

Final minutes – Macclesfield Harriers & AC Committee Meeting

Wednesday 9th October at 7pm

Attendees – Bob Lynch [BL], Keith Mulholland [KM], Mark Wheelton [MW], Ian Humphreys [IH], Michael Thorley [MT], Dan Hunsley [DH], Emma Lord [EL], Mark Godden, [MG], Owain Morris [OM], Kim Eastham [KE]

1. **Apologies** – Kelly Buckley, Sue Stockdale, Tom Whittington
2. **Previous minutes** – All agreed.
3. **Safeguarding & Welfare** [MW]
 - There are no new welfare cases to report
 - There are no welfare issues outstanding
 - There has been one accident reported since the last committee meeting. The incident was reported appropriately and dealt with correctly. A reminder to all athletes training on a club night, of the importance to sign in/out at the clubhouse even if not participating in the organised coach-led track session[s], for example when using the trail loop for personal training.
 - To meet the new EA safeguarding standard [introduced from April 2025], the membership form will include a link and tick box for all members to read & complete to confirm agreement and understanding. The new wording to be reflected on the form from January 2025. Action – **MW/MG**
4. **Correspondence** [KE]
 - Discussion took place regarding the upcoming EA AGM & chairman reappointment. Agreement was reached to abstain if the form permits. Action – **KE**
5. **Finance** [MG]
 - With an average 1k per month spend at the moment, the club should be financially covered to the year end, without reaching into any reserves .
 - A query has been raised with Everybody Leisure [Accounts], regarding a bill to the club for £1500. Awaiting a response.
 - Draft financial proposal for the next financial year to be submitted for review and discussion for the next committee meeting [5th December]. Action - **MG with input from MT**

6. Section Updates

A note across all sections and for all members. Club events are organised for a number of reasons: To encourage cross section participation, meet new people, try something new, to support the club and have fun. When club events are held in the week [for example , Off road relays [for all abilities/pace] Mixed ability track relays [for all abilities/pace], Mixed ability Road Relays [all abilities /pace], all usual group runs will be cancelled and section leaders should encourage attendance at these events.

Road Running [OM].

- i. Road Running Club Championship changes were discussed and agreed. These include, bonus point reduction for Grand Prix races to 5 from 10, some new races to be included within the calendar [based upon membership feedback via the recent survey, and with a preference for not for profit or club-organised events], extra parkrun venues to be added & marathons included. A communications piece describing all changes and their impact upon the road running club calendar will be shared shortly. Action – OM
 - ii. Thanks were given to Ian Humphreys for his work on the recent road running survey.
 - iii. Confirmation of Club places for London Marathon is expected end November. However, the club expect to be offered 2 places for 2025. Discussion took place on the club ballot criteria and these will be shared with members once confirmation of places has been received. Action – OM
- **Cross Country [EL]**
 - i. There was a debate regarding the club focus [especially at times of conflicting dates]: North Staffs or the Manchester league. Whilst both have their positive points, it was decided that the priority, would be the Manchester league. Members are still very much welcome to participate in both leagues.
- **Track & Field [DH / MT]**
 - i. A successful season with YDL promotion doe the lower age group. Congratulations to all athletes & volunteers involved.
 - ii. A Track & Field improvement plan is under construction and the committee will be updated at the next meeting – Action DH
 - iii. Craig Birch has been appointed T & F Coaching Co-ordinator
 - iv. The younger age group of athletes are involved in a trial of Spond. It seems to be going well. Update at next meeting. Action DH
 - v. Ahead of the age group changes [2026* see below], a transition plan is required. Club statistician will also need to be appraised of any changes. Action DH
 - vi. Committee agreed MT's request to submit correspondence to YDL [representative], regarding suggested changes and improvements. Action MT

- vii. Specialist field coaches to be sought to aid athlete and volunteer coach development. Action DH/MT
- viii. EA Volunteer development days to be explored. Action DH/MT
- **Trail** [KB – written submission]
 - i. In order to try and revitalise the club runs and also better support leader planning, the section leaders have met and agreed some changes. These include, utilising of a shared calendar for leader planning and understand gaps in leader availability. More advanced notification of trail runs [start points, routes, distance], to help members to advance plan. These changes will be reviewed after 3 months. Action [KB]
 - ii. Two positions are available for the 2 day First Aid course in November [to be held at the clubhouse]. Any interested leaders should contact KB for further information.
- **Fell** [TW – written submission]
 - i. Summer midweek series completed in August with 88 runners competing in one or more race.
 - ii. The Peak Trail and High Fell series are yet to conclude
 - iii. The relay season kicked off on 5th October with the very competitive Hodgson Brothers Mountain Relay. The fell team placed an excellent 14th overall. This top 20 finish should allow us to enter 2 teams in the future. There is a full report on the website.
 - iv. The section require some additional LiRF leaders.
 - v. Fell Handicap details will be released shortly.

7. Club Colours

- The committee thanked Steve Swallow for his time and effort in this role.
- Steve has now handed over the role to Ruth Groarke. Payment methods for club kit needs to be understood and documented - Action KE . Post meeting update. RG confirmed to BL that the aim is to move to online payments only.

8. Vacant positions

- Chairperson – Role description available. Please contact Keith Mulholland for further information.
- Vice-chair – Please see Mark Wheelton for further information
- Secretary – Role description available. Please see Kim Eastham for further information.

9. A-o-B

- The club will not enter into any financial arrangements for services with club members who have businesses. Doing this could set a challenging precedence and would not be an appropriate use of club funds.
- *Post the meeting a date amendment was identified. AG changes take effect from 2026 and not 2025 as originally quoted.

- Post meeting update – Discussions are underway to link up with a local Physiotherapist, with an aim of establishing an agreement similar to the relationship with Honeys.
- Date of the AGM – 28th March 2025 at the Rugby Club. Further details to follow.
- Date of next meeting – Thursday 5th December at 7pm