ON COURSE

HANDY CROSS

JOGGERS

DECEMBER 1989

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affiliated to the A.A.A. and W.A.A.A



The Newsletter of Handy Cross Joggers

FDITOK 2 KAMPLINGS

What has happened to the Newsletter I hear you say or perhaps I don't hear you say, well the fact is that I had planned to prepare it straight after the club A.G.M. at the beginning of October but these plans were thwarted when the meeting agreed that the draft minutes of such A.G.M. should be printed in the next Newsletter. This unfortunately meant that I couldn't prepare this issue until the minutes had been produced and, even more unfortunately, when the minutes were ready I was busy doing other things and so therefore the Newsletter has had to take a back seat. Still here we are again and hopefully I will be able to keep to the bi-monthly schedule from now on.

Anyway these are pretty exciting times for the club and, following the A.G.M., there appears to be a new enthusiasm amongst club members. This has lead, on the 23rd October, to the Committee having its first meeting for some time with another one arranged for the 20th November. The first meeting was held at John Gardner's house in Marlow and thanks must be given to him for allowing his house to be taken over by the club for the evening. A lot of things were discussed but the main thing was the suggestion of investigating the possiblity of the club using the Judo Centre in Barry Close, off Cressex Road as it's new Headquarters and, in fact, the Committee meeting on the 20th November should take place at that venue so that we can look at the facilities on offer. If they are as good as we have been lead to believe and if the financial arrangements can be sorted out it would seem an ideal solution to the problems we have been encountering because of the lack of a club house or similar facilities. In fact it is exciting to consider the possibilities that could open up for the club if we are able to get some club facilities.

Hopefully I should be able to give you update on this matter in the next issue as well has keeping you informed of anything else discussed by the Committee.

Chris Gentry

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CLUB OFFICIALS

President. Vernon Martin Chairman Alan Edwards Vice-Chairman Kevin Duffy Secretary Allyson Unitt **Events Secretary** Alex Johnson Treasurer Ian Mallen Membership Secretary (Men) John Gardner Membership Secretary (Women) Paula Parkin Social Secretary Rose Priest Publicity Officer Chris Gentry

CLUB A.G.M. - Chris Gentry

As agreed at the A.G.M. on the 5th October I am printing below the draft minutes of such meeting. The minutes will be adopted (or otherwise) at the next A.G.M. but if you have any amendments you wish to make to them at this stage please let me know as soon as possible

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Brian Sinclair, Dave Riddington, Paula Parkin and Alyson Unitt.

2. Welcome to new members

New members were welcomed to the club by the Chairman, Hans Wessell.

3. Minutes of last meeting

These were circulated at the meeting and taken as read, there being no amendments.

4. <u>Matters Arising - Insurance</u>

Members had been under the inpression that they were insured against personal injury if they were affiliated members of the club. However the Secretary had contacted the Amateur Athletic Association to check this point and had been informed that in fact members were insured for public liability only. Any personal accident cover would have to be taken out by individuals or by the club to cover all affiliated members. Alex Johnson said he would contact the Prudential Insurance Company to see whether a blanket policy could be taken out by the club for all members.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the club had another financially successful year in spite of giving the customary subsidy to the Annual Dinner and also club notepaper had been purchased. The rent for the creche had gone up and, as a result, the silver collection did not now cover this expense. There had been a surplus in the subscriptions after paying all affiliation fees and this covered the increase in rent for the creche. The Treasurer did not see any need for any increase in the club subscriptions at the moment.

It had been a tradition for the club to donate club kit for prizes at social events and our own races.

6. Election of Officers

(a) Chairman

The present Chairman, Hans Wessell, announced he was stepping down this year and expressed his appreciation to the committee for the help

they had given him. Martyn Franzese proposed that Alan Edwards be the new Chairman. This was seconded by John Gardner and carried unanimously.

(b) Vice-Chairman

Kevin Duffy was proposed by Alan Edwards, the present Vice-Chairman, seconded by Gerry Grosse and carried unanimously.

