

Carmarthen and District Harriers
Annual General Meeting – Ivy Bush Hotel –
Carmarthen - Caerfyrddin
Monday February 8th – Dydd Llun Chwefror 8fed 2016



Present:

Hedydd Davies, Kevin Evans, Nathan Jones, Jane Batten, Ralph Siggery, Edward Morgan, Carol Jones, Delyth Brown, Joan Goldsmith, Mike Rees, Steve Glynn & Neil Thomas.

Welcome:

Hedydd opened the meeting by noting that it was another well attended AGM and welcomed all those present.

Apologies:

Received from Andrew Thompson, Cressy Morgan, Ivor Hopkins, Richard Wyer, Rebecca Gatt & Rhian Glynn.

Minutes of previous AGM held on 16 February 2015

The minutes were accepted as a true record after the correction of a spelling mistake in the LA Team Manager name.

Matters arising from the minutes

- Portacabin – the main cabin has been repaired after water was leaking through and is now being used and kept tidy. The equipment room cabin has also seemed to improve over the last few weeks because of the recent hole in the roof letting water through at the start of the year.
- Buses – an area where money is being lost, however this is important as some athletes would be unable to get to events without transport arranged by the club.
- Website – Nathan Jones for the past year has been in sole charge of this resource.
- Membership – numbers have once again been stable (around 250)
- New stand – Used very well in events and useful for bad weather conditions.
- Since the 2015 AGM, a new tent has been bought for events and being used well, the new club flag has been in attendance too.

Chairman's Report

2016 AGM Chairman's Report

Any voluntary club or organisation is only as good as its leadership and the contribution of its officers, committee, volunteers, coaches, team managers, parents and athletes to the success of the Club

We are very fortunate in Carmarthen Harriers to have a very few dedicated and committed people who have given very many years of un paid service to the Club
The many successes of the Club since its formation in April 1948 is a testament to the work of the volunteers and its athletes

Achievements of the Carmarthen Harriers teams in 2015

- Third in the 2015 Welsh Senior (U17/20/Senior) League Cup Final
- Third in the 2015 Welsh junior U15 League (Louise Arthur League) in the overall competition, boys section and girls section
- Third in the 2015 Gerald Codd Trophy (9-15) competition
- Fifth in the 2015 Welsh Junior (9-15) Junior League Cup Final
- Won the 2014/15 novice boys and under 17 mens Gwent Cross Country League team competition. Third in the under 13 boys team competition
- Won the 2015 Welsh under 13 boys and under 17 men road relay championship. Under 15 girls team came second
- Second in the Welsh U13 boys and U17 mens team cross country championship and third in the U15 boys and girls team competitions
- Third in the 2015 Gwent League George Crump MBE Trophy competition
- Fifth in the 2015 Wilkinson Sword Trophy competition (the Welsh club winning the most gold medals in the Welsh senior and junior athletics championships). Carmarthen won the Wilkinson Sword Trophy in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

Achievements of Carmarthen Harriers in 2008

- Winner of the 2008 Welsh Junior League Cup Final (14th time in 15 years)
1 Carmarthen 1640; 2 Cardiff 1531; 3 Swansea 1348; 4 Deeside 1009
; 5 Wrexham 875; 6 Cwmbran 841; 7 Newport 655; 8 Bridgend 607
- Winner of 3 2008 Welsh junior cross country team championships and 3 2008 Welsh junior road relay championships

- Winner of the 2008 George Crump MBE Trophy (top junior club in the Gwent cross country league) winner also of the trophy in 2005, 2006 and 2007
- For the fourth year in succession winner of the Wilkinson Sword Trophy (for winning the most gold medals in the Welsh senior and junior athletics championships)
- Won a total of 64 medals in the Welsh outdoor athletics championships (30 gold, 12 silver and 22 bronze)

Success of the Carmarthen and District Harriers Athletics Club since November 2015

