

Draft Middleton Harriers AGM Minutes, 13th February 2024

Middleton Arena

Present: Peter Gilligan (Chairman), Ge Kirk (President), Cathie Murphy (Ladies Teams), Steve Bassam (Finance), Craig Sutherland (Sec), Jen Laptew (Comms), and 26 Members.

Apologies: Mick Bull, Martin Cregg, Christine Eckersley, Shirley Hall

Minutes: Agreed.

Matters Arising: None.

Correspondence: None

Chairman's Report: Peter welcomed everyone to the AGM of the Club, and went on to note that a number of men did not attend the AGM and that the reasons were not apparent.

As you can see from the Agenda there are items for discussion including the election of officers and the revised constitution. So without further ado I ask the Secretary for his report on the actions of the club during the period of time since the last AGM.

Secretary's Report: Craig reported that the club had had a successful year, including a good turnout in the Road Championship with lots of Pbs being recorded and a good number of members completing their first marathon.

The Fell championships had a low turnout this year but were well represented in the Run The Moors Fell GP Championship awards.

Unfortunately the club were unable to get teams for any of the Regional Relay events such as Northern or Greater Manchester but had good turn outs in the local events such as Wacky Races, Calderdale and the Cross Keys Relay.

Our Ladies continue to get good numbers out for Cross Country and are doing particularly well in the SELCC team. Turnout by the men has been low, despite a good number having entered at the start of the season. There was good discussion on how participation could be improved and seeking to find volunteers for the tent.

Treasurers Report: Steve reported that 2023 had been a balanced year and that the club had come out with a small deficit. There were some items of big expenditure such as the running track which was £1000 per year and the trophies and coaching fees.

Events which raised money included the Club races – Hopwood Trot £700+, Club Handicap and a small amount from Eddie's Revenge which is a Charity fundraiser.

The Christmas Party had been a success but had lost a little bit of money but will be repeated. The membership fees are going up as a result of feedback from the membership survey, they are currently £16 but will probably go up again next year. Steve pointed out that until Covid struck our membership fees were £20 per year.

Election of Officers: Peter thanked the Committee for their work during the previous 12 months reported that the Committee had agreed to continue for the year. He then asked if anyone else wished to join the Committee. The following people were formally proposed and seconded by Janet Hunt and Craig Sutherland: Janine Jordan, Louise Butterworth, John Hall.

Membership: Ge reported that as of December 2023 our membership stood at 73 Men and 71 giving a total of 144 with an additional 13 Social/Life Members.

The membership as of 2022 was 70 men and 58 ladies giving a total of 128.

The membership has increased slightly, but quite a few members from 2022 did not join us in 2023. We did however attract 29 new members and a couple of older members did re-join. We did however manage to attract 14 new members from the C25K bringing the membership up slightly but we do have 4 new full members this year and 2 Social members.

Correspondance from EAA. The affiliation fees have been increased this year from £100 to £150 (of which the club pays) and after taking in concerns from running clubs up and down the country the EAA has decided to increase the membership fee to £19 from 1st april 2024 (£2 increase from previous year.)

As discussed in Committee we have increased membership for this next year (Jan 2024) to ^£16. Social membership remains the same.

Finally Don't forget that if you haven't paid your 2024 subs and wish to count in the Road Championship you won't.

Trophies: Ge addressed the subject of the award of Trophies. The Club had awarded 34 trophies at the Presentation which was a lot of money. The club had evolved over the years and initially only a small number of trophies had been awarded but now it is a major task collecting them in, getting them engraved and then taking them to the Presentation. Not all the award winners attend the presentation to collect their award which creates further work getting in touch with them to arrange collection. The Cross Country presentation was the worst with only 6 trophies being given out. Was there any possibility of reducing the number of awards?

There was a discussion and various options were put, including a roll of honour rather than trophies. The general feeling was that the awards are important to the runners and that we continue with the present award system whilst the club can afford it. (Janet Hall & Fiona Bolton)

More assistance should be given to Ge in the collection and engraving (Chris Brooks)

Get engravers to collect and drop off the trophies also e-mail winners and ask them to collect them. (John Hall).

Training Sessions: Craig reported that all the sessions continued to be well attended and that we were looking to increase the number of LiRF (Leader in Running Fitness). Craig confirmed that there would be a C25K Programme starting in May. It was suggested that it might be better to start the Monday session at 8:00pm to allow time for the speed session to complete.

There was a discussion on whether the start time of 6:00 was the best time and also whether to stagger the start times so the slower runners could start off earlier. Jen suggested that the club could do a questionnaire. Craig was happy to do this.

Club Kit: Cathie showed off the new Club Hoodie which was priced at £20. In response to queries for Club Colour training tops, Cathie said she would investigate.

AOB: The new constitution and appendices had been circulated and it was explained that in order to comply with England Athletics affiliation the club need to have additional documentation showing policies and commitment on a number of areas. *This documentation had been distributed before the AGM.* It was agreed to update the constitution and accept the additional documentation as Appendices.

Jen Laptew gave a vote of thanks to the everyone who had organised the well attended Boxing Day Run and John Cox for organising the New Years Eve Run, which had raised money for Charity. There was a question raised about the the Road Championship ace selection – a lot of the races were a good distance away, particularly the longer races such as Half Marathons. Cathie said that there would be a coach organised for Coniston and she would investigate one for Sheffield.

Ge asked if everyone was happy with the socials? A lot of food had to be taken home after the most recent one, also asked if they preferred a buffet or pie? There was a concern that the chips had been cooked in chicken fat and couldn't be eaten by vegetarians.

Jen offered to do a survey.

Rose raised issue of giving numbers away for races without informing the Race Organisers. Craig pointed out that recently a lady had been given her number away in such circumstances. The Race Organiser could not identify the illegal runner but could and did take action against the official entrant. Giving numbers away is not only unethical in that people could end up winning the wrong age category but also dangerous if people get injured and end up getting inappropriate medical treatment. Not to mentioned being unable to contact next of kin.

Craig raised the topic of an informal inter-club Championship for the Road season. Andy Smith was investigating the idea and would report back.

Date of Next Meeting: TBA

End of Business.