard Club nights, Everton does sessions on Wednesdays and sometimes on weekends in Elmdon Park. Wherever his athletes are competing he is there to provide encouragement and support. He has even been known to step in as a timekeeper for us in league competitions.

We are very grateful for Everton's extraordinary contribution to our Club and its athletes. Long may it continue. A very worthy recipient of this honour.

Sharon Jacks

Like so many of us, Sharon's involvement in athletics began when her elder daughter Katie joined the Club for coaching. Initially Katie was a Middle-Distance athlete but went on to join the Sportshall group and also had coaching in Hurdles.

Lynne remembers asking Sharon to look after one of the Sportshall teams in Coventry when we also took part in the Warwickshire Sportshall league, as a team manager. At first she seemed a little taken aback by the request, but she soon settled into it! This can't have put her off, as she started helping with the Thursday Sportshall training groups, which went on for a number of years.

Sharon became a qualified coach and took on our hurdles training group when Graham Watson and Sue Darby stopped coaching. This was a great asset to the Club and she had several athletes who found success at English Schools; some like Anya Bates, Danel Jansen van Rensburg and Niall Carney continued their involvement in hurdles to a high level. Club team managers are grateful for the very competent hurdlers that Sharon always produces for our League Meetings.

In addition to coaching, Sharon remains a vital Committee member for the Birmingham Sportshall League, currently serving as Treasurer, with its many responsibilities. Not content with this and her coaching, she has become a qualified Track Official, along with being the YDL UAG team Manager for many years. This means Sharon can be found working at League Meetings most weekends during the outdoor season.

For over twenty years Sharon has shown dedication and commitment to the sport of Athletics in general and to our Club in particular. It is with great pleasure that we invite Sharon to become an Honorary Life Vice President of Solihull and Small Heath Athletic Club.

7. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

As the Club accounts are not required to be audited by a qualified accountant, the committee proposed §8.10 be amended to read:

8.10 A suitable independent person shall be appointed to review the accounts of the club annually.

This amendment was passed unanimously.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Malcolm Payne proposed a vote of thanks to Emma McLeod for taking on two major committee roles and the tremendous amount of work she does for the Club. This proposal was seconded by Lynne Moody and carried unanimously.

The Chair thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting to be over at 20:40 hours.

Signed by Chair.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1 Solihull and Small Heath Athletic Club Chair's Report 2025

Many thanks for attending today and supporting this committee and the wider Club. Welcome to new members.

I must start by thanking our band of volunteers, particularly the 18 coaches who turn out in all weathers to support our athletes without who we wouldn't have a club. I specifically want to mention Everton Caines. Our thoughts are with him as he continues his cancer treatment.

We have 15 people listed as trained officials who support competitions and 17 people listed as active volunteers in supporting roles for the club. While this sounds like a large number of people, many people do multiple roles so are double counted in these numbers. Hence we can always do with more help.

The club continues to have around 350 active athletes from age 9 to Masters. Growth is currently limited by the number of coaches and running leaders plus track availability. One area we could grow is with the off-track adult groups.

As a competitive club, we have had an excellent year with lots of participation. We started the year with a goal to get more athletes competing. Here I have summarised the key leagues we compete in.

The Heart of England League holds three track and field competitions a season. We had planned to host the first match but sadly this had to be rescheduled due to travellers in the car park. Many thanks to those who had to rapidly ring round and cancel the event at last minute and then go onto reschedule for August. School holidays are never a good time to get the best team out but, on the bright side, we were able to invite some of our newer and less experienced athletes to compete and managed to fill most places. We finished the season fourth out of 8 clubs.

The YDL lower age group had the daunting task of competing in the Premier Division having just been promoted. They rose to the challenge and did so well they finished third. This is a remarkable achievement considering our size vs some of the Clubs we were competing with, such as Birchfield Harriers.

The YDL upper age group will have a similarly daunting task in the coming season as they achieved promotion to the YDL Premier Division for the very first time! They did it in style with a significantly higher score than other teams. The fact that during the matches athletes had agreed to do extra events proved crucial. For the first time ever, promotion was decided via a 'paper match'. Sharon had the challenge of maximising this result which she achieved by using every single athlete who had competed in the earlier matches, so a real full team effort!

In the Midland league we were in Division 3 SW, we finished 5th out of 8 teams with the final match being on the new track in Hereford.

For younger athletes we were active in the Birmingham Sportshall League with 9–14-year-olds competing. A large number of our athletes from the previous season, went on to represent Team Birmingham in the County events and some to the UK National Finals during 2024. This year's league has been more challenging than previously as other clubs have become more competitive. The season concluded with four team trophies for Solihull, with the other two teams finishing a very close second and third.

