

# St. Mary's Richmond AC

## Annual General Meeting Agenda

20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 8.15pm, DV Lounge, St. Mary's University

**Present:** 21 (18 club members – 17 voters)

**Apologies for Absence:** DL, JG

**Approval of Minutes from last AGM:** Minutes published on SMRAC website. Proposed: GW. Seconded: JB

**Robin Chandler:** GW mentioned the passing of Robin Chandler, a club member since the 1960s. Part of the committee for a long time, as well as team managing and officiating. Memories of Robin by current members, are on the website, JC has sent a wreath in condolences, and a memorial fixture is being set up this summer.

### **Business of Meeting:**

1. Chair's Summary

See attached report below

2. Treasurer's Report

JB mentioned the club made a surplus of £13k to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. Mostly through an increase in membership fees. However, as mentioned in the Chair's report, coaching fees are expected to increase substantially, due to more paid sessions, and increase pay for the first time in many years. Additionally equipment has been purchased on greater scale. Assuming a similar membership income next year, JB would expected a moderate surplus of £3-4k for 2026. Club funds are extremely healthy, and therefore, the club is willing to purchase or pay for things where helpful.

3. Competition Reports

See attached reports below

4. Resolutions

- a. 9.4.3 Lifetime Member – to remove from the constitution the two phrases within the lifetime membership “*however cannot hold a position on the Club's Management Committee*” and “*these members are entitled to vote at the General Meetings only*”.

Proposed: JC. Seconded: JB. Resolution passed – 16 For, 0 Against.

- b. 16.1 Change the minimum number of Officers on the committee, and add roles of President, Equipment Officer + Website & Social Media Coordinator –so it shall now read: “16.1 The committee shall consist of a minimum of **four** Officers...**16.1.1 President** (all others shift down one number) until **16.1.9 Equipment Officer...16.1.10 Website & Social Media Coordinator**

Proposed: CB. Seconded: JB. Resolution passed – 16 For, 0 Against.

- c. Paid Administrator – allow the committee where it feels required, to pay for the services of an administrator to do certain administrative jobs such as membership. Only where no volunteer can be found, and in a non-employed capacity.

Proposed: JB, Seconded: GW. Resolution passed – 16 For, 0 Against

## 5. Election of Officers of the Club

- a. Honorary President: JC (16 For, 0 Against). No further nominations received.
- b. Chair: SW (Proposed: KB, Seconded: KW. 16 For, 0 Against)
- c. Secretary: KW (Proposed: TC, Seconded: KB. 16 For, 0 Against)
- d. Membership: Vacant – club to seek amongst membership, and if no one, then seek paid administrator
- e. Treasurer: JB (16 For, 0 Against). No further nominations received.
- f. Welfare Officers (min 2): DL (16 For, 0 Against), NC (16 For, 0 Against). Club to seek a female welfare officer if possible.
- g. Coaching Coordinator: HJ (16 For, 0 Against). No further nominations received.
- h. Volunteer Coordinator: MC (16 For, 0 Against). No further nominations received.
- i. Competition Coordinator: Vacant. Club to approach LC with more information on role and potential co-opting onto committee.
- j. Website + Media Secretary: CS (16 For, 0 Against). HB (Proposed: TC, Seconded: MC. 16 For, 0 Against). TG (Proposed: KW, Seconded: HJ. 16 For, 0 Against). Group to work together in role.
- k. Equipment Officer: KW (Proposed: MC, Seconded: JC. 16 For, 0 Against)

### No Committee Roles

- l. YDL UAG Team Manager: Vacant – no team this year, members will need to find a 2<sup>nd</sup> claim club to compete in league, K&P last year's composite team not option. Big loss for throwers and hurdlers.
- m. YDL LAG Team Manager: HJ + RB (16 For, 0 Against)
- n. Rosenheim Team Manager: Vacant – no team this year, members will need to find a 2<sup>nd</sup> claim club to compete in league.
- o. Vets League Team Manager: Vacant - no team this year, members will need to find a 2<sup>nd</sup> claim club to compete in league. K&P still option after composite last year. Note; can only be 2<sup>nd</sup> claim of 1 other club.
- p. Lily B + Ebbisham Team Managers: Vacant – look at renaming U12s team manager. Due to age group changes, any club members in U12s will not have a league to compete in.
- q. Jack Petchey Lead: TG (16 For, 0 Against)

### Any Other Business:

GW welcomed the new committee to roles, and will send out requests for vacant roles to be filled amongst membership base.

JC offered committees thanks to GW for his time on the committee over the last 10 years.

