



**DORKING AND MOLE VALLEY ATHLETICS CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

**Record of Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Dorking and Mole Valley Athletics Club (DMVAC) was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, starting at 20:00 at The Pavilion, Pixham Lane Sports Ground, Pixham Lane, Dorking. 36 members were in attendance.

Chair John Baker (JB) started the meeting, thanking everyone for attending.

**1.0 Apologies for Absence received – confirmed by Secretary Paula Carter (PC)**

Elizabeth Horner	Keith Winter	Dan Campbell
Rob Russell	Rachel Russell	Ben Squire
Eva Squire	Bridget Winn-Taylor	Patrick Martin
Jo Lloyd	Niki Dargue	Dawn Cook
Hideo Takano	Ruth Kirkpartrick	Wendy Wakelin
Charles Wheeler	Lawrence Bate	Cath Bate

**2.0 Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM March 2024**

A link to the minutes on the website was sent by email to all club members in advance of the meeting.

Motion to approve of minutes of previous AGM 2024:

Proposed by: Brian James

Seconded by: Nick Seaman

All Approved

**3.0 Club Awards**

Six awards in total

- Youth awards were announced and will be published in the minutes once the awards have been given at Pixham.
- Most improved Senior Female Athlete – Ria Woodfield
- Most improved Senior Male Athlete – Dan Evans Sr

*A short report on the reasons for the award for the senior athletes is in [Appendix 1](#)*

**4.0 Chair's Report**

- **Opening Remarks:**
  - JB thanked all club volunteers for their contributions.



- Membership revenue increased by 16% in 2024, with approximately 400 members and 190 EA licences held.
- **Performance Highlights:**
  - Men's team achieved promotion to Division 2 of the Surrey Cross-Country League.
  - George James set a new marathon club record (2h 11m 19s) and was selected for the English team at the European Running Championships.
  - Alice Crane set new club records in 1500m, 3000m, 5000m, 5k, and 10k, and represented England in Italy for hill running. Alice has resigned from the club but will continue as a second-claim member.
  - 19 women's and 14 men's club records set in total.
  - Howard Jones awarded Club Person of the Year and Linda Davey as Unsung Hero at the Christmas dinner.
- **Coaching Updates:**
  - Loss of coaches including Rob and Rachel Russell, Josh Gorecki, Ken Caldwell and also Linda Davey in the summer impacting youth coaching.
  - New volunteer coaches are being trained: Dan Evans, Mark Fitzgerald, Abie Helberg, David Moore, Ian Giles, and Sharmy Blows.
  - Current coaching team Nick Seamann, Howard Jones, Richard Grassley and Chris Parrott, Dawn Cook, Chris Edwards, Kevin Irvine, Linda Davey, Alison Jackson and Brian James. Still room for more coaches – especially for youth.
  - It may take 12 months to fully recover from the loss of five fully qualified coaches.
- **Team Reports:**
  - **Women's Team:**
    - Competed in Division 1 of the Surrey Cross-Country League, finishing 15th out of 15.
    - Strong individual performances from Alice Crane.
    - Next year would be great to get more runners out - races are free and friendly for everyone.
  - **Men's Team:**
    - Notable performances by Dan Evans, Pat Wright, Howard Jones, Matthew Cluett, Dan Jeffries, Kev Stroud, Charles Wheeler and Dennis Earl.
    - Team promoted to Division 2 in the Surrey Cross-Country League.
- **Youth Section Reports:**
  - **Under 13s Endurance:**
    - Strong cross-country season with several athletes competing in major championships and leagues.
    - Thanks to parent helpers, including Ben Squires and Carolyn Amos.
  - **Under 15s Endurance:**
    - Dawn Cook coaching the group, focusing on fitness and competition.
    - Athletes participated in Surrey Cross-Country League, YDL, and Lily B leagues.



