

BEDFORD & COUNTY ATHLETIC CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 2nd December 2024

Present: Paul Gooding [PG], Martyn Blackwell [MB], Allen Adamson [AA], Craig Emmerson [CE], Penny Butcher [PB], Courtney Gunn [CG], , Bob Thompson [BT], Ewan Wilson [EW]

Apologies

Pete Carpenter [PC]

	➤	Action
1	Minutes of Previous Meeting ● Agree accuracy - Agreed ● Matters arising – Volunteers item on agenda. Interest accounts on agenda. Refreshments on training nights going well. New club tent much appreciated by athletes. We now have two coaches licensed by ARC. Affiliations covered later on agenda. CG continues to be on both the EYAL and EMAC committees. We are still not sure on how the grant from EA will work for changes in age groups in 2026. Visit by EA club support officer had gone well.	
2	Reports ● Finance - Reports held. Beagles has been more successful financially than expected. Next term we will offer 11 sessions for the cost of 10, to cover two lost sessions this term. Kit stocks running low on vests, new kit arriving. The exact balance of the Wheelchair Club's accounts is not clear but they still have a balance of around £850. EW to check wheelchair memberships. Discussion on finding a better interest rate at the bank. CG to contact HSBC regarding a better rate. Keysoe Chiltern League accounts held. Overall cost was £6000. Accounts must be filed with Companies House by 30/12. These are in the club folder in reception. AA and MB to sign as directors after PF finalises with PC. ● Membership – Report held. We have 489 members, of which 369 are registered with EA. We have a waiting list for athletes to join the club and we are still receiving enquiries. Consequently we have streamlined the reply to new enquiries. MB mentioned that the numbers at Beagles are high on Tuesdays but are significantly lower on Thursdays. Look to offer more places on Thursdays. ● Volunteers – See succession planning later in agenda ● Safety, Welfare & Grievances- No reports ● Club Standards & Governance - PG to step down from being chair next year. We need to reduce the work of the chair both regarding admission of new members and reception duties on club nights. Plan to break down the tasks of reception and new members into several	EW CG AA,MB PC,PG

	roles. Look to have a 'team' on reception. PG to break down tasks into roles. BT offered to help induct new volunteers on reception duties. EW to email club members asking for volunteers with membership and reception. EW thought that we should also try and recruit volunteers by 'talent spotting' and inviting people personally to become volunteers. PG raised the topic of recruiting new coaches. EA would stage an Assistant Coach course at Bedford candidates. The club would pay for the course if there were a minimum of six candidates. MB queried our membership fees for Q4. EW proposed that we do not introduce a specific Q4 rate however any EA registration paid after 1st January is valid for 15 months. Any new starter, who has not had an extended trial period, will be offered to join the 2025/26 membership year ie after 1st April. Policy Reviews. PB had looked at the Anti Bullying and Social Media policies. The committee adopted the EA Anti Bullying framework and AA to post on website. No changes to the Social Media policy. The Development Plan does not match our current circumstances. Therefore a new scaled down plan of 3-4 objectives will need to be produced in line with the budget plan in February. ● Performance/Event Management – Summer Fixtures 2025 – Agreed that we enter SAL, EMAC and EYAL. After some discussion a proposal that we do not enter the LYDL was carried by 6 votes to one. To offer under U 13,15 ,members more opportunities to compete, it was agreed that we will look into supporting entries to the following competitions: Bedfordshire Open, County Championships (both at Bedford) and the Eastern Championships (Cambridge). Support limited to one event per competition. Dates and venues for Summer 2026 were being finalised and will be posted on the website. EA have indicated that they would support any meetings at Bedford in 2026 on the reopening of the track. CG suggested that the British Masters Championship could be staged at Bedford. The Club Xmas handicap will be held on 22/12. The entry fees will be donated to charity. The lounge has been booked. Still awaiting confirmation on use of kitchen and the opening of the bar. A permit has been given for an Open PV competition at Bedford on the same day. It is unfortunate that the track will be closed on four training nights over the Xmas holidays. There has been no take up by coaches on the club booking the indoor facilities at other times over Xmas. EW to email members on closures. PG reported he had met with UoB. They are offering a number of opportunities for the club and athletes as follows; - a presentation at the club by UoB on a topic of our choosing - use of their S&C facility at very good rates. - application to the UoB Talented Youth Programme running for a term on Monday evenings (1530-1730) In addition PG offered UoB students the opportunity to coach at the club. Review of Awards Evening. The feedback has been good. The shorter format was appreciated. The attendance could have been better, maybe because only those receiving awards attended and that the evening was near a school half term. Suggestion that it could be put back to November and be more of a social event. The cost of the evening was £1084, only GLL invoice to be paid. There was more food than was needed. The committee thanked Divindra Bains for her work in organising the evening. Discussion on another venue for the awards. BT mentioned St Andrews Hall.	PG BT EW AA EW
--	--	--

	Dennis Johnson has suggested we have a retrospective awards for those lost during COVID. The committee did not think an evening was required but would support the distribution of awards to winners at other times as well acknowledging club records. CG proposed that indoor performances should be considered alongside outdoor performances for club records. This is in line with national and international organisations now recognising indoor performances alongside outside performances. The committee agreed to the change.	
3	Discussion Items •	
4	AOB • PG asked if anyone had a contact for Pat Radcliffe as there was mail for Paula Radcliffe in the club folder at reception. Old T shirts to be offered for sale at a reduced cost of £10 per vest. Website needs updating. Committee members to contact Andrew Davies with changes. The Beast and other strength training equipment belonging to the club are to be housed in a new facility behind the hall. Estimate from Steve Janes is £1700. Work carried out by club member Mick Smith after Xmas. GLL had agreed to cover the cost of the electrics. • BT had an address for Pat Radcliffe	
	Date & time of Next meeting Monday 13th January 7.00pm	

Meeting closed 2100 hours

Signed as a true record