(c) Hon Secretary and Ladies Membership Secretary

Esme Thomson stated that she did not wish to continue in these posts. Rose Priest proposed Alyson Unitt to fill the vacancy of Hon Secretary and this was seconded by Jesse Wingrove and carried unanimously. Rose then proposed Paula Parkin for the post of Ladies Membership Secretary and this was seconded by Jenny Putt and carried unanimously.

(d) Treasurer

Ian Mallen advised he was willing to continue as Treasurer.

(e) Events Secretary

Vernon Martin stated that he did not wish to continue and Roy Williams proposed that Alex Johnson take over this job. Ian Mallen seconded this proposal and Alex Johnson was unanimously elected.

(f) Social Secretary

Rose Priest was unanimously re-elected as Social Secretary.

(g) Men's Membership Secretary

Derek Sawyer said he was standing down. Chris Gentry proposed John Gardner to fill this post and this was seconded by Alex Johnson and carried unanimously.

(h) Publicity Officer

Chris Gentry was re-elected unanimously.

7. Any other business

(a) <u>Chairman's report</u>

The Chairman thanked all members of the club and their friends for helping to marshall the Wycombe Half Marathon which is one of the high-lights of our sporting year.

He also thanked the officers of the club for the running of the club and expressed the members' gratitude to Vernon Martin for all the hard work he had put in over the years he had been with the club.

Chris Gentry was also thanked for his excellent club magazine and press coverage.

The Chairman also congratulated the members of the club who were in the winning team in the Stratford-upon-Avon Marathon.

(b) Life President

Alan Edwards proposed that Vernon Martin should be made a Life President of the club in recognition of all his hard work and dedication. However it was suggested that it would be better if Vernon were to be elected as the Club President and given Life Membership of the club. This was agreed.

(c) Future of the Club

Steve Barrow raised the question of the competitive side of the club and suggested that members could get together and run in teams for Handy Cross rather than run as individuals. Teams could range from the club's top runners to the slower runners. He thought this would stimulate competitiveness within the club and also attract other good athletes to join us. He also said he appreciated that the club was one which beginners should always be welcome to join and commence their running careers or, any many members do, run for fun and general fitness. This view was also expressed by other members at the meeting and it was pointed out that many joggers became so keen they reached a high It was suggested that what was needed was co-ordination standard. on an informal basis between Steve Barrow as unofficial team manager to get members together in teams, and Alex Johnson as Events Secretary. Ian Mallen suggested that Alex, Bob Carter and Steve could set up a competition within the club for road races and this could be organised on a points system and competed for on the same basis as in the cross country races.

(d) Minutes of A.G.M.

It was proposed that the minutes of this AGM be published in the next club magazine.

(e) Constitution

It was agreed that the Constitution of the club be published in a forth-coming issue of the club magazine.

(f) Committee Meetings

It was proposed that the Committee should not just meet once a year at the Annual General Meeting but should meet more often to discuss the running of the club and report back to the membership. The first meeting to be arranged for 23rd October at a place and time to be notified.

(g) Social Events

Rose advised that there was a skittles evening on 24th November at Wexham Park Sports Centre.

Dates for the annual post Christmas party to be held at Marlow F.C. and Annual Dinner, which it was hoped would be held again at the British Legion after the 1990 London Marathon, had yet to be fixed.

(h) Marlow Five-Mile Fun Run

Peter Anderson announced that, after six years of organising this event, he would no longer be able to continue. John Gardner said that he

was willing to take over and Gerry Grosse offered to assist him. Peter said that he would be happy to give them any help if required. Peter reported that there had been a serious shortage of marshalls this year and, if the event was to continue to be successful, marshalling must be top priority. Members were asked to make an effort either to marshall or help in some other way, rather than run in the event as it was the only open running event which the club organise in the year. It is also one that raises a considerable amount of money for local charities.

The question of sponsorship for the event was raised and John Gardner said that whilst David Plato's company sponsored us for £500 this year, it was not certain whether sponsorship would be forthcoming for next year. It was suggested that perhaps members could approach the Companies they work for to see if they could obtain sponsorship and, in return, the company would receive publicity.