CB proposed GW for Lifetime Membership. Seconded: JC. 15 For, 0 Against. GW accepted with thanks.

**Close of Meeting: 21:45**

## Appendix

### i. Chair's Report on Year

A theme continues over the last few years that this is being delivered by me as the club is still without a Chair. It may surprise some to know I was merely the Secretary not Chair! And I am sorry if to some this report sounds harsh, but as I am stepping down from the club Secretary and Membership role after 6 years, I felt I should be open with all the members about the position the club is in, though I appreciate as you are all here, maybe you are the wrong audience!

It is concerning for the future of the club, that very few if any members or family/friends are coming forward to offer to volunteer time to help out the club. In terms of numbers of members, the club is at its highest in at least 6 years, and probably 150 more members than we came out of Covid years with, yet as I prepare to step down as Secretary the club is struggling to fill the roles of Chair, Secretary, YDL UAG Team Manager, Rosenheim Team Manager, as well as many other roles, and has a lack of qualified officials. The club is very reliant on a select few. It is clear that people have much less spare time to offer than they used to, myself included hence the stepping down, and I think this is not just across our club or sport. Needing to come up with ways to help, by either using technology or paid assistance to keep the club running is vital. Therefore, anyone here who currently doesn't volunteer with the club in some way, please consider whether you have or know someone who may not be affiliated to the club with some experience that might be helpful in some way to the club, or if you might be able to help out in small ways, perhaps sharing a role, or if there are certain criteria e.g. paid, part time, roles that would be interest. It doesn't have to be 10 years on the committee like I have done, even 1 year helps! It is easy to think someone else will come forward, but despite repeated mentions, any offers have been very limited, and without trying to sound too dramatic, as soon as March this year the club could be struggling to function if someone or even some people are not able to be put in place to run the membership side of the club, as we will not be able to renew memberships or bring in new members. The training and competition the club provides to our members, is a fantastic level and extremely fairly priced for the area, and the growing membership base shows that people are aware of this, so it would be an awful loss to the community were the club to be unable to sustain itself.

Sorry for the heavy start to this meeting, On to the good news! It has been a successful year for the club, and that is down to the hard work of everyone to do with the club, so I would like to thank those who served on the committee this year, all the coaches, team managers and officials, and any other volunteers that gave up their time. In addition, I would like to thank all returning and new members for choosing to be part of the club, which has enabled continued growth of members. The club has a huge 20% increase in membership in the last 12 months from 325 to 390, so it is clear our reputation continues to grow. I know that schools are actively reaching out to the club to get their pupils in, and that many of our coaches have done amazing work promoting the club in either schools they work at or within the community. It also validates the improved service the club offers particularly to the Juniors with more coaches meaning smaller training groups and a more personalised experience. Still though, getting more coaches qualified or into the club would continue this improvement and ensure the club does not for too long be reliant on a few coaches trying to lead every training group as happens currently.

This does mean that the costs of paying for coaches has increased substantially, and with a requirement to keep our equipment in as good condition as possible, while also losing storage space

at the university, the clubs costs have increased quite substantially. The Treasurer will shortly go through the finances, though these are up to March 2025 so may not give a full picture of why the club has deemed it necessary to increase the membership fee for 2026. There is no doubt however, that the membership fee is a very reasonable price for what we offer.

With no one able to come forward to commit to the team manager role for the YDL UAG, Rosenheim or Vets leagues for 2026, and very low to almost zero attendance in some matches, the club has not entered teams for this coming season. Although reducing the number of leagues the club offers, opportunities are still available to those athletes that want them due to our links with Kingston & Poly AC who have agreed to take on as Second Claim members, any SMRAC athletes who still wish to compete in these leagues. However, with such low numbers attending either of these leagues and particularly the YDL fixtures being around GCSE/A Level exam time, the club see little evidence of high demand for these leagues. In addition to this, the age groups for the leagues have been changed to U14/U16, U18/U20 etc for this season, which will not match up to school competition age groups therefore for the throwers and hurdlers in the club, Open Meets will likely be of increased importance to find opportunities for them. I know the committee and coaches continue to work as hard as possible to find opportunities for the members to compete, and also ensure that the best possible training and competition preparation environment is provided by the club.

Instead of doing the awards at the AGM, when many of the recipients are not here, and even if they are, there are few of their peers to celebrate their success with, it has been decided that although we will do a review of performances through the 2025 season, awards should be handed out at a training session so as to have as many people aware as possible. So on that note, I will now pass you over to our Treasurer, Jim, for his report on the club's finances, before I return to reviewing the last seasons competitions.

