

HAVERFORDWEST RACECOURSE (PUBLIC PARKS) TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 509842

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club
on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present

Roy Thomas (Chairman), Mike Wort (Secretary), Micky Phillips (Treasurer), Trish Croxon (Assistant Secretary), Sue Benbow (Vice Chairman), Peter Lewis, David Loosmore, John Miller, Marilyn Miller, Alex Rowell, Ian Thomas, Linda Thomas, Martin Thomas, Stuart Williams, Rosalyn Wort.

Apologies for Absence

Martin Lewis, Trevor Morgans, Bob Simister, Kevin Wheeler, Laurence Worth.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club on Thursday 9th May 2024 had been made available. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were none.

Resignations

MW announced that he had received two notices of resignation. Mark Sibbald had resigned from the committee approximately a month ago. Trish Croxon had given notice to step down from the committee and her role as Assistant Secretary effective from this AGM although she had agreed to take the minutes for the last time. MW thanked TC for her invaluable support over the past 2 years and RT echoed his regret that she was leaving.

Chairman's Report

RT noted that it had been a busy year due to the weather and raising funds for the storage extension. He expressed his thanks to everyone who had contributed towards the cost of the works, notably Haverfordwest Town Council, Sir John Perrot Trust, Bridge Meadow Trust, the Great Racecourse Relay, Peter Lewis, who walked over some big bridges and all other donors.

He acknowledged the support that had been received over the years from Paul Lucas BEM JP who sadly passed away last month.

He went on to thank the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Assistant Secretary for their efforts during the past year and also David James who continues to maintain the grounds to an excellent standard. He also thanked the volunteers, led by Rosalyn, who are Mickey, Trevor, Linda, Carol and Marilyn as their hard work is much appreciated.

Finally he thanked the committee for their support during a challenging year and stressed the importance of maintaining this facility which is a jewel in the crown of Haverfordwest.

Secretary's Report

MW expressed his sorrow at the passing of Paul Lucas BEM JP and acknowledged his great support, help and guidance in Racecourse matters.

He thanked David James for his work involving grass cutting and hedge trimming.

The fundraising for the extension to the storage shed had concluded as the target of £30,000 had been reached. This had been made possible by donations from Haverfordwest Town Council, Sir John Perrot Trust, Gild of Freeman and Bridge Meadow Trust. The remainder coming from individual donations and monies specifically set aside from our own funds. It was noted that the Great Racecourse Relay, organised by Kevin Wheeler, raised a total of £6,107.

There had been revisions agreed with PRC regarding rent and grass cutting charges. The rent we pay them has increased from £1,250 to £1,750 and their contribution to the cost of mowing the lower racecourse has been increased from £1,600 to £2,500.

The contractor for the storage extension has commenced work and the roof is expected to be in place by the end of this week. New wooden double doors are being constructed and a single UPVC door will be fitted to the extension. There will be a partition installed at one end of the shed for Park Runners and/or our volunteers to store their equipment.

The volunteers, led by RW have had a busy year focussing on general maintenance and clearing brambles. There have also been repairs to an old bench and an area of willow withies planted. SB organised planting of crocus bulbs around benches on behalf of the Rotary Club which brought a splash of colour in Spring.

Unfortunately there continue to be acts of vandalism carried out by unidentified individuals. Last year the apple tree planted as part of the National Trust Cymru Blossom tree project was stripped of its branches and this year, once again, we have had the disappointment of daffodils being picked. Also, more recently, the football nets have been shredded and a plaque on a memorial bench has been defaced. The police have been notified.

There have been several new and replacement benches installed and in most areas around the tarmac path there is generally no more than 200 metres between seats.

Decorative signs have been installed at either end of 'Barbara's Path' courtesy of Frank Langthorne.

There are plans to resurrect the 'wildflower meadows' if funding is available. MW has obtained a quote from a local company to improve the existing areas.

Storm Darragh caused tree casualties which were swiftly addressed at a reasonable cost. The fallen trees were made into log piles to enhance wildlife habitats.

Repairs to the disabled access from Haven Park Drive have been referred to PCC as it is currently in need of considerable remedial works.

Treasurer's Report

MP reported that the Trust has had another successful year with the balance at the bank increasing by over £13,000. Much of this increase is due to the efforts undertaken to raise funds for the extension to the storage shed. He expressed his gratitude to the Gild of Freeman, Sir John Perrot Trust, Peter Lewis, Stuart Williams and Kevin Wheeler as their support raised £12,400. With a further £10,500 grant income expected in 2025/26 and £8,000 raised in previous years we have achieved our final target of £30,000 to cover the cost of construction.

He acknowledged the Haverfordwest Town Council and their generous support of £7500 by way of a Service Level Agreement as without this we would struggle to maintain the Racecourse to the high levels that currently exist.

He also thanked everyone who contributed via the Golden Giving Peoples Fundraising site as donations could then be topped up by Gift Aid.

Including the Plant Sale and donations from Castle/Westward House School income in the year totalled £24,280.

Expenditure in the year totalled £10,956 the bulk of which related to grass cutting and associated costs. Thanks were expressed to David James for maintaining high standards.

There was also some expenditure due to storm damage and purchase of equipment to enable the volunteers to continue their maintenance tasks.

This resulted in a closing balance at the bank of £39,232, although almost £20,000 of this is earmarked for the new shed extension.

MP thanked the officers for their assistance and guidance when required and particularly TC for carrying out the annual audit.

PL suggested that the renewal of the SLA should be requested by June and was assured that this would be discussed in the subsequent committee meeting.

Matters for consideration by the Committee

None were raised.

Election of Committee

PL notified the committee that he was resigning for health reasons and RT thanked him immensely for all he done over the many years since he was a founder member of the Trust. He agreed to remain as a Trustee.

It was proposed by MT and seconded by SB that the remaining Committee members were re-elected en bloc.

Election of Officers

RW proposed JM as Assistant Secretary, this was seconded by IT and he was duly appointed. It was unanimously agreed to re-elect the following officers en bloc.

Chairman:	Roy Thomas
Secretary:	Mike Wort
Treasurer:	Micky Phillips

A new auditor is to be appointed. MP will approach Ian Eynon who has vast experience from PCC.

RT thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.40pm.