Turning to Cross Country, 2025's West Midland Young Athletes League was another impressive season with us coming 6th overall out of 21 teams. U13 Girls did particularly well

finishing 3rd out of the 5 matches. There were many individuals finishing in the top 10 of their races.

In the Midland Women's Cross Country League, Division 2 the senior team finish 18th out of 24 teams for the season. The Masters team managed 16th out of 24 teams in Race 4 but struggled to get a complete team earlier in the year so did not have an end of season position.

This year the Men competed in the Birmingham Cross Country League, Division 1. Having been the 3rd placed promoted team last year, it was always going to be difficult to avoid relegation. They finished 15th out of 16 clubs overall and in the Masters were placed 8th out of 12 teams which was impressive. We look forward to them being competitive in Division 2!

Athletes have also taken part in various county, Midland, national and schools events but there are far too many to list in this brief report.

- Warwickshire T&F and XC championships
- Midland Counties Age Group and Seniors T&F Championships
- Midland XC Championships
- Midland and National Road Relays
- English School T&F and XC
- English National XC Championships
- England Athletics T&F Age Group Championships
- UK Indoor Championships

I need to mention some particularly talented athletes and some new club records:

Zakariya Rush finished 1st in the U13 boys WMYACCL having also won the Midland Counties cross country Championships and the 1500m at the Warwickshire Championships. He now holds the U13 boys club record for 1500m of 4:37:37. In February he went to Parliament Hill in London for the English National cross-country championships coming first in his age group - an amazing achievement on a hilly course.

In the Sports Hall the Under 15 Boys All-Rounder Competition was won by our Adhvaith Prabhakaran, with Calum Ashford as Runner-Up.

Harvey Nelson had an amazing year setting our current U17 Boys 100m record of 10:9. He also holds U17 Boys 200m record in 21:86 and this ranked him 7th in the country in 2024 as an U17. He came 3rd at the England Athletic Championships over this distance which I was very pleased to witness as track steward on the day.

Lola Barker set a new U17 Girls 5000m in 20:10:93. She came 2nd at 3000m in the Warwickshire championships. She continued to do well into the cross-country season finishing 2nd in the Midland championships.

Maddy Whapples (U23) competed at the UK indoors championships in the 200m and got through to the semi-finals.

Senior Men's records were set by Chris McLeod. The 10000m in 28:40:83 ranking him 10th in the country in 2024. He didn't quite make the 4min target for a mile but set a new club record of 4:01:79

In the Jump events, Saffey Easton won bronze in the English Schools high jump competition having already won the Mason Trophy, while Luca Deakin got an England vest for the SIAB Schools International having finished 4th at the English schools' championships.

Another club record broken was the U13 boys 4 x 100 relay which now stands at 53:7.

In November we celebrated our amazing athletes at our awards evening with the para-athlete, Maddie Down, handing out the many trophies and telling us about her experience of the Paralympic village. A good evening was had by all.

England Athletics continue to try to raise standards of club management with their Club Standards programme. During the year we regularly reviewed progress on this and now stand at 6 of 7 standards in place. The final standard being Safeguarding which is complete except for one coach who is working on becoming fully licensed and one needing to renew their licence.

In terms of Club development, we have been working on three themes - Communication, Volunteering and Facilities. These themes will continue to be developed in the coming year.

Communication work has included restarting the newsletters with five being issued during the year and a new website being drafted. One of the newsletters focused on volunteering and we held an open evening to talk to prospective volunteers. This helped encourage some parents to come forward to train as officials. More volunteers are needed particularly to help with coaching and leading the adult running groups.

The Tudor Grange track and field facilities need refurbishment and UKA's TrackMark accreditation ran out at the end of 2024 but has been temporarily extended. The facilities working group has had discussions with England Athletics, the council and leisure centre to discuss the situation. We are hopeful the council have enough budget to pay for the surfaces to be refurbished. We believe they are in the process of setting up a contract for the work to be done during this year's school summer holidays. The council has requested we fundraise towards the refurbishment and grant opportunities have been reviewed. The leisure centre management team have set up a regular Track Users meeting and the track users will potentially have a Crowdfunding page. The work will cause significant disruption to the club during 2025. This will need some thought in the coming months, and along with having no Pole Vault facilities, has stopped us offering to host any home competitions in the coming year.

In terms of facilities development, some of the coaches have been investigating options for indoor training over winter. They have selected a local school and this will now need to be progressed for next winter. The club has also contributed significant funds to the leisure centre towards a new high jump bed that fits under the protective covers so athletes no longer need to jump onto a waterlogged bed. We are hoping to keep this momentum up with facilities improvement.

2025 will be a challenging year with no home track matches to give us any advantage, and potentially no track to train on for 6 weeks of the year, but I am confident the team managers and coaches will do their best to work round this.

I wish all our athletes much success and improved PBs in the year ahead!

Emma McLeod