



Petts Wood Runners Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 15th May 2018

John O'Toole (JO'T) opened the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance and established the quorum. Apologies were received from Sherry Bevan, Éadaoin Miller, Sue Hannay, Donna Carroll and Tim Springett.

JO'T asked for a show of hands to approve last year's (2017) AGM minutes. These were unanimously approved.

JO'T handed to Karen Barritt (KB), PWR Chair for her report.

Chair's report

Good evening and welcome everyone.

Some of you may not know me or may not have actually seen me running. Well, unfortunately I've been on the injured bench for what seems like forever.

Now all runners like to incessantly talk about their injuries, so I hope you're sitting comfortably?

I've been on the PWR committee for 6 years. First 2 as ladies captain and the following 4 as Chairperson. I can honestly say that being part of this club has changed my life for the better.

When I took over the chairperson role this was already a great club and full of wonderful people.

Over the past 4 years, we have had loads of new members and it's all of you that make this club what it is, with a little help from the committee.

This group of people sat up here should be so proud of themselves and the clubs' achievements over the past year. They are amazing group of people with a common core value of making this club accessible and inclusive to all of the members. We are here for you all and I really hope that comes across?

We like to think of ourselves as a social running club as we like to have a bit of fun along the way.

In my report that was sent out.....who's brave enough to admit they haven't read it?

It basically covers what this outstanding group of people have helped Petts Wood Runners achieve over the past year. All of these roles are voluntary and some more visible than other but I can tell you that they all work incredibly hard behind the scenes, to make it appear seamless.

I loved the quote on fb following the members 10k that said something like, 'this doesn't magic itself'. My huge thanks goes out to them all for their commitment and support. We shall be losing a few from the committee this year, Ellie Bowley, Michelle Marsh and Emma Everest, thanks so much and wish you all the best.

For me the key things that stand out are the CRY event, anything social, especially if there's a coach involved, the new kit, the Heartstart training and the fitting of an AED at Willet Rec. Always the Members 10k, mine and Hels highlight of the year and of course, Karen's cabin. I love the plaque, so thanks for that.



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There are so many of you that are not on the committee who also play a huge part in the success of this club. (Please hold your applause as) I would like to invite the following people to stand. The leaders, Mike Reeves, Donna Carroll, Sherry Bevan and Michael Button for leading the beginners group, also Kevin Howarth for services to photography.

All of you that volunteer and marshal, bake cakes, make tea and bacon roles, you all add to the specialness that we have. There are so many people to thank, I really hope I haven't missed anyone.

The final person I'd like to thank, he will hate this so don't all look at him, is my husband Chris. He has been incredibly supportive on this journey.

I wish the new Chairman and committee all the very best. I'm not going anywhere, I will take on role of RD and have already been called Alex Fergusson. I don't know what John meant, being Chair has been my absolute pleasure and privilege.

Karen handed to Laura Stables (LS), Club treasurer who ran through the financial statements.

Treasurer's report

LS: The transactions report and accounts detail have been sent out so you should have read this, it's in the same format as last year. I won't be running through it all; instead here is a summary of the bank movements:

Opening Balance	£15,038.18	
Income	£8,253.87	
Expenses	£8,722.29	
Closing balance	£14,569.76	(at the end of the banking period)

As you can see, the accounts remain stable.

Appendix 1 shows the membership subscriptions for 2017. This year the subs increased to £26 which is £14 to England Athletics (EA) and £12 to Petts Wood Runners (PWR).

Appendix 2 shows the income and expenses for the PWR 10k. We made a profit of £1,377.31 however we have deducted the 2016 loss from this (as some invoices were paid after we finalised the profit from the 2016 event) and also the 2018 volunteer gifts (which are paid for in advance of the event in October) so this leaves a profit of £575

We gave £7,000 to charity (refer to accounts for details of this). Looking at the balance sheet, £3,371 was paid out last year towards Karen's cabin (the PWR storage shed); however the total price for this will amount to £6,260. The remainder to be paid next year.



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Captain's Report – Stephen Pond (SP) and Ellie Bowley (EB)

We have had another successful year as a club with a fantastic turnout at many events, with various individuals also achieving fantastic records and personal targets throughout the year. Congratulations Petts Wood Runners for having such inspiring members and being so successful year after year.

