

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club
on Thursday 11th June 2026 at 7.00 pm

Present

Roy Thomas (Chairman), Sue Benbow (Vice Chairman), Mike Wort (Secretary), Micky Phillips (Treasurer), Bob Simister, Rosalyn Wort, Eve Lee, Martin Thomas, Trevor Morgans, Stuart Williams, Laurence Worth, Dave Loosmore, Alex Rowell, Jonathan Twigg

Apologies for Absence

John Miller (Assistant Secretary), Marilyn Miller, Ian Thomas, Linda Thomas

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club on Tuesday 6th May 2025 had been made available. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were none.

Chairman's Report

RT thanked our team of volunteers who have worked extremely hard and put in many hours to keep the Racecourse in good order, and doing so in some very adverse weather conditions this past year.

He thanked the Officers, in particular our Secretary Mike for the time and effort he put in administratively, our Treasurer for looking after our accounts and not forgetting Sue our Vice Chair and John our Assistant Secretary. He acknowledged that his part was curtailed this year due to undertaking other duties. RT also thanked the Committee members for their due part in ensuring the smooth running of the Trust affairs.

Acknowledging the time and effort involved in the administration and upkeep of the Racecourse the Chairman emphasised the need to try and encourage the younger generation to become involved in maintaining the Racecourse as the "Jewel in the Crown" of our town.

Recognising the financial support the Town Council provides, but highlighting ever increasing maintenance costs, RT pointed out that we will have to look further afield which will need a stronger funding committee to support the Secretary.

Recognising the privilege of serving the Committee the Chairman looked forward to another year in the life of our Racecourse.

Secretary's Report

At the last AGM the roof was just going on the Shed extension project which had taken up so much of our time raising the required £30,000. Work was finally completed for equipment storage including space for the ParkRunners' equipment and our own volunteers' tools. New hedgerow was also planted in accordance with planning permission. MW gave special thanks to David James for the regular grass cutting to help keep the park pristine. David also cuts the wildflower areas at the end of the season and keeps the wider paths in the conifer copse clear. The collar around the conifer copse is deliberately left uncut to further aid diversity.

The Secretary gave thanks to the HTC for the revised Service Level Agreement for the next 3 years which gives us a valuable degree of security and certainty with the routine costs of maintaining the racecourse. The HTC also provides valuable extra help with unexpected or expensive projects that fall outside the routine Trust activities.

We still have an active Facebook group with 1.6k members and our website still provides details of our activities and history. However, we regularly get confused with the Lower Racecourse which is not our responsibility.

We had quotes to Tarmac both car parks at £20k for each side - so we had settle for patching the holes instead (at over £3k). We hope to get help from Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme for the full repairs/upgrade.

Drainage – In March we jetted and cleared culverts and added stone filled trenches from the footpath parallel to the Dale Road. We will review this after next winter – the culverts may need repair work especially under the entrance from the Dale Road to the car park. We plan to extend French drainage alongside paths to help keep them drier and, hopefully, less icy during the winter months.

The Kissing gate from Park Corner Road has been fixed so that it no longer catches and will be painted soon courtesy of the HTC.

We still await action from the PCC to repair the entrance and bridge from Haven Park Drive.

Users in addition to the public, walking themselves and dogs, include:

- Cricket Club and various Football activities
- Paul Popham Charity Running Club – training sessions
- An approach has been made about forming a Croquet Club.
- An approach has also been made about forming a Junior ParkRun on Sundays.
- A science tutor may be taking some students to do some quadrat sampling to compare plant diversity in mown and non mown areas of the racecourse. Currently doing this on the Lower Racecourse.
- Horse riders registered for permits.

MW gave special thanks to our Volunteers who provided so much of their time:

- Over 158 hours of work since the last AGM (equivalent to >£2k if they had been paid at minimum wage).
- The winter months clearing a large section of overgrown woodland parallel to Barbara's Path. The tree canopies have been raised and brambles removed. Two new dead hedges have been constructed from the cut branches, providing new habitats for wildlife (but not sticks for dogs to chase!)
- Willow cuttings were planted in the wetland area adjacent to the second cricket pitch. In the bank created alongside the main pitch native hedgerow saplings were also planted. These plants are establishing and will further enhance our commitment to wildlife support.

- Snowdrops, daffodils and wood anemones which were planted in 2024 and have been flowering in John's Wood. Bluebells have flourished this year and, where the woodland areas have been managed, ferns, Campions and other wild flowers are growing as well as a few orchids.
- The Green and Clean Team with Tom Moses cleaned the 'bus shelter'.
- More paths have been cleared and maintained to meander through the conifer copse.
- Regular litter picking.

Future plans or work include:

- The path from Haven Park Drive already mentioned.
 - BS and RT provided additional information that the PCC now have plans to improve access from another 2 entrances as well. MW asked to be kept informed.
- Concrete/tarmac in front of the tractor shed.
- Car park resurfacing as mentioned plus kerbstones/boulders to dissuade people from parking over the footpath.
- General footpath maintenance.
- Dead tree removal (mainly dead Ash saplings).
- Bushwacking/pushing back the brambles around the outer horseshoe.

The Secretary thanked those present for their support.

Treasurer's Report

From a financial perspective the Trust has had another successful year and although the balance at the bank has decreased by nearly £18,000 this can all be accounted for by the payment to Daly Building for the new storage shed. The shed was totally funded by grants and donations so thanks to everyone who contributed towards this project.

Income in the year amounted to £21,829 with the bulk of this relating to the SLA Agreement with Haverfordwest Town Council (£7500), a grant from the same organisation of £7500 for the new shed and a further £3000 from the Bridge Meadow Trust also for the new shed.

We are once again very grateful to the support of Haverfordwest Town Council and their continued contribution of £7,500 in respect of the annual SLA agreement. Without this we would struggle to maintain the Racecourse to the high levels that currently exist

Expenditure in the year totalled £39,635 with the bulk of this relating to the new storage shed (£30,125). Elsewhere costs remained very similar to previous years with the grass cutting costs being the second most expensive item. MP thanked David James (the grass cutting contractor) for maintaining the high standards which makes the park such an attractive place to walk.

This has resulted in a closing balance at the bank of £21,426 a very healthy position although some significant expenditure has already been incurred in the current financial year in respect of the drainage works on the southern most path, and tarmac repairs in the main car park. We are also expecting a significant bill for the service of the tractor.

Finally MP thanked the officers for their assistance and guidance when required this year and Andrew Phillips for carrying out the annual audit.

The accounts were unanimously approved by the Committee

Matters for consideration by the Committee

Mr Twigg suggested widening the paths entering from the North side of the Racecourse to facilitate wheelchair users. MW replied that the committee are not aware of this being a

specific problem but it will be reviewed. It would however, involve widening the small bridges over the ditches leading into the racecourse so would not be a trivial task.

BS suggested a contact who might be interested in removing the dead ash trees. MW will contact him in due course.

Election of Committee

MW suggested 2 additions to the current committee. Firstly, Eve Lee had already been co-opted but now wished to be considered and Marilyn Miller, an active volunteer, (unfortunately not able to be present) also wished to be considered. Both were unanimously approved and therefore elected to the Committee. The remainder of the Committee were re-elected en-bloc.

Election of Officers

It was unanimously agreed to re-elect the following officers en bloc.

Chairman:	Cllr Roy Thomas
Secretary:	Mike Wort
Treasurer:	Micky Phillips
Assistant Secretary:	John Miller

Election of Vice-Chairman was deferred to the subsequent Committee Meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.24pm.