(i) Social Evenings

It was suggested that perhaps members could meet socially after running and it was agreed that this should be on the first Thursday in each month commencing on the 2nd November at the Three Horseshoes pub.

The meeting finished at 9.50 pm

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS by Chris Gentry

Most runners go on holiday to get away from it all, to have a rest, to recharge the batteries or whatever and maybe, just maybe, they take their running shoes for the odd couple of miles before breakfast -but not so the club's new Events Secretary, Alex Johnson.

No, when Alex books his holiday it is not just a question of looking at the brochures to find a nice beach or good hotel, he also has his trusty list of races to hand so that he can fit in a couple of events far from the gaze of fellow Handy Cross Joggers. This year Alex's holiday took him to sunny Cornwall, sunny and also dry (as in no water) which caused a problem at drinks stations — in fact such a problem that there weren't any drinks stations. However this did not deter the intrepid Alex and his first race was a 10 mile, two counties event starting in Devon and finishing in Bude, Cornwall. Despite the hot and humid conditions Alex finished 30th out of 200 in a good time of 67min 02secs and, at the finish, he was surprised to be offered an orange instead of water.

Now that race would probably have been enough for most people but three days later Alex was lining up again, this time in an 8 mile race in Liskeard, Cornwall. This event appears to have been a real goody with the runners having to run 4 miles up a 1-in-5 hill on an old railway track and dodging sheep and cows before rounding Caradon Hill and returning to the finish. Alex came 23rd out of 98 in a time of 59min 03secs but, surprisingly, has said he would never do it again!

RACE RESULTS/REPORTS



Bidford-on-Avon Half Marathon - 13th August

The name of club member John Gardner was mud after he had persuaded 16 other members to travel to take part in this event with promises of a flat, fast course. The reality of the situation was somewhat different with the course having no less than six major hills which combined with humid and windy conditions (over which John assures me he had no control) made the race very hard. However six of the party still managed to finish under 90 minutes which was extremely good. The full club results were:-

Phil Stephens Dave Barraclough Roger Wilkes	1hr 27mi 1hr 29mi	n 57secs n 14secs n 51secs	Benjy Benjamin John Bradbury Kevin Duffy	1hr 1hr	27min 29min	58secs 29secs 52secs
Stephan Naunko		n 40secs	Trevor Hart			18secs
Gerry Grosse		n 10secs	John Wheeler			50secs
John Gardner		n 30secs	Robert Farrier			50secs
David Plato		n	Jenny Hart			26secs
Martyn Franzese		n 50secs	Rose Priest	2hr	06min	
Myrtle Edwards	2hr 12mi	n				

Bearbrook 10k, Aylesbury - 16th August

As you may know the Committee are looking at the club rules and, after this race, it has been suggested that one of such rules should be "club members must not forget their running shoes" - yes, if you didn't know, Alan Chilton was unfortunate enough to turn up at this event without his shoes. However he did manage to compete in the race even though he started some 3 minutes behind the other competitors. Fellow club member Peter Smith was better prepared and did exceptionally well to finish in 2nd place in a personal best time. The official results for club members were:-

Peter Smith	31min 24secs	Mike Nolan	34min 00secs
Steve Barrow	34min 58secs	Graham McLachlan	38min 57secs
Alan Chilton	39min 47secs	Nicholas Birch	43min 20secs
Jenny Putt	53min 17secs		

Burnham Beeches Half Marathon - 20th August

Well done Alan, you remembered your shoes this time and what a difference it made. Alan was the second club member home in this race less than a minute behind Phil Stephens who followed up his very good performance

of the previous Sunday with another good result. Despite the very warm weather seven club members managed to beat $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the race. Finishing times for club members were as follows:-

Martyn Franzese	1hr 1hr 1hr 1hr 1hr 1hr	22min 24min 28min 32min 34min 43min 49min	08secs 10secs 46secs 38secs 05secs 46secs 30secs 23secs 54secs	Benjy Benjamin Vernon Martin	1hr 1hr 1hr 1hr 1hr	22min 26min 30min 32min 36min 46min	02secs 38secs 42secs 20secs 06secs 25secs 40secs 30secs
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Wycombe 5 - 27th August

