

Final minutes – Macclesfield Harriers & AC Committee Meeting

Thursday 8th August at 7.15pm

Macclesfield Leisure Centre

Attendees – Bob Lynch [BL], Keith Mulholland [KM], Kelly Buckley [KB], Owain Morris [OM], Mark Godden [MG], Michael Thorley [MT], Kim Eastham [KE].

- **Apologies** – Dan Hunsley [DH], Sue Stockdale [SSt], Emma Lord [EL], Mark Wheelton [MW], Tom Whittington [TW] Barbara Murray [BM].
- **Previous Minutes** – All agreed.
- **Safeguarding & Welfare [KE on behalf of SSt/MW]**
 - Safeguarding – Case 3. Nothing further to report at this time.
 - Safeguarding standard for 2025 is progressing well with many components already being met. MW has attended the EA Safeguarding standard seminar.
 - **SSt** gave notice on her intention to step down from her club position as lead safeguarding officer at the next AGM [2025].
- **Correspondence [KE]** No items outstanding or to report.
- **Finance and Membership [MG]**
 - Accounts for Jan 2024 to July 2024 were presented and points to note :
 - £2.5k down on hosting costs when compared to previous year
 - £1174 spent on club kit with £669 spent to date
 - £556 on coaching/leader training which is lower than previous years
 - Hosting costs for the last 3 years reviewed and showed:
 - Track hire has significantly increased [doubled for 2024]
 - First aid costs have increased by 50% in 2 years
 - Athlete numbers in general are lower than previously in some meetings.
 - As such, it is impossible for Macclesfield Harriers not to make a loss when it hosts an athletics event, due to the combination of
 - High fixed operating costs
 - Lower than anticipated income due to reduced athlete numbers in some matches
 - Contributions from YDL and Northern League which do not in any way cover costs
 - **MT** and **MG** to establish total 2023 costs of participating in each of the three leagues

- **MT** to approach YDL and Northern League to ask how these losses are to be managed on a league wide basis such that all participating clubs take their share of the loss
- **MT** to approach some other clubs on an informal basis to check on their arrangements and costs for first aid and consider whether or not a group procurement of first aid is possible/beneficial

A discussion led by **MT** on the future financial viability of the Track and Field model we follow and moving forward, what type of club do we want to be, resulted in the following questions. These will be taken forward by **MT with the involvement of other interested parties within the club:**

- What do we want our club ethos to be?
 - We start from the basis that we are a family orientated inclusive club, where all people are encouraged to contribute.
- What is the focus of our Track & Field competition model that best meets the needs of our club.
- Is the league structure viable for our club?
 - Specifically, to urgently discuss the Cheshire League as there is currently a question about its future that will feed into Cheshire Athletics. Participation in the other leagues is also to be discussed.

- **Section Updates**

- **Road Running [OM]**

- North West Relays will take place on 8th September. The event is open to Senior and Junior teams and the club will pay the team[s] entry costs. This event is open to competing members only and will be advertised – **Action – OM**
- Road Running Calendar 2025 - Survey update. The survey remains open and responses are welcome up to close of business, 4th October 2024. All members are encouraged to complete this survey. This is a great chance to have a say in what races / events and distances are included in the next race calendar.
- A road running leaders meeting recently took place. Retention of leaders remains an issue for some groups. A questionnaire to be made available to establish the views and preferences for road group runs. **Action Ian Humphries & OM** . Thanks to Neil Gunn for his technical help with this.

- **Trail Running [KB]**

- Consideration will be given to using a group calendar to support the organisation of leaders / runs. **Action KB**
- Attendance has dipped, resulting in low numbers for runs
- The first Aid course [planned for November] is set to go ahead. There are 2 places available and all leaders/section heads should contact KB if they know any leader interested in taking a place. **Action all**

- **Road Running [MT]**
 - Centralisation mailing system for use across the club was discussed. The committee decided not to undertake further investigations at this time.

- **Vacant Positions**

The following committee positions will be vacant from the next AGM meeting 2025.

- Chairman
- Vice-Chair
- Secretary
- Safeguarding Officer
- Club Colours Officer

All these roles are vital for the sound running of the club. The club cannot function correctly without these roles being filled. Anyone interested in finding out more about a role should get in touch with any committee member.

Committee role descriptions need to be reviewed & updated – **Action All**

Vacancies to be advertised more prominently – **Action KE**

- **Club Website**

- All section content to be reviewed and updated – **Action All**

- **A-o-B**

- Club Standards to be added to standard committee agenda – **Action KE**
- Macc HM/RunFest – Volunteers required. Articles have been posted on facebook groups and members should respond if they [or family members!], can help. Remember, all money received by the club for supplying volunteers will be donated to our club charities.
- Cross Club training sessions have been organised & advertised:-
 1. 19th August – Off road training at Alderley Edge
 2. 27th August – Mixed Ability Track Relays

Both evenings are fun, free of charge training sessions for members, U15's & over to join in and meet other club runners.

- Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 9th October at 7pm. Café of the Leisure Centre.