Assembly League

The assembly league was well attended last year and we had our first category prize winners (funnily enough both from the same family). We had the winner of the junior male category (one of our youngest members) and a second place in a senior category (one of our not so young members). This year has begun well and we hope that more club members will attend as the fixtures get closer to home. We have attended Beckenham and Victoria Park so far with Battersea as our next event on 7th June.

KFL

One of our biggest achievements of the year was certainly KFL. We ended the cross country season on such a high with the ladies team finishing in first place in the league and the men's team in third place which meant that Petts Wood Runners achieved second place in combined standings. We had 37 medal winners through KFL, including two category champions and third place female. The races will start again in October this year and more details will be available in due course.

Cross Country

Once again we were well supported in the Kent Veterans cross country race at Dartford. We also had runners in the senior version at Brands Hatch and hope to see more of you attending these races later on this year.

The biggest Kudos must go to the eleven runners who braved the cold at Parliament Hill for the mud fest known National Cross Country championships. I think all eleven will have stories to tell and won't forget the race in a hurry, especially the start!

Marathons

Marathons have definitely been another great achievement as we all heard the lengthy inspiring list of names of those who have trained and ran a marathon. We understand that some you have been inspired to run a marathon this year for the first time and as a club, we are so proud of every single member who runs such a tough distance and hope to support every one of you on your marathon journey. We are a great club for offering advice and encouragement, with training groups forming to support others, that it may just make running a marathon seem a little easier knowing you have PWR supporting you all the way.

Grand Prix

The new Grand Prix is now up and running and we are now 6 races down (half way). This has been really well supported by PWR's in such places as Brighton, Canterbury (Twice) and Tunbridge Wells. The support was most recently demonstrated by the number of you that turned up to the Ted Pepper 10k recently in very hot conditions. Well done all that finished and a special mention to the winner of



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that race Roger Vilardell. The next few races are more local with the final race at Shorne Woods in September. We then look forward to handing out the trophies at the Winter Ball in December. We should also mention the Members 10K last weekend at which 90+ of you turned up and a good time was had by all.

Noticeable Achievements

It must be noted that everyone in here has personal targets and we all train hard to achieve those targets, whether it's a marathon time or running a parkrun without walking breaks, we all aim to achieve so you all deserve appreciation for committing to running. Many members this year have improved their times; some have even broken club records or set new club records which show their amazing running achievements. Over 24 club records have been broken in the last year alone and these include Janice Mitchell who broke the Over 55s club marathon record at Brighton with 4:59:88 and Roger Vilardell who broke the male senior club marathon record at Berlin with 2:37:05, these two successes are worlds apart but both have been celebrated equally because they belong to Petts Wood Runners and both have been supported by its members. Another mention should go to John Gurney who turned 60 last summer and since then has broken 6 club records. An example that shows that age is no barrier to running. There have been hundreds of successes from runners across all groups from category prize winners to PB's, they all are noteworthy and their success should be celebrated by us all.

As a team we have also won awards at various races including the annual mob match against Orpington in July and also the mob match at Malling parkrun in September. Both the Men's & ladies teams have had many successes at various races throughout the year ranging from the cold and mud at the Turkey run to the hills of the Orpington 10K.

Leaders

We would like to thank all leaders from Group 1 to Group 12 who give their time to lead a run on a Tuesday or Sunday for other club members. We appreciate the route planning and time giving that each run takes and Tuesday nights prove to be as popular as ever. Sunday runs are also appreciated by many members of the club, with James Wong's group and The Cow & Bean runners along with other split groups, we provide so many amazing opportunities for running and socialising. Mike continues to lead the track sessions on a Thursday and his time is invaluable, many members have improved incredibly thanks to his support.

Committee

As we're sure many of you know, there will be lots of shake ups for the committee next year and we have successfully completed our first year as Captains. It's been a wonderful experience and the members of the committee put so much time and effort behind the scenes, the club would be lost without such committed people. The committee live and breathe Petts Wood Runners, they are the foundations for a great club and we look forward to welcoming new members to the committee.



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JO'T handed to John Gurney (JG).