There was a good turn out from the membership for this event although it would appear that they did not all compete for the club. Anyway in the men's event the team did manage to finish in 2nd place and in the ladies race we finished 3rd with Margaret Moody being 3rd lady home and first vet and Pam Wilkes was the first vet o/45. The times for club members, whether or not they competing for us in the team event, were as follows:-

Jim Chilton 31min 10secs John Bradbury 31min 32secs John Wheeler 34min 21secs Eila Mansfield 36min 47secs	Pam Wilkes	31min 32min 36min 38min	14secs
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Aylesbury Half Marathon - 3rd September

It just goes to show that you can't always believe what you read in the press can you - Kevin Duffy "ever popular"? Whatever next? Martyn Franzese tea-total? However despite this journalistic over-exaggeration Kevin did do very well in this event to not only be the first club runner home but also to record a personal best for the distance. Second runner Stephan Naunko also capped a good spell of running by also recording a personal best. Club results were as follows:-

Kevin Duffy Alan Van Der Pan John Wheeler	1hr 23min 1hr 38min 1hr 39min	20secs	Stephan Naunko Martyn Franzese Derek Skinner	1hr 30min 31secs 1hr 38min 38secs (time unknown)
John Gardner	2hr 02min		Derek Skinner Myrtle Edwards	(time unknown) 2hr 12min

Welwyn Garden City 10 miles - 3rd September

What a race this turned out to be for club members Bob Carter and Roger Wilkes with Bob finishing only 1 second ahead of Roger. While this was going on the other club member taking part in the event, Pam Wilkes,

was recording a personal best for the distance. The results for the trio were:-

Bob Carter Pam Wilkes

65min 19secs 78min 09secs

Roger Wilkes

65min 20secs

New Forest Marathon - 10th September

With the wave of forest fires in the region club member Vernon (or perhaps we should now call him President) Martin tried not to "set the race alight" but over an undulating course he still managed a good time of 3hr 57min 40secs.

Slough Half Marathon - 10th September

Whereas a number of club members have taken part in the Slough Marathon over the years, this year all of those who ran chose to take part in the first half marathon instead and they appear to find the flat course and ideal running conditions to their liking. Roger Wilkes went one better in this race, being the first club runner home with Jess Wingrove recording a personal best for the distance. The club results were:-

Roger Wilkes

1hr 30min

Alex Johnson

1hr 35min

Jess Wingrove

2hr 08min 28secs Jenny Putt

2hr 15min

Oxford Half Marathon - 17th September

There were no less than 3 p.b.'s for club members in this race but pride of place must go to Irene Smith who not only set a personal best but was the second lady home (only a few yards behind the first lady) and was the second finisher from the club with only Dave Barraclough in front of her. The other personal bests were recorded by Stephan Naunko (his first time under 90min) and Jenny Hart. The club results were:-

1hr 22min 23secsIrene Smith1hr 26min 50secs1hr 27min 07secsGraham McLachlan 1hr 27min 36secs1hr 27min 59secsStephan Naunko1hr 29min 50secs Dave Barraclough 1hr 22min 23secs John Bradbury Roger Wilkes Bob Carter 1hr 33min Pam Wilkes 1hr 45min 59secs Jenny Hart

Trevor Hart

1hr 38min 1hr 47min 56secs

Amersham 5 - 17th September

This year the race was part of the General Portfolio series of races but this did not make it any easier as Rectory Hill was still as steep as ever. However this didn't seem to have any effect on Peter Smith who managed to finish in 6th place overall or Eila Mansfield who managed to win a prize for being the first lady o/50 home. The full list of club finishers:-

Peter Smith Phil Stephens

25min 42secs 28min 40secs

Alan Chilton John Flint 28min O6secs 28min 52secs

Richmond Half Marathon - 24th September

O.K so I got it wrong in the press report (there hasn't only been one member of the club who has failed to finish a race) but it made a good story didn't it? Anyway it is unusual for two club members to drop out of the same race for such diverse reasons as stomach problems, in the case of Trevor Hart, and an injured elbow, in the case of Rose Priest - luckily neither of them seem any the worse for the experience. The times for the club finishers were:-

