

BEDFORD HARRIERS NEWSLETTER

New Kit Manager Required

Chris Cottam, (who has done a tremendous job), will be relinquishing his duties as the Club's Kit Manager at the end of March. As such, we are looking for someone to take over Chris's responsibilities. The job involves the overall administration of the kit operation ie; taking orders from members, placing orders with the manufacturers and receiving payment for the same. Anyone interested in the position see Chris or any members of the coaching staff / committee. The post is open to all members of the Club.

Well Done Arthur

Arthur Monk has volunteered to assist Pete Davies as Race Director for our half marathon race at Gt Barford.. If no-one had come forward, the race, which will be run in September, may not have been held.

Committee News

Vanda Miller has regretfully had to announce that for personal reasons, she is stepping down from the Harriers Committee. Vanda was elected to the Committee last March and has made a number of important contributions including organizing the entry of around 20 lady Harriers in last September's Women's London 10K .

More Stewards Needed

More stewards are still needed for the Oakley 16.4 race which is being run on Sunday 7th March. In particular, around 20 people are wanted for Marshaling duties during the race. If you can help out, see Chris or Jude ASAP.

End of Season Disco

The Club is holding an end of season disco on Friday 26th March. Tickets are priced at £2 and should be available during March. The Club is not providing food so we're encouraging guests to bring some along on the night. There is a notice on the board which enables those coming to provide details of the mouth watering delicacies they intend to contribute.

The club awards for the 1998/99 cross country championship will also be presented during the evening. (Well done Steve Gaunt for thinking of the idea).

The Club's AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st March. Start time is around 8.30 in the Club bar after training. All members of the Club are encouraged to attend.

A notice should appear during March which enables those members who wish to stand for the committee to put their names forward.

Oops !

Sorry Sandra, Sorry Viv

At the Club's Award's Night last December, the lady's v35 cross country prize was presented to Viv Kilgour. Under our current scoring systems, which is based on the best three race scores achieved in the five race series, the award should have gone to Sandra Elliot. The mistake was spotted and Sandra will, belatedly, be presented with her award at our end of season disco / cross country awards night in March

Lesley's New Role and Thanks Christine

Lesley Davies who will be shortly be taking over the administration of the Today's Runner Cross Country League, has decided to stand down as the Ladies Team Manager. Lesley achieved a great deal during her time as team manager despite carrying a painful back injury for more than a year. Christine Armstrong has agreed to succeed Lesley as Manager of the ladies Team.

Race Entry Fees (A message from Tony)

It appears that many of our runners need a great deal of prompting to come forward with entry fees for races, especially cross country. In the week before the Area Championship at Parliament Hill, about 70 percent of the team had not handed in the entry fee which is a little frustrating as the entries were sent in six weeks previously. Some of those who hadn't paid should have known better.

A lot of effort is involved in chasing people up for the fees, effort which could be directed elsewhere. The Team Managers, are accessible (you can find them in the changing rooms or the bar after training) so there is no excuse. Please help them to help you!

Road Race Championship News

The first race in our new road race championship, the Hemel 10, takes place on March 14th. For those who may have forgotten, our road race championship is now based on age graded performances and consists of the best ten performances from 16 designated races. Three of the races in the championship must be of ten miles and over.

This year's championship is being administered by David Sutcliffe and George Armstrong.

Half Marathon Championship

The Club's half marathon championship is also being run in March. Replacing our traditional half marathon championship, the Bedford Half, which is not being run this year, is the Hitchin Half. The Hitchin "Hard" as it is affectionately known, is being run on Sunday 28th. We're hoping for a good turnout on what is an interesting course.

Fancy a holiday in Malta, Scotland or France

A number of trips away from Bedford are already being organized by Club members. Jude is organizing a week's running holiday in Malta in November, Malcolm is organizing a weekend in Scotland in April which includes the Fort William Marathon and Mike Dev is considering organizing a week's skiing holiday in Lyon, France in February next year. If your interested in Mike's trip he's needs a deposit by the 1st March.

Track Tickets

Tracks tickets for the 1998/98 training season at the Athletic Stadium expire at the end of March. Tickets for the 1999/2000 season are priced at £26, the same as last year.

Good Luck Bill

Bill Bowden, one of the original members of the Club, is moving up to Penrith in Cumbria at the end of the month. Bill, whose recently started training again after a year's lay off through injury, intends to join a local running group. The Harriers will however remain his first choice club. All at the Club wish Bill the best of luck in "The Lakes".

Standard Awards

The Club has restructured its standard awards scheme. Five levels of award are now available ranging from the standard to the newly introduced platinum. The awards, which are based on performance levels as a percentage of world record times, will now cover individual ages rather than age categories.

Details of the levels required for the various awards will be made available shortly.

John Waugh

John Waugh is considering organising a sports day at the Stadium for handicapped children sometime next year. As the event will probably take some arranging, help is needed. If any members would like to become involved, see John

Quiz night

A team from the Harriers recently took part in a Beds and County organised quiz night. We didn't know many of the answers but the pizzas weren't bad. We hope to have another shot at organising our own quiz night in a few months.

Phil's Photos for 50p

Club Photographer Phil Gray, has a large number of photographs available for purchase. The pictures cover most of the races which club members have taken part in over the last few years and also many of the social events which the club has organised. Phil hopes to put some of the photos on display in an album.

The pictures are priced at 50p. See Phil for further details.

Harriers Web Site

The Club is thinking of setting up its own Web Site. If any members are interested in establishing and maintaining the Site on behalf of the Club, let us know.

Club Membership Fee

The Committee is recommending that the club membership fee be held at £10 for the 1999/2000 season. If the decision is endorsed at the AGM, it will be the second successive year in that the fee has remained unchanged. It will also reinforce the Harriers position as being one of the least expensive running club's to join.

Insurance renewed

The club has renewed its injury insurance policy for 1999. This covers members against serious injury whilst running. Details of the cover will be given again in the next edition of the Club Magazine.

Club Magazine

The Spring edition of the Club Magazine is due to come out towards the end of April. All contributions are welcome and should be handed to Phil Gray or Brian McCallen

Dates for your Diary

Club's AGM

Wednesday 31st March

Club Bar

End of Season Disco

Friday 26th March

Club Bar

Road Race Championship

Hemel 10

Sunday 14th March

Club Half Marathon Championship

Hitchin

Sunday 28th March