- A very successful 2015 Annual Dinner with 217 in attendance at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel. Many thanks to Rhian Glynn for organizing the annual Dinner so well once again
- Many thanks to Gwyn Edwards for the excellent photographs taken at the Dinner
- Nathan Jones has done a superb job with the Carmarthen Harriers website. Our website is probably one of the best of all the athletics clubs in the UK. The introduction of a face book page has helped to publicize the activities and success of the Club
- An excellent ten pin bowling event was held on 12 November 2015. Thanks again to Rhian Glynn for organising the event
- Winner of 3 Welsh cross country relay championships in Bridgend on 22 November 2015
- Carmarthen Harriers are doing very well in the 2015/16 Gwent cross country league season, both individually and as teams
- Lauryn Davey competed for Welsh schools in the schools combined events international in Glasgow on Saturday 12 December 2015. Joan Goldsmith was one of the team managers
- Lloyd Heckler, Ryan Jenkins and Ben Thomas competed for Wales in the Celtic cross country match in Edinburgh on Saturday 8 January 2016. Delyth Brown was one of the Welsh team managers
- Ryan Jenkins and Lloyd Heckler competed for Wales in the international cross country match in Cardiff on Sunday 24 January 2016. A number of Carmarthen Harriers members competed in the Cardiff Cross Challenge and did very well

- In the 2016 Welsh indoor championships Carmarthen Harriers members won a total of 10 medals (2 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze)
- Club won 9 awards at the Carmarthen Town Council presentation evening at the Carmarthen Quins Club on Friday 29 January 2016
- Carmarthen Harriers have 2 nominations on the shortlist of the Carmarthenshire County Council Sports Personality Awards evening on Friday 12 February 2016. Steve Perks is to be inducted into the Hall of Fame
- Many Carmarthen Harriers members are in the Dyfed schools team competing for Dyfed schools in the Welsh schools cross country championships in Brecon on Wednesday 10 February 2016. Dyfed are hoping to do well again having won the overall team trophy every year except once since 1991
- Lauryn Davey (triple jump) and Carys Jones (pole vault) competed in the U20 indoor international match in Cardiff on Sunday 7 February 2016

Financial situation of the Club

The Club is financially stable at the present time with about £40,000 in the bank. 15 years ago the Club was almost bankrupt. Over £45,000 profit has been made in the last 13 years through the sale of refreshments at events held at the Carmarthen Athletics Track and at the Showground.

Who is going to raise money for the Club in the future?

In the last 25 years we have relied also on grants and sponsorship to support the Club in the many annual events the Club has organized every year (15-20 a year for the last 30 years).

A total of around £800,000 has been raised by one person to provide the existing facilities at the Carmarthen Athletics Track (new all weather track in 1988, track resurfaced 3 times 1995, 2001 and 2008. New floodlights and sponsorship of all events at the Carmarthen Athletics Track and at the Showground in the last 25 years).

Sponsorship of the 4 Celtic Games £62,000, SIAB cross country international £8,500. 25 Welsh road race championships (in conjunction with the Carmarthen Mayor's Road Races - £25,000), SIAB athletics international and many Welsh junior athletics championships at the Carmarthen Athletics Track (£15,000).

Grants and sponsorship money obtained (£10,000-15,000 a year) is ring fenced. Any grant or sponsorship has to be applied for and a comprehensive report made afterwards.

Welsh Athletics athletes registration fees will go up by £2.50 per athlete in the year beginning 1 April 2016

Carmarthen Harriers have kept their membership fees (which includes Welsh athletics registration fees and insurance) at the same level for the last 5 years

It is now time to review our membership fee rate as athletics is considered by many to be a cheap sport

Who is going to going to apply for grants and sponsorship in the future?

We are depending too much on grants and sponsorship (£12-15,000 a year in the last 20 years)

Club must to survive must generate different forms of income

We should have had a fund raising committee years ago rather than rely on one person to raise money for the Club

Also there is a need for an active Ladies Committee to plan and prepare for the provision of refreshments on events day at the Carmarthen Athletics Track and at the Showground

A few years ago the refreshment Portacabin at the Carmarthen Athletics Track was used every Tuesday evening to serve teas and coffee.

Is there someone in the Club willing to take on this provision once more?