Gerry Grosse	1hr 38min 30se	es Jenny Hart	1hr 51min 46secs
Derek Skinner	1hr 53min	Brian Sinclair	1hr 53min 25secs
Tony Fewell John Gardner	1hr 55min 2hr 03min 30sea	George Kenna	2hr 01min

Windsor Half Marathon - 1st October

Two people won't forget this race in a hurry, one of them Alex Johnson and the other the unfortunate course marshall who felt the full force of Alex's stomach problems - in the circumstances Alex did well to even finish. The full list of club finishers is:-

Roy Williams Graham McLachlan	1hr 24min 1hr 27min		Dave Barraclough Irene Smith		55secs 24secs
	1hr 32min		All the Francisco American Statement		50secs
Vivien White	2hr 00min	42secs	· ·		42secs

Henley Half Marathon - 8th October

As usual a large contingent from the club took part in this event with, I am told, members flying in from as far afield as Canada, Turkey, Scotland and Newcastle but it was those travelling shorter distances that did better. Alan Chilton was the first club runner home in the mens race whilst in the ladies event Irene Smith was 2nd lady overall and 1st lady vet. The club results were:-

Alan Chilton Chris Minall Roy Williams Mike Stone Dave Welfare Irene Smith Graham McLachlan Neil Fraser Ian Mallen Derek Skinner		n 20secs n n 05secs n 50secs n 03secs n 20secs		Ihr Ihr Ihr Ihr Ihr Ihr Ihr Ihr	24min 25min 25min 27min 29min 32min 34min 40min	06secs 07secs 50secs 49secs 30secs 24secs 09secs
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Ridgeway Run, Tring - 15th October

After suffering somewhat the previous Sunday in the Henley race, Steve Barrow returned to form in this event and managed 10th place overall as well as being the first vet home. For two other club members, Dave Barraclough and Roger Wilkes, the cross country of the previous day was obviously not punishment enough and they both turned out in this race also. The times for the club finishers were:-

Steve Barrow	47min	31secs	Brian Butler	52min	57secs
Dave Barraclough	56min	13secs	Roger Wilkes	56min	40secs
Kevin Duffy	59min	20secs	Neil Fraser	59min	55secs
Martyn Franzese	62min	29secs	John Wheeler	64min	16secs
Hans Wessel	69min	00secs	Pam Wilkes	71min	17secs
Myrtle Edwards	81min	00secs			

Great Sam Half Marathon, Bracknell - 29th October

This must go down as the race of personal bests and armfulls of prizes. In the personal best category Alan Chilton recorded one in being the first runner home from the club and further down the field George Kenna also set one. In the prize department it was that man Alan Chilton again who won two, one for finishing in an excellent 10th place overall and the other a spot prize, whilst Dave Barraclough picked up another spot prize and Irene Smith did best of all, taking home no less than three prizes, one for being 5th lady, another for being 2nd lady vet, and the third yet another spot prize. Full results for club members:-

Alan Chilton Dave Barraclough Graham McLachlan John Gardner George Kenna	1hr 16min 1hr 27min 1hr 31min 1hr 45min 1hr 49min	n 05secs n 09secs n 01secs	Chris Minall Irene Smith Neil Fraser Brian Sinclair Tony Fewell	1hr 1hr 1hr	28min 34min	29secs 18secs 11secs 23secs
Rose Priest	2hr 07min		long rewell	1711.	SUITUR	

LONDON TO BRIGHTON RUN - Chris Gentry

Whilst most normal runners were happy competing in the Henley Half Marathon on the 8th October the club's ace ultra distance man, Chris Wood, took on the far more daunting task of the annual London to Brighton race. The race starts in front of Big Ben with the finish being on the seafront at Brighton, a distance of some 53miles 540yards, and the race has a time limit of 9hr although this did not worry Chris who finished well inside that limit with a time of 7hr 54min 02secs. He also finished in 88th place overall. This was a very good run by Chris but what made it even better was the fact that only 3 weeks before he had taken part in a 12hr race in Nottingham where he finished in 11th place after managing an incredible distance of 71 miles! Goodness knows what he would have done in the London to Brighton if he hadn't competed in that race.

