



Andover & District Whippet Racing Club

AGM Agenda

Sunday 6th February 2022 10.00 for a 10.30am start at Abbots Ann Village Hall

1. Apologies: Rob Hughes, Caroline Willoughby, Christine Harry, Jane Rankin, Gaye Scutter
2. Welcome from the Chairman - Steve Evans: Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked both members and the committee for their support over what had been a difficult year both due to being under covid restrictions for the first part of the year, kennel cough and the complaints from nasty neighbours. He thanked the Secretary and committee members for arranging the paperwork that allowed us to commence racing under the restrictions. He also acknowledged the loss of two of our long-term members and congratulated those dogs that had done well in all competitions over 2021.
3. Minutes of last meeting - Darcia Gingell: Darcia read through the minutes of the 2020 AGM and these were accepted as a true account of the meeting as proposed by Sara Eaton and seconded by Dougy Hood
4. Race Manager's Report - Sarah Puxty: Sarah thanked both committee and members for their help in supporting her in her new role as race manager. She paid tribute to the hard work of Pete, Dougy and Steve in maintaining the track and equipment. Sarah mentioned that the opens ran like clockwork and that we have received a number of comments praising the events. She mentioned how the club and members all pull together when in need and gave special mention to Stacey and Ashley for their help in moving and storing our equipment after we were told that they had to be removed from the field. Lorraine was also thanked for bringing so many new members to the club.
5. Treasurer's Report - Dave Smith: Dave said that we had a good year income wise but bad in terms of outgoings as there were a number of unexpected costs; namely just over £3000 for a new mower, bike and improvements to the traps. Membership had been very good as was trials money. The opens had done very well (£2777 in entry fees) with good profits on two of the three and a small loss on the third. Dave thanked Sam and Pete for sponsoring the very successful Hampshire Classic which made the club a profit of £664. As a club we made donations of £1926.20 to charities and other organisations including a fantastic £1826.2 to the PSPA. Dave mentioned that our bank is now charging a monthly fee for the account, they are also now charging for depositing cash and cheque payments (40p per cheque), the club will now actively encourage payment via bank transfer wherever possible.
6. Future of the club - Sam Bristow: Sam wanted clarification on our current situation and what our plans were for this season and going forward. Darcia read out the letter received from the council in November regarding our position at our current field.

Darcia had written a reply to Lorna Taylor from the Environmental Health department and was awaiting a reply. It was agreed that in the short term we will plan to start the season as usual. Stacey and Ashley have kindly offered to bring the trailer containing traps and bike etc to and from the club for meetings, so it will be a case of all hands-on deck helping to set up and pack away at the end of the day. Dougy reminded us that many clubs are in this situation and those of us racing long enough will remember doing so when the club were at Middle Wallop and at other clubs such as Oxford etc. Pete mentioned that it would be best if we could store the equipment closer to the field and has kindly offered to investigate further. In particular there is a need for the mower to be kept closer to the field as it would be difficult to move this back and forth when it is needed more regularly through the height of summer. Other discussion points included the purchase of a truck as opposed to a trailer that could hold more, but the issues of insurance and still needing somewhere local to park it were brought up. Sam mentioned that the Venture club had made Andover members very welcome at a trials meeting the previous Sunday and added that they had offered the use of their field for hire if needed.

7. Race day plans: movement of equipment to and from field, organisation of setting up and packing away - Darcia Gingell: this had mainly been covered in the previous item. A few areas to think about going forward included the use of the PA and what we could do to replace it if we are unable to use it for open meetings. Sarah suggested a second set of colours that could be placed further down the field and Pete kindly offered to make these. John also mentioned a set of numbers on a ring that display the race number currently at traps, this could be updated after every race and would be visible for racers to see so all know current position on the programme.
8. Maintenance - Peter Bristow: Pete to liaise with Stacey and Ashley to go to the storage location and carry out usual pre-season checks on the bike and traps. Traps need new carpet. Dougy to visit the field to see current state of the track and to assess what maintenance needs to take place.
9. 2022 dates: Darcia had put together a calendar with 26 dates, this avoids local opens and includes trials, club and trophy meetings. The provisional start date is 6th March but could be brought forward if weather and the state of the track allows. (There is the opportunity to add an additional 2 meetings and still be within set limits). All dates are subject to change and will only go ahead if there are enough committee members available and numbers are sufficient to warrant the use of a date.
10. Election of committee and officers: En-masse the 2021 committee stood down, Angie Sawyer proposed, and Sue Evans seconded that the committee be re-elected with the addition of Stacey Haynes. All agreed. The committee now consists of Steve Evans (Chair), Darcia Gingell (Secretary), Dave Smith (Treasurer), Sarah Puxty (Race Manager), Pete Bristow, Sam Bristow, Dougy Hood, Angie Sawyer, Alastair Holmes, Stacey Haynes.
11. Any Other Business
 - Race fees and membership: There was discussion over whether fees should be increased. After some discussion it was decided that as Membership fees went up last year we would not change them again this year. Race and trial fees brought in a good

income last year and Dave did not feel that they needed to be increased. This will be reviewed again at the next AGM.

- Charity Open: As we are struggling with finances, could the money from the open be donated to the club? 14 in favour, 1 against. Motion carried. Dave mentioned that this year will be Andover's 50th as the club ran their first meeting in 1972. It was decided that we would run the Charity Open at Easter as the 50th Anniversary Open. Lynne kindly offered to sponsor the rosettes for the first places in each group. Sarah asked about ideas for heat wins and trophies and there was a discussion over whether we needed to continue to provide trophies every time, this would be looked in to. Dougy suggested medals for the Anniversary Open and Sarah agreed that in presentation cases would be good. Stacey kindly offered to organise a hamper for a special online raffle as per the successful one that was held last summer. Lynne offered to do a second hamper for raffle on the day and Steve and Sue offered a fruit bowl.
- Raffle: Lorraine and Angie are standing down from doing the raffle, all thanked them for running the raffle in recent times. Stacey kindly offered to take over running the raffle on the occasions when she is at the club.

The meeting was closed at 12.01 pm.