Pembrokeshire Harriers and Swansea Harriers have a very thriving café on training nights which is also used for the collection of training fees and sale of Club kit

How about members of the Club obtaining sponsorship for the Club in the future

Strengths of the Club at the present time

We are doing reasonably well at the present time at cross country and middle distance .However not as good as 10-15 years (Look at the Carmarthen Harriers club records)

We have a few dry dedicated coaches and officers who spend countless hours giving back to the Club a little of what they received when they were competing athletes

Weaknesses of the Club at the present time

Very few Carmarthen Harriers entered the 2016 West Wales and Welsh indoor athletics championships. Only one U13 member entered the Welsh championships. Why?

The standard of our athletes has gone down Why? (Look at the 2015 Carmarthen Harriers Annual Report and the Welsh Power of 10 lists)

We have very few qualified coaches in the club. Why?

We do not have sufficient coaches to coach athletes in the hurdles, jumps (long jump, triple jump and high jump) and throws (hammer, shot and discus)

At present we have 250 athlete members (500 parents!)

Surely we can find at least 10 parents who are willing and able to help in one way or other

The same applies to judging (Track, field and time keeping). Very soon the Club may well be disqualified if it does not provide its quota of qualified officials at event all events the club competes in including the Louise Arthur League

The Club will pay and always has paid the course fees for members to attend Welsh athletics coaching and officials courses

The future of the Club

Club urgently needs now to plan for the future. A small group met a few years ago to review the situation

How are we going again to be a major force in Welsh athletics?

Treasurer's Report

The account balance at present is £43,595.14 which is around the same as the last few years. Still outstanding includes sponsorship from McDonalds, Ffoshelig Coaches and Welsh Athletics.

Income has come in from some of the following: Membership Fees, Sale of Vests, Sponsorship, Training Levy, Refreshments sales, St John Ambulance and equipment.

David Roberts, the retired treasurer this year was thanked by all for his excellent work in the role over the years, and a vacancy is available.

Election of Officers: (2016)

President: Kevin Evans MBE

Chairman: Hedydd Davies MBE

Vice Chair: Joan Goldsmith

Secretary: Nathan Jones

Treasurer: VACANT

Registration Officer: Hedydd Davies / Nathan Jones

Website Officer: Nathan Jones

Team Managers:

Welsh Senior League: Hedydd Davies (boys) & Joan Goldsmith (girls)
Louise Arthur League Boys: Nathan Jones, Edward Morgan & Mike Rees
Louise Arthur League Girls: Gill Edwards & Cressy Morgan
Cross Country: Hedydd Davies, Delyth Brown, Steve Glynn, Carol Jones, Nathan Jones, Jake Morgan & Neil Thomas

Team Captains:

Louise Arthur League Boys: Tomos Rees
Louise Arthur League Girls: Olwen Batten
Welsh Senior League: Sophie Pick
Cross Country: Ryan Jenkins

All the above has been updated on the club officials webpage:

http://www.carmarthenharriers.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=11

Subscription Fees

Welsh Athletics have announced that athletes membership fees for the year beginning 1 April 2016 is increasing by £2.50 therefore the committee decided that the Carmarthen Harriers athletes membership rates will also go up by £2.50. The membership form used last year will remain with slight changes added.

Any Other Business

- The kerbs around the track have been reported as dangerous and heavy rain leaves the home straight messy with leaves falling. The Carmarthen Centre Leisure Centre manager will be informed. Also the drains at the track need to be inspected as the track is flooded during wet weather
- A number of years ago, Lesley Rees helped serve hot drinks during a Tuesday training session to bring money into the club and a good way of socializing. Delyth will look into re-starting this again with a ladies committee which will hopefully get more of the parents involved. Many at present go into the leisure centre café.
- Rebecca Gatt – the Dyfed Network Officer – has been involved recently by visiting schools to hold taster sessions trying to get more youngsters in Carmarthenshire interested in athletics.