JG addressed the members with the suggestion of a Social Membership to the club. He exemplified this by referring to an encounter with a friend and past club-member in the pub one evening. When JG asked if (s)he was renewing their membership for another year they said no as they couldn't afford it and they were also not running currently. It then occurred to John that the club could offer a social membership in exchange for volunteering duties. This would enable anyone associated with the club to keep in touch with events by receiving the regular club emails. JG asked the committee if they could consider this suggestion.

JO'T asked the members if they had any comments on this proposal.

Kevin Howarth (KH) asked if given this scenario, would the Social Member still be expected to pay £12 towards PWR, but not the full £26 membership fee.

Joanne O'Connell (JO'C) asked if Social Members would have the same opportunity to volunteer at the VLML water station and would this qualify them to enter the marathon ballots?

JO'T thanked everyone for their comments and agreed that the newly appointed committee would discuss the proposal, take a vote on whether to carry this forward and would notify the members in due course.

JO'T invited Paul Daniels (PD) to speak

PD: This is not a typical agenda item but I thought a vote of thanks was needed. Tonight on our group runs, we ran past clubs with grounds and club houses and it occurred to me that we don't have that. We all run for different reasons: our mental and or physical health, to alleviate stress, to meet people & make friends, to help with motivation for an upcoming race, to run for an important cause or just for a sense of belonging. In fact, it could be all of these reasons. We all need a place to run and the PWR Committee provides that place for all of us. So on behalf of all the members, please accept our thanks. If Strava did Kudos for motivation and for giving us that place to run then it would be 'Kudos' to you. Thank you.

JO'T handed to Richard Dunstan (RD), Club Coach to say a few words about the outgoing club Chair

RD: I met Karen (KB) about 10 years ago when she came to club with her sidekick Laura. It's hard to believe but she was very quiet back then; however after a year she got a bit louder and a year on from then she became Ladies Captain and then moved on to the Chair's role.

It's true to say that we haven't always seen eye to eye; in fact Karen has often been a thorn in my bed of roses!

Karen has worked incredible hard and put in lots of hours to make this club the success that it is and she deserves recognition for this. Thank you Karen, from the committee and all the members, we wish you well in your new role.

Karen responded with thanks (and some good humour regarding the 'thorn' comment) and moved on to the business of voting in new committee members.



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KB: I propose we move to approve the new committee positions. As you will all be aware, Emma Everest, Michelle Marsh and Ellie Bowley are leaving the committee. I would like to thank them for their service to the club. In addition, we have new appointments to make, as follows:

Club Chair	-	John O'Toole
Club Secretary	-	Daniel Selman
Treasurer	-	Laura Stables
Membership Secretary	-	Hels Hart
Men's Captain	-	Stephen Pond
Women's Captain	-	Gillian Selman
Coaching Secretary	-	Richard Dunstan
Safety Officer	-	Tim Springett
Liaison Officer	-	Spencer Davies
Social Secretary	-	Joanne O'Connell
Online Content Officer	-	Julie Medhurst
Race Director	-	Karen Barritt
Minutes Secretary	-	Nicola Moore

KB: None of the positions have been contested, so can I have a show of hands to approve these appointments?

The new members were voted in.

JO'T invited any other business

Debbie McKenzie (DMc) asked why there was a difference in the age categorised used for men and women to celebrate club records? The men's results are over 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70 whereas the women's are over 35, 45 & 55. DMc gave the example of Janice Mitchell who recently took the women's over 55 marathon record. Why is this?

JO'T responded that the committee had debated this recently and handed to RD to comment further.

RD: Our club records are in line with the categories used for major running events. We do not have any ladies over the age of 65 in the club; however should this be the case then we will introduce an over 65 category.

DMc asked why club records need to be 'claimed' as many people will feel uncomfortable with this.

JO'T: We ask that the club records be claimed as it's very difficult for the committee to keep track of all the recorded with there being over 550 members. We are happy for someone else to nominate a member for a club record if the individual concerned would prefer.



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KB: I have one last point; a reminder to everyone to show the group leaders respect. They give up their time to plan routes and to take groups out and I have had some feedback recently that they are not being listened to. Safety is our main concern so please adhere to the advice of your group leader. If for example, someone in your group gets injured it would be beneficial for you to all help out and volunteer to escort that runner back to the Rec. If the leader has to do this, then the run can't be led. Please bear this in mind for future weeks.

JO'T thanked everyone for attending and for another successful year of Petts Wood Runners.

The meeting closed.