In both these events Chris was helped by fellow club member, Derek Sawyer, and I know how much Chris appreciated that assistance, so well done Derek as well!

TIME TRIALS - Chris Gentry

At last, it is now safe to attend club nights on the first Tuesday in each month because the dreaded time trials are over for another year.

I am informed by the keeper of the records, Vernon Martin, that no less than 58 club members took part in the six time trials this year and hopefully they all got something out of the experience. Certainly it would appear that in the last two of them, in August and September, a concerted attempt was made on the record for the course of 20min 25secs established by Peter Smith back in May 1988 but despite the best efforts of Mike Nolan, Steve Barrow and, most of all, Alan Chilton the record still stands. However there were only seconds in it with Alan, in the September event, setting the best time for the year of exactly 21min. In the same run Steve recorded a time of 21min 33secs whilst in the August event Mike Nolan lowered his best time for the course to 21min 50secs. All in all this just goes to show how standards in the club are improving so, roll on next April for the start of the 1990 trials, eh!

The results of the August and September runs were:-

August 8th

	27min 28min 31min 33min 35min	07secs 23secs	Vivien White Allyson Unitt Caroline Weekes	27min 28min 33min 34min 32min	46secs 40secs 36secs 01secs 35secs 24secs
Jenny Putt	35min	41secs	Jess Wingrave		10secs

September 5th

Alan Chilton Phil Stephens Benjy Benjamin Dave Riddington Roy Williams Kevin Duffy Alex Johnson Stephan Naunko Eila Mansfield Phillapa Melhuish Tony Fewell Rose Priest Allyson Unitt	22min 23min 23min 24min 24min 25min 28min 29min 30min 32min 35min	13secs 49secs 25secs	Mike Stone Margaret Moody Martyn Franzese Marie Spinks Vivien White Lyn Simmonds	22min 23min 24min 24min 24min 27min 28min 30min 32min 32min	33secs 59secs 50secs 09secs 21secs 25secs 51secs 45secs 00secs 08secs 59secs 15secs
Ray Harris	40min	49secs			

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

It's a busy time of the year for the club and therefore here are a few event/social dates for your diaries:-

Sunday 17th December

As usual the last Sunday before Christmas (O.K. I know that the <u>actual</u> last Sunday before Christmas is Christmas Eve but that does not count, so there) is set aside for the annual 4 mile self handicap event run round the Winchbottom Lane course. For new members it perhaps should be explained that this event is not usually won by the fastest runner because the winner is the person who finishes closest to his/her own estimated time - of course watches are strictly banned.

The "entry fee" for the event is a Christmas wrapped present, value not more than £2, and there will be prizes for the first male winner and the first female winner. Make an effort to do this event because it is a lot of fun.

Wednesday 20th December

Every is invited to the Three Horseshoes pub on the old road to Marlow for a pre-Christmas drink. This a chance for a social get-together prior to Christmas and the evening will be from 7.30 p.m. to staggering out time. There is a nasty rumour going round that Alex Johnson will be buying the drinks but you can never trust rumours, can you?

Tuesday 26th December (Boxing Day)

To my way of thinking this is probably the most enjoyable running/social event the club has during the year. For those who have never taken part, I should say that we all meet in the Terriers cross roads car park at 10.30 a.m. (late enough for getting over any Christmas Day hangovers) to go on a very gentle 5/6 mile run finishing back at the car park. After this every is invited back to Vernon's house, which is just off Totteridge Road, for seasonal drinks and snacks thoughtfully provided by Vernon's wife, Paddy. This is an event not to be missed.

Saturday 10th February, 1990

Into next year and the annual Xmas/New Year party at Marlow Football Club in Oaktree Road, Marlow. If other years are anything to go by this is definately a party worth attending because Rose and her helpers always put a lot of work into it. Club members are positively encouraged to bring their children with them to make it a real family affair.