- Congratulations to 9 Carmarthen Harriers members who won an award at the Carmarthen Town Council Awards on Friday 29 January – Daisy Thompson, Iwan Glynn, Frank Morgan, Ben Thomas, Danielle Jones, Lauryn Davey, Ashraf Liles, Rachel Donnison and Hedydd Davies.
- Good luck to Kevin Evans and the Harriers Junior Team who have been short-listed for the Carmarthenshire Sports Personality awards in Llanelli on Friday 12 February. Steve Perks will be introduced into the hall of fame.
- 4 clubs were represented at an informal meeting with members of Welsh Athletics to discuss with them a number of weaknesses within the organization.
- Picton sports, where we get our team wear from, now have an online page where Carmarthen Harriers members can order and buy clothing when they want instead of the three times a year order that Rhian did up to now. This will be an easier way to purchase and an easier way for Rhian. The new page on the Picton sports website is :
[http://www.pictonsports.co.uk/?estore&cat=ClubShops|Athletics|Carmarthen Harriers](http://www.pictonsports.co.uk/?estore&cat=ClubShops|Athletics|CarmarthenHarriers)
- Harriers Social Media – Many will know by now that a new Facebook Page was set up at the end of the year and has already gone from strength to strength. Leading up to the AGM, a new Twitter page was introduced. It will be a good way of getting schools involved with the club's events and activities.

Hedydd closed the AGM at 8.45pm and was followed by a short Committee Meeting

Date of next Committee Meeting:

Monday 11 April 2016, 7.30pm at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Spilman Street, Carmarthen

Committee Meeting

A brief ordinary meeting followed in which Delyth reported on a training conference course herself and Carol attended in England recently. They were taught new drills and warm ups etc. She explained that all coaches (6pm & 6.45 groups) do a set of difference drills, therefore a meeting has been arranged that all coaches are up to speed on what drills should be done that a follow on is in place for when athletes move up age groups / training groups. The Meeting has been arranged for Monday 29 February in the Harriers cabin.

Adrian Palmer, the Welsh Athletics throws coach will be present at the track during half term on Tuesday 16 February, along with Rebecca Gatt.

More qualified coaches and officials are needed at the club (points awarded to full set of officials at competitions)

There are courses available for those interested to help coaching/administration. Speak to Hedydd or Rebecca. All costs for training will always be covered by the club.

Throws, Jumps and Hurdles are weak at present. Very few entered the Welsh & West Wales Indoor Championships in January. It is hoped that many athletes will give field events a go in the summer.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 10 February – Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships (Brecon)

Saturday 13 February – Gwent League Cross Country (Monmouth)

Saturday 27 February – Welsh Cross Country Championships (Swansea)

March: Gwent League, UK Inter-Counties, Llanelli Primary Schools, Brianne Secondary Schools, SIAB / Home Countries and Dyfed Primary Schools / Dyfed v West Glamorgan Cross Country

Latest Fixture List

March/Mawrth 2016

Sat	5	Gwent cross country league	Brecon
		Brianne secondary league match	
Sat	12	UK inter counties cross country	Birmingham
Sun	13	Welsh sportshall athletics final	Cwmbran
Thurs	17	Dyfed primary cross country champs	Showground (4.30pm)
Sat	19	SIAB cross country	Falkirk Scotland
		Home Countries U20 match	Falkirk Scotland
Wed	23	West Glam v Dyfed Primary CC	Swansea?
Thurs	24	End of term	

April/Ebrill 2016

Tues	12	Start of term	
Wed	20	Dyfed secondary relays	Carmarthen
Sat	23	YDL (U15 league –not Carmarthen)	
Sun	24	London mini marathon/ Marathon	London
Sun	24	Welsh U17/20/senior league	Cardiff
Mon	25	Carmarthenshire primary athletics	Carmarthen (5pm)
Thurs	28	Carmarthen Throws competition	Carmarthen (6pm)
Sat	30	Louise Arthur/WJL U111/13/15 league	Carmarthen

May/Mai 2016

Sun	1	W Wales Midland U17/20 league match	Carmarthen
Mon	2	Carmarthen Mayor's Race	Carmarthen
Sun	15	West Wales championships	Swansea
Sat	21	YDL (U15 league – not Carmarthen)	
Mon	23	Start of half term	
Wed	25	WA Throw/ Jumps Open	Swansea
Thurs	26	Carmarthen Throws competition	Carmarthen (6pm)
Sat	28	Louise Arthur/WJL U11/13/15 league	Neath
Sun	29	W Wales Midland league (U17/20)	

Carmarthen Harriers 2016 Online!

www.carmarthenharriers.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/Carmarthen-Harriers-Athletics-Club-401809230012379/>

<https://twitter.com/CarmsHarriers> **NEW in February**