- **Other Club Events:**
  - **Mabac:**
    - DMVAC regained leadership of the Mabac league in 2024, ahead of Epsom Oddballs.
    - Denbies event planned for June 10, 2025.
  - **Phil Sears Winter Handicap:**
    - Handicap series underway, with Sam Ivin and Steve Bowie leading the men's competition and a close women's race.
  - **Vets/SAL Track:**
    - Small but successful participation in Vets track events, with several PBs and club records set.
    - Surrey Athletics League participation remains low.
  - **Dorking 10s:**
    - Organized by Claire Blunden, with 40% of profits going to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and Action for Carers Surrey.
- **Volunteer Recognition:**
  - Appreciation for all club volunteers, including committee members, coaches, and event organizers.
  - Special mention for Dan Campbell, who updated the website and designed a new welcome pack for members along with Matthew Cluett
- **Upcoming Dates:**
  - **Pixham Training Night:** April 24 (Track marking on April 22)
  - **Ranmore Runs:** April 8
  - **Vets Track Meets:** April 14, June 16 & 30, July 28
  - **Dorking 10s:** June 1
  - **Mabac Denbies:** June 10
  - **Bench to Bench:** June 17
  - **Club Day at Pixham:** August 17, ideas for activities welcome.

## 5.0 Treasurer's Report

- Club in healthy position
  - Although it is showing a deficit as a result of the write off of some value of trophies, if we exclude this – actually a surplus £4800 due to increase in number of members and profit from D10s
  - Received donation £680 Brockham Bonfire
- Expenses
  - Pixham - £1800 up on last yr
  - Hire of facilities costs – St Martins have seen a change in management which resulted in a change to the invoicing rota
  - NT lost some of cheques – so cost of donations for use of Ranmore is higher
  - Equipment – battery for defib, purchase of air shelter etc
  - Investment in people – entry fees cost has gone up
  - Repairs and maintenance at Pixham – include painting track, field
- Healthy bank balance for plan to have funds in place for eventual all-weather track



- Secure environment – able to pay for training fees for coaches.
- Question raised - Interest earned – could it be moved to higher interest account. ACTION: PH made note to investigate

## **6.0 Election of Auditor**

Usual auditor has passed away – club needs to find new auditor. PH would welcome any recommendations.

## **7.0 Election of Officers and Committee**

John Jelly took over meeting for election of chair and thanked JB for his work this year. There were no other nominations for chair.

### **Election of Chair**

- John Baker (Chair) #  
Proposed by Lou Schlaeppli  
Seconded by Lesley Taylor  
Duly elected

JB continued. All of committee except Dan Campbell are standing for re-election. Whilst not actively looking – if anyone would like to join during the year, JB asked for them to let committee know.

JB submitted the motion for a block vote for the rest of the committee:

- Paula Carter (Vice Chair/Secretary) #
- Paul Hundermark (Treasurer) #
- Nicolette Hutton (Membership Secretary) #
- Howard Jones (Coaching Co-ordinator) #
- Kevin Stroud (Welfare Officer) #
- Ruth Kirkpatrick (Welfare Officer) #
- Chris Edwards (Youth Representative) #
- Jacqui Cooper
- Caroline Whelan
- Dan Jeffries
- Matthew Cluett # = Club (or UKA) official post.

Proposed by Brian James  
Seconded by Graham Taylor  
Unanimous decision

## **8.0 Membership Fee Proposal**

After discussion at committee level, committee recommend hold fees for 3<sup>rd</sup> yr in a row. Going back 5-6 years, it was £40 so little very little increase over years but balance is strong.



Family membership - 19 family memberships in 2024 although only approx. 9 families could be affected. It will make membership easier to manage. Affected families should approach Membership Secretary for help. Families with 2 adults members and 2 children would be mostly affected.

- Individual Adult Member (over 25) – £45.00
- Young Adult Membership for 18-25yr old £30.00 (must be 25 and under on April 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Youth membership U11 - £40.00
- Youth Membership 11- 18yrs (EA licence compulsory and included) – TOTAL £60.00
- Second claim members £30.00
- The EA licence has been confirmed as £20.00.
- Part way through year memberships:
  - Full fee payable for first 6 months
  - Available for all memberships October to March at a monthly pro-rata discount rate – NOTE: EA Licence is £20 and not subject to pro-rata discount.
  - Can be reviewed on a case by case basis
- Family Membership – no longer available but as always, members can approach the membership secretary to request any special arrangements for payments.

