

## **AGM, Monday 8th November 2021 - Introduction**

Good evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting for Coventry Godiva Harriers AC for the period 2020 – 2021

Following on from the Covid situation where we held last years AGM virtually its good to see people back together for this year's AGM

Before we get into the main details of the AGM business, I would firstly like to have a minutes silence to remember those loved ones impacted by the pandemic, and specifically 3 members of the club who have recently passed away

Pat Medwell

Karen (known as Kate) Potter

Howard Anderson

### **Secretary's Report**

This last year has continued to be a tricky period for the club.

With the combination of the welfare investigation and the Covid-19 pandemic these have largely consumed the Committee's time and energy right through the period and continue to do so today.

The welfare investigation has been a very challenging and expensive exercise for the club, and it has caused significant stress to those directly involved and much of the Committee, plus their families. Although the investigation was concluded, and the summary report published via our website, there are still some closing out actions to be concluded. It is vital the club finishes these to ensure that our approach to welfare is second to none, and for the benefit of our members, be they past, current or future.

The pandemic has resulted in a large amount of work for our Welfare Officers, Coaching team and volunteers to implement a safe training environment that met restrictions and the sport's governing body's recommendations. On behalf of our athletes I'd like to thank all those involved for their part in enabling a return to the sport at our track with a special mention to Job King.

Even with the significant disruption caused by the pandemic, where permitted our Coaches, Officials and Volunteers have continued to contribute countless hours of their time to help provide the Club's services to all members and to help develop our athletes to be the best that they can be.

However these are not the only challenges the club currently faces. The pandemic and welfare investigation have placed a strain on the clubs balance sheet, which resulted in a significant trading loss during 2020/21. I will not steal Fiona's thunder, but if the club does not work to put its self on a more solid financial footing then we may not have a club in 10/15 years' time.

Unfortunately Medwell Hyde Ltd are no longer in a position to continue as the clubs sponsor, and I would like to thank both Roger Medwell and Medwell Hyde Ltd for their generous sponsorship of the club in recent years.

Despite this Roger Medwell has again given a commitment to a further two seasons (i.e. two Birmingham League and two Midland Athletic seasons) to support the Awards, and our thanks go to him for this.

I would now like to briefly address the situation around volunteers

The lack of volunteers to help fill major roles on the committee and throughout the club, highlights what could be seen as potential complacency from its members and that the club will always be here and the same old volunteers will always be there to run it. But as is evident from the vacant committee positions alone this is not the case. Volunteers are the beating hart of any club and without them the club can't function and as such will just wither away. I only need to look at tonight's attendance to gauge the challenge we face, so I would like to put a request out to all members to step forward if you can and support the club.

However despite all the Covid challenges it was good to see a comprehensive race schedule on the track in 2021, and we saw some notable achievements from our athletes, of which I'll highlight some:

#### English Schools

- Camiah Bennett 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 300m Junior Girls final
- Monica Davidson 1<sup>st</sup> in the B final 300m Inter Girls
- Rusciano Thomas Riley 1<sup>st</sup> in the 100m Inter Boys final
- Jake Minshull 1<sup>st</sup> in the 400m hurdles Inter Boys final
- Corey Nealon Richards 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m Senior Boys final
- Stephen Baffour 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m Senior Boys final
- Plus Freya Bennett 1500m Inter Girls and Grace Evans 75m hurdles Junior Girls

#### England Age Group Championships

Two gold medals

- Jake Minshull 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 17 Boys 800m
- Rusciano Thomas Riley 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 17 Boys 100m
- Plus great performances from Danielle Bleach, Grace Evans, Eva Cassidy, Camiah Bennett, Monica Davidson, Ramadan Noah, Corey Nealon Richards, Freya Bennett and Stephen Baffour

#### SIAB – Schools International Athletics Board

- Rusciano Thomas Riley 1<sup>st</sup> 100m
- Jake Minshull 1<sup>st</sup> in the 400m hurdles, 4x 400 relay and male performance of the championships

#### Tokyo Olympic games

- Kare Adenegan silver in the T34 WC 100m and 800m
- Ben Rowlings 9<sup>th</sup> 100WC and 8<sup>th</sup> 800WC

#### Warwickshire T&F Championships

These championships saw some fantastic results for the club with CGH second in the Warwick Vase Trophy for the best team performance.

## Midland Counties Road Relays – 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Women team

### Other results

- Yasmin Liverpool World Athletics Relays - mixed 4x400m 5<sup>th</sup> and the European Team Championships - 4x400m Silver, 400m 5th, Team Bronze
- Alex Farqharson jumped the longest distance outdoors this season 8.01 in August, England Athletics Senior Championships July was 1<sup>st</sup> in the LJ

These are amazing achievements and I'm sure that there's numerous others worthy of inclusion that I have missed, so I've included the report from Elaine and Keeley (T&F Team Managers) for the season as well.

We also held the Lesley Mallows 800m track event , which was very well received.

I'd like to close my report with a request for help again from the wider membership and their families. We are a club ran entirely by volunteers. The minimum quantity of work required to provide the experience that we are all accustomed to only seems to increase each year; therefore, the only realistic way we can do more, is by having more people involved.

Thanks for your attention

Nick Bennett

Acting Club Secretary