

Minutes of meeting about the way forward for

Harrogate Harriers Junior Section

Held: At Harrogate Fire Station, Wednesday 16 July 7pm

Present: Mandy Coupland, Sue Birtswistle, Jackie Turner, Christine Auckland, Alan Couldwell, Pat Smith, Mark Seymour, Carolyn Rothwell (minutes taker), Jacqui Havercroft, Terri Spruce, Sue Higginson

Apologies: Nicky Aitken, Ruth & Ian Bowen, Anne & Gary Cheeseman, Richard Gillies, Chris Grundy, Christine Grundy, Jane Hall, Libby Hancocks, Ian Hinchcliffe, Brian Hunt, Catherine Jackson, Fiona Macleod, Suzi Makin, Jenni Moulson, Shirley Needham, Mark & Lesley Newton, Jon & Mrs! Smail, Claire Stockil, Leighton Williams.

Opening remarks

Mandy and Terri explained what they'd learned at a meeting with Karen Buck from UK North East Athletics and Gary Plant at Harrogate Borough Council.

- There is a system called Club Mark which lists everything you need to do to be a successful club, covering all aspects including legal obligations
- It would be a good idea to have a clean break, say at Easter, where the club closes for two weeks and then comes back 'new' and follows Club Mark, run by a committee of parents. Funds are available when you do this
- UK Athletics and HBC are very keen that all the good work over many years by Mal and Jeff are not lost and that HH Juniors continue

General Discussion

- All present wanted to voice their thanks and admiration to Jeff and Mal for their amazing commitment and support to young athletes over the years. Here we were gathered to decide who does what in a new club, yet they did it all on their own. Running 2 sometimes 3 training sessions per week, doing all the club admin for the various leagues, and attending every athletics event that the athletes went to, for years!
- It was agreed that as parents we want the club to continue, and at least 20 parents had offered to help and some to train at Level 1, and onto Level 2.
- Club Mark suggests various positions that need to be held within a committee, like Club contact, secretary, treasurer, fundraising, child protection, press officer, and these would need to be filled by willing parents. Some parents perform these roles at other clubs and would be willing to do the same for HH. HH seniors already provide a treasurer to the club, a membership secretary, a web site, and insurance to members.
- To be a Level 1 coach is easy. You attend one of the many days organised by UK Athletics, for one day, apply for a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check and get a licence. On the day you discuss the role of a coach, learn some training drills, and do some, but you do not need to be an athlete. Anyone over 16 can do the course.
- More contact should be made with the senior HH so that the juniors know they are there. www.harrogate-harriers.co.uk can be updated with Junior news if we send Pat Brew details. There is a club BBQ at the Academy on 9 August. The club has a top hurdler who is keen to help train the juniors.
- If we could have a track... More effort needs to be made to see if Menwith Hill would give access on a regular basis to their track, even if just in the summer. Word is they want to improve links with the community. Can the Army Apprentice College hall be used for training nights, and maybe some of the staff would run fitness sessions (who'd say no to a barking Sergeant Major?) . One-off trips on a bus to the track at Carnegie could be a possibility.
- Qualified coaches in a variety of disciplines are needed, and the kit to help them, e.g. High Jump.
- How do juniors get to join HH? At the moment it is at Jeff's discretion, and until the Club Mark is in place it was felt that this situation should remain. Although it would be lovely to operate a 'sport for all' open door policy in the future, coaches need to be in place first.
- HBC very keen for the club to continue but what help can they offer in the form of coaches, training venue?

Action!

Next meeting provisionally booked for **Wednesday 10 September, 7pm** at the Fire station. Club Mark to be introduced at the meeting and parents to offer for various roles.

Terri

- to book venue
- Email Lindsay Spicer at HBC, what support is available from HBC. Venue? Coaches?

Mandy

- to invite Karen Buck and Gary Plant to next meeting.
- Date to be changed to accommodate them.
- Ask Gary Plant to see if he could get us a regular training slot at the Army Apprentice College

Alan

- To work with Pat Brew to get web site updated

Carolyn

- Send out minutes to all parents
- Check if Jeff will be booking HGS for the autumn/spring/summer term's training

All parents

- Do you know of a large indoor training facility suitable for athletics that we could use?
- What role are you willing to take on for HH Juniors?
- Do you have access to Menwith Hill to sign in athletes?
- Please come to the next meeting (provisionally 10 September)

Notes:

Parents' UK Athletics Coaching qualifications held at moment:

- Mark Seymour – Level 2 timekeeper
- Andy Allen – Level 2 timekeeper
- Terri Spruce – Level 2 Field Judge
- Level 1 Athletics Coaches: Graham Brown, Carolyn Rothwell, Mark Coupland, Terri Spruce, Chris Spruce, Graeme Kilvington, Nicky Carey, Gordon Macfarlane, Andrew Turner. Booked to go on course: Eivind Brown, Sue Birtswistle, Rebecca Turner.
- Do other parents have a recognised qualification that's useful and relevant to the club? Please let Carolyn know.
- Mandy Coupland and Pat Smith are First Aiders