

## **THE MILOCARIAN ATHLETIC CLUB.**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the club, held in the cricket pavilion, RMA Sandhurst, following the home match, at 4.00pm on Saturday, 17 October 2015.

**Present:** N Wood (in the chair), P I French, J P A McCarthy and I Ward.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Brig A J S Ling, N. Shanahan, P Shanahan, M Sumpter, N. C. Wood, J Wood.

**2. Chairman's Introduction:** The chairman proposed that, since the last AGM had been held about a decade ago and the proceedings would now be irrelevant, it would be pointless to approve and sign the minutes or address any matters arising. This was agreed and the meeting moved to address the remaining agenda items.

### **3. Election of Committee Members**

a. All the committee members except the secretary offered to carry on and were re-elected unanimously.

b. The secretary had resigned with effect from the date of the meeting, but had undertaken to continue to run the website. The remainder of the committee concurred with his proposal and agreed to re-distribute his duties among themselves. The chairman paid tribute to Mike Sumpter's long and effective service to Milocarian AC.

Afternote: It was subsequently agreed that the chairman would approach Tony Dimmer, to see if he would take on the secretary's role.

c. The Chairman thanked the committee for its efforts throughout the year and in particular for organising a very successful home match.

### **4. Chairman's Annual Report**

The report is compiled at the end of each season and distributed to service commands, service sports boards, Sandhurst and formations and units that had supported the club and provided runners during the year. The chairman confessed that the report seemed to elicit no response whatever, but he felt that it was worth doing if it brought the club's name in front of even a few people. He added that the last report had been the most enjoyable to write yet.

a. Highlights. The club had won 5 out of 8 races contested in 2014/15 in addition to the 2014 Runnymede Relays.

b. Individual Achievements. Club members had competed in the London, Boston and Paris marathons and had all done well.

c. Trophies. The Milocarian Trophy had continued to be awarded for the winning athletics team at the finals of the annual Sainsbury's Schools Games and the

Milocarrian Cup at the Achilles Schools Relays. The Chairman had attended both events which had been of a very high standard.

Afternote: Sainsbury's had given notice that it would withdraw from sponsoring the Schools Games, but the chief executive of the Youth Sport Trust, Alison Oliver, had confirmed to the chairman that the event would continue to be staged and that the trust would want to maintain the link with Milocarrian AC.

## **5. Finance Report**

a. The treasurer presented the record of the club's income and expenditure as at 31 December 2014 which showed a deficit of £94.33 over the year resulting in an accumulated fund, made up of cash in the bank and in a National Savings account, of £3,067.09.

b. The account is attached to these minutes. It must be realised that the club's dependable annual income, made up entirely of subs, is inadequate to maintain its activities. Donations are a bonus and cannot be relied upon.

c. The only item of expenditure that is likely to be non-recurring is the kit purchase. The club holds an adequate stock of vests which are written off on purchase and sweat shirts are sold in small numbers at a small profit. The other costs are likely to re-occur every year and could be inflated in future by the rising expense of the home match.

d. It is obvious that the club's expenditure is running well ahead of its income, although there are sufficient funds in hand to keep going for a couple of years yet. Nevertheless, the costs of the home match will have to be addressed and the committee has evolved a plan to mitigate them which will be put to Sandhurst shortly.

6. The Subs Exercise (See the stats at the end of these minutes).

a. The chairman explained that this had been an attempt to persuade members paying historic rates of subs, some as low as £1.00 a year, to increase them to £7.50 in an effort to boost the club's income. The treasurer's digest of the outcome of the exercise is attached to these minutes.

b. Members who had paid their subs by standing order last year were contacted via their banks. It can be seen that no response has come back from 16 of them and it will not be certain until the end of this year, when the bank statement is received, whether they have cancelled their membership or continued to pay their old rate of subs or have died.

c. The exercise was undoubtedly worth doing as it resulted in contact being re-established with long-standing members and some very nice letters were received as well as donations to add to the boost of £82.50 to the subs. The chairman acknowledged the help of Tony Dimmer in running the exercise.

## **7. Succession Planning**

a. The chairman pointed out that the the committee members were all quite senior and whereas they were dedicated to keeping the club going, there was undoubtedly a need for new blood. What was more, there was not a serving member on the

committee and that limited the club's scope for recruiting and access to military influence.

b. The committee's duties were not that onerous and the members were quite happy to train up understudies, so the chairman urged all members to consider whether they could either volunteer themselves or suggest possible candidates.

## **8. Recruitment**

a. Recruiting in the last couple of seasons had been quite successful and had contributed to a significant improvement in the club's performance. Most new members had been brought in by word of mouth, existing runners bringing along their friends. The cross country secretary can provide posters and fixture cards for members to distribute.

b. The chairman urged members to take every opportunity to encourage any eligible runners to join the club and to emphasise the low cost and flexibility of the commitment. The club should be aiming at a critical mass of about 100 members, half of whom would be at least occasional competitors. It was well short of that at the moment, but raising the numbers would underpin both the competitive and financial future of the club.

## **9. Social Event**

a. There is always a bit of a lull between seasons, albeit punctuated by the Runnymede Relays and the momentum achieved tends to dissipate, making it an effort to fire up members for the next campaign. The committee felt that a social event, in the summer, might provide an enjoyable means of keeping members in touch with one another.

b. It was suggested that a buffet lunch for members and their partners at, for instance, the Victory Services Club, in Marble Arch, might be the way to do it. The cross country secretary would make inquiries as to cost and would report back.

c. Any function would have to be self-funding, the club could not afford to subsidise it and the committee felt that cost should not exceed £25 a head.

d. Comments from members on this idea would be very welcome.

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## **10. Any Other Business.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.45pm.

Date of Next Meeting. TBN, but likely to follow the home match in 2016.

## **Subscription Exercise 2015 - Milocarian AC**

### **Results at 1st October 2015**

<b>Letters to Members</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Members increased their Subs</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Replies Outstanding</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Cancelled Membership</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Deceased since startex</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Members already paying the target subs</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Increase to Annual Subs Income</b>	<b>£ 82.50 pa.</b>
<b>Donations Received</b>	<b>£ 286.50</b>