



ASHFORD ATHLETIC CLUB
Promoting athletics at the gateway to Europe

ASHFORD ATHLETIC CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 27th January 2025
7pm to 8pm

Via zoom link below

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88454520258?pwd=ajypvSmy0nYSoS8abYgKeKgIvI4NkE.1>

AGENDA

Chairman Paul Maxted welcomed 15 members to the Ashford Athletic Club AGM.

1 Apologies for absence –

Deborah Prior, Pete Tompsett

2. To confirm the minutes of the 2024 A.G.M.

It was explained that the 2024 minutes had not been circulated in time so they cannot yet be confirmed. This will happen in due course and they will then be put on the website.

3. Matters arising from the 2024 minutes.

See (2) above.

4. To receive Reports

Chairperson's Report by Paul Maxted

This is now my third year as Chair and we continue to move forward in a positive year! The club is growing stronger and stronger each and every week, I must say a big thank you to everyone here on the committee for their outstanding contributions to the club over the last year. The tasks sometimes can prove very challenging at times, but they all dig in and get things done.

I extend thanks to the club as a whole, the Coaches, Officials, Volunteers, Parents and the athletes once again have shown great commitment, energy and positivity. Celebrating and enjoying the 2024 season. So, a huge well done and thank you everyone for your support and patience.

2024 was a great year for the Club and Athletes:

We continue to grow with our membership numbers equivalent to a few years ago pre-pandemic they now stand at 250 members with an ever-growing waiting list.

Positives: Outstanding individual performances from track and field competitions, Speed walking, Kent Sports Hall to X country performances, too many to name!! Therefore, please join me with a massive thank you to all the coaches involved in this, and a well done to all the athletes.

The annual Ashford/Givaudan 10k was back on the streets, bigger and better for the third year in a row organised by Sporting Events and what a day it was! Maxing out on capacity with around 800 participants. It was amazing to see so many AAC runners on the day with our very own Ahmed, Wegahtha and Mashall taking the top three spots overall. This event is back on the map, and this is great not just for the club but more so for the community. We are already getting bookings for the next event, keep the date free! Sunday 12th October 2025.

Again, the buzz and positivity was clear to see with athletes/fun runners taking part. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who gave up their Sunday morning to support the race and club.

We are a Competitive Club:

Building on the growth and success with our aim to be the “Go to club” in Kent we now need to reaffirm our stance and strength as a competitive club. Going forward we will begin to monitor and measure athlete commitment. Athletes who do not compete for the club, (Ideally twice per season as a minimum) will be highlighted and their membership reviewed at committee level.

Another year another plea for help:

As we move forward to the summer of 2025, to enter the various league competitions and to organise our own open meetings, we rely on volunteer officials and team managers to ensure we can send a team. Unfortunately, unless we get more volunteers come forward, we will not be able to enter all the league matches as standalone AAC.

It is unfair to enter or attend a league match without providing officials and support and we will definitely not be able to organise our **OWN** popular open events and or host league matches. (noting the last one we did host we won).

And this goes for Athletes!! To be successful in the leagues we enter we also need to have athletes to compete across all events to maximise the number of points we can gain for the club. The more athletes compete, the more points we gain and the less pressure on athletes to do events they are not happy doing. We have some amazing athletes, coaches and members but we need your support, it goes without saying we have the best facilities in Kent and should be Kents number one club. Therefore, this is an appeal to parents, friends, and athletes to commit to competing for your club and

offering some of your time to volunteer, maybe even to become an official or a coach.

All of the above will not only help us to develop as a club but more importantly it will provide more opportunities to take on more athletes from the community.

Please contact Donna Parrott if you are keen to get involved.

Training Fees:

All membership fees remain the same as last year.

We, as a committee, are very approachable and please, any issues or requests etc you can email us at any time or catch us on most club nights. We meet once a month via Zoom as a committee to discuss any issues arising.

So, here's to moving forward to the future of AAC and a big thank you once again to all of you who each hold an important role in the support of the club.

Financial report by Stuart Whorlow AAC Accountant

Good year, membership & training income is up to £59,000 compared to £45,000 last year. Training fees gone up 32% membership 18.5%.

Miscellaneous fees – more open events have been held which has helped.

Expenditure: stadium hire remained similar. Travel costs have increased, website has been upgraded so expenses have risen to £56,000 from just under £50,000. The year ended with a surplus of £2,740. Bank balance remained consistent at just under £37,000. Club remains very strong which has enabled us to continue to pay travel fees, rewards etc.

Membership Report by Kate Dickinson

Membership has increased. Children wanting to join that are too young go on the waiting list. This is why we need to make sure members make the most of their time. A number of past athletes have returned and then parents join with their children and a number of Masters have joined from other clubs.

Memberships have just started to renew and 76 have renewed. 5% discount until 05/02/25. Paypal has not worked very well as we cannot use the European Server so have to use the American one so there have been lots of issues. We are now looking at looking at an alternative payment option.

Website is continuing to be updated and holds a lot of information, anything to be added to send to Kate. There are spaces on the home page where updated information can be added as and when it happens. We now have a Flickr account which means Kate can take photos from that account to be put onto the website. We also have Instagram and Facebook.

60th anniversary celebrations will be advertised in due course. Kate is looking for somebody to train up as Membership Secretary as she wishes to step back as she has been doing this role since 2008.

5. Election of Officers –

Jacqi proposed – Chris Hobbs seconded.

President – Derek Laws

Life Vice-Presidents

Support Team

- Schools Liaison Officer
- Team Mangers Southern League
- Team Managers YDL
- Team Managers Kent League
- Team manager Cross-Country
- Team Manager Masters
- Race Walking Manager
- Fund Raising Manager
- Website Support
- Grant Support
- Meeting Manager
- 10k Organising Team

Executive Committee (11 in total)

- Membership Secretary
- Hon. Secretary
- Coach Liaison
- Athlete Welfare Officers x 2
- One Team Managers Representative
- Five ordinary members.

President Mr. Derek Laws. Proposed by Exec Committee for the 3rd year

Life Vice Presidents ::	Mr D J Fox	
	Mrs M Seamon	
Vice-Presidents:	Mr & Mrs D Russell	Mr Ray Firth
	Mrs L Stuart Smith	Mrs M Hambrook
	Mr J Hobbs	Mrs H Willicott
	Mrs P Missing	Mr J Hughes
		Mr P Woods

Finally, Paul thanked those that attended and asked members to take the message back that the athletes and parents need to support the Club, athletes by competing and parents and supporters by helping at matches and events.

Meeting closed at 1925hrs.