Looking at next year – committee are trying to run at break even. This does mean that we can spend money when we need. Aim is to keep any surplus as small as possible.

JB confirmed cost of Pixham and the grounds may not be quite as much next year.

The cost of running Pixham is £60k each year – cost of £14k to sand and seed in 2024 – but will be only £8k in 2025. Also, solar panels reducing costs. Refuse collection cost has gone down

JB asked for any questions or comments on membership or family. No queries.

Motion to approve Membership Fee Proposal

Proposed by Zahra Sharples

Seconded by Jacqui Cooper

Vote: All in favour – No votes against

## **9.0 New membership system**

- **Current Membership System:**



- Webcollect is outdated and cumbersome
- Difficult to manage effectively
- **Exploring New Systems:**
  - Considered 3-4 alternative options
  - Focused on two main options: **Coacha** and **Membermojo** (used by Epsom Oddballs)
  - Committee is currently evaluating both systems
- **Expected Improvements:**
  - Improved payment system using Stripe
  - Ability for members to update their own data
  - Coaches and Run Leaders to have online access to athlete data
  - Session run registers, particularly for youth sessions
  - Enhanced club communications
- **Current Communication Tools:**
  - WhatsApp improvements have been effective; no plans to replace it
- **System Feedback:**
  - Coacha appeared promising but didn't fully meet requirements
  - Likely decision to switch systems this year
- **Potential Membership Renewal Delay:**
  - Renewal may be delayed to early May
  - Members would complete a form, pay, and be assigned to appropriate groups (adult/youth)
- **System Costs:**
  - **Webcollect:** £410/year
  - **Coacha:** £36/month
  - **Membermojo:** £95/year
  - Each system has transaction fees
- **Additional Features:**
  - Automated email reminders for unpaid fees
  - EA (England Athletics) compliance is crucial for safeguarding
  - New system will facilitate EA Licence payments

## 10.0 Life membership nomination

JB announced award of life membership given for long service to the club

- Rachel Russell

### **Motion to approve life member nomination**

Proposed by Kev Stroud

Seconded by Chris Edwards

All in favour

## 11.0 Amendment to Constitution

Change to Constitution to remove Family membership / change Young Person to Young Adult.

Proposed: Kev Stroud

Seconded: Zahra Sharples

All in favour



## 12.0 Any Other Business

John Jelly mentioned John Barron who has given huge amount to club in the past. He would greatly appreciate any contact from club members

## Appendix 1

Senior Most Improved Awards

### **Most improved woman - Ria Woodfield**

Ria Woodfield had a superb season in 2024 returning to times she was achieving some years ago with a 20:16 park run and a 42:22 10k. Her range is impressive as Ria will tackle anything from 5k to ultra distances.

She is also a strong cross-country runner and regularly turned out for the club in the Surrey League Division 1 matches, as well as competing in The South of Thames Team Championships and the Surrey Masters.

Cross-Country 2025 has started well for Ria as evidenced by the Hereford 10 mile race she ran in February and last Sunday's Leith Hill Half Marathon.

At Hereford Ria recorded a time of 69:18 to place her third woman and first in her age group. In the Leith Hill half she placed second woman with a time of 1 h 46 min. Will continue to go from strength to strength in 2025.

### **Most improved man - Dan Evans**

Dan Evans has made great progress this year. He finished second overall in the Surrey Road League competition, and in the 2024-25 cross-country league races placed 3rd in Race 1, 2nd in Race 3 and then picked up his maiden victory in Race 4, helping the team significantly to promotion for next season.

Dan has also stepped up to train as a coach from this year and will help coach Rob Russell's group now he has left Dorking.