## ii. Competition Reports

Apologies that some results and achievements may have been missed, but Po10 is currently and has been down for a while so made collating results for the team managers and coaches difficult, again another good reason why we will do awards another night at a training session.

**Cross-Country:** The Junior Women's team (U15/U17 combined team) came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Met League despite most of our athletes being first year U15s. This U15 team also won the Middlesex Championships team event. Individually some great performances from Laura Graham coming 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in 3 of the Met League U13 races, while Ellina Ponkratjeva and Evelyn Archer achieved top 5 finishes in the Junior Women's races. A special mention and thank you to Esme Goulbourn and Edward Chisholm who managed to compete at all 5 Met League Fixtures. This current season looks to have had more participation and even greater success so we look forward to hearing about that once the season ends.

**Southern Athletics League:** SMRAC finished 5<sup>th</sup> of 8 teams this year, a little disappointing and lower than in recent years where we have often pushed towards promotion, in this U17 and upwards

league. Attendance at fixtures appeared to have diminished this year even in our home match finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, and the club is very dependent on the likes of Paul Derrien and Adam Richardson covering all the throwing events, so a big thank you to them.

**Rosenheim League:** The club finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6<sup>th</sup> teams, and not sure the 6<sup>th</sup> team actually attended any matches. It confirmed that the league does not appear to attract our club athletes, only managing to field athletes in 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of events, and of them only 3 did not come from the Long Sprints or Adults Endurance training group coached by the Team Manager. Having said that, the Team Manager, would like to recognise one family for their unwavering support, and that is the Chisholm family, without Maria the club would not have had an official at some meetings, and Edward was often the sole middle distance representative.

**Youth Development League:** This season in the YDL LAG once again showed that while we've had some great individual performances, the league is all about team effort, with every performance counting. We may be a smaller club in the league, but we are certainly one of the strongest, with athletes being selected for County teams and English Schools. We finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 7 but at our home match came 2<sup>nd</sup>. If we can carry that level of performance across all matches there's no reason we can't be pushing for top 2 finishes. What we need is more athletes willing to compete at the non-home fixtures too. A huge thank you to all the parents for your time and support – officiating, travelling and making sure athletes had everything they needed on the day.

Some stand out performances to mention from this age group, include in the hurdles; Aurelia Adams achieving the English Schools Qualifying Standard, and Emma Collins winning Middlesex County medals as well as the National Independent Schools title. While Josh Gilbert was a national finalist in the England Championships coming 5<sup>th</sup> place, and Luke Mills also making English Schools Champs.

For the YDL UAG, like the many seasons before, we had a very limited number of athletes competing. We were a composite team with Kingston & Poly AC, and while numbers were a challenge, those that did turn up showed real commitment and confidence. A big thank you to Kim, for encouraging the throwers to take part, and even occasionally getting them to do a track event too. We know that attendance at the YDL UAG is a nationwide issue, not just club issue but support and commitment is really appreciated.

**Outside of the leagues:** In the Senior Men's age group, Arthur Milles was selected to represent Team GB + NI in the 1500m T13 visually impaired event at the Para Athletics World Championships. After impressively qualifying through his heat, Arthur finished 11<sup>th</sup> place in the final! A brilliant result, and an amazing honour for both Arthur and the club for him to be selected.

**Throwers:** As mentioned in a couple of reports, one area the club does well with getting competitors is from our throws group, so I would like to mention some of their noteworthy results. Every single thrower achieved at least 1 medal at County Championships or higher standard at some point whether indoors or outdoors. With a lack of throwing cage due to damage for much of the winter and some of the summer this showed real commitment to travel to find alternative training solutions and competitions. At the Middlesex Indoor County Championships, SMRAC achieved 7 medals with 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Shot for Allyah McGlynn, Ryan Mills, Cameron Sharma and Joshua Gilbert. At the Middlesex County Track & Field Championships there were 15 medals including 1<sup>st</sup> places for Allyah in the Shot, Ryan in the Discus, and Daisy McKeown and Leo Bamber in the Hammer. In terms of Masters athletes Paul Derrien represented GB + NI in Florida at the World Masters Indoor Championships.

**Combined Events:** Finally to combined events, where Kieran Bouwmeester Reid won the U20 Decathlon at the English Schools combined events, that had to be reduced to Octathlon due to atrocious weather. Then after heading off to Australia for a year, returned to represent England and win at the Home Counties Combined Events Championships, ending the season ranked number 1 in the UK for 2025, and 11<sup>th</sup> on the UK all time U20 Decathlon men.