

Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 14th January 2025

Crowshaw Drive

Present: John Hall, Mandy Cregg, Ge Kirk, Jen Laptew, Craig Sutherland, Cathie Murphy, Steve Bassam, Louise Butterworth

Apologies: Peter Gilligan, Ruth Hare, Janine Jordan.
Cathie volunteered to Chair the meeting.

Minutes: Agreed.

Matters Arising: Cathie asked that people be directed to messaging Ge to confirm membership transfer, rather than herself or Craig.

Correspondence: Letter of thanks from East Lancs Railway to MH for support for repairs to Woodhill Viaduct.

Chairman's Report: Cathie reported on the sad loss of Roger Colson (who founded MH with Jack Kirk). His funeral was well attended with a large contingent of MH members past and present. There was also a memorial run by Middleton Harriers at Heaton Park Run which attracted over 30 Harriers and was mentioned in the RO remarks. Ge added that there was a collection at the Funeral for Francis house and that MH had contributed £100. Ge intended to visit Rogers wife Vivian shortly. There were many memories and it was thought that a brief biography be put up on the website in tribute.

Finance: Steve reported that he had received £80 deposit on the Xmas party and that he would carry this forward into the current financial year.

The club cash balance was £723.68 less than the start of 2024 which was in line with our expectations and that this was due to expenditure on transport to events and additional affiliation cost to Northern Athletics.

He had been pleasantly surprised at M/Cr city Council waiving the Track fee for December due to our low usage due to holidays, events, and inclement weather.

Mandy had run a profit of £220 at the Xmas party and received a vote of thanks.

There was a query on Monday coaching fees and it was explained that Jason, the previous coach had received payment and that this was carried forward for John and Cathie. The club has raised its membership fees and this should maintain the clubs financial position. The only coach envisaged this year is for Derwent Water.

Membership: Ge reported that she was very pleased with promptness with which people are renewing their membership. So far 35 men and 36 ladies have renewed, 3 life and 17 social. The membership of Saarah Hashmi and Amy Jones will be carried forward into 2025 due to joining late in 2024. Ge will send out reminders in February and March, being mindful that the 1st Road Championship race will take place in February. The possibility of having the club year matching the EA year was raised but it was pointed out that this had been discussed before and that the effort involved in changing dates would not bring about any great benefit. We had agreed to keep things as they are.

Social Media: Jen reported that Eddie's Revenge page had been updated to point to the 2025 entry page. Other pages updated included Club 50, Roger Colson run and other updates. Jen had now completed a Social Media Welfare Course with Rochdale Council and confirmed that she had made an application on the Cash for Clubs scheme. She added that she would launch the 2025 C25K Webpage to publicise the C25K launch in May 2025. It was agreed that there would be a joining fee

of £15, this would include membership of the club from completion of the course until 31st Dec. We will also encourage successful C25K completers to continue on our 5K to 10K course. Jen noted that there was only 5GB space remaining and that she would monitor usage. She added that she will continue to update the Facebook page with news and updates and images and work with John H on the Google Sheets page (used to to keep a record of Club Training Sessions.)

Road Championship: Craig reported that the first race would be the Hale 10k on 16th Feb. Trafford 10K has been moved to August 17th and after some discussion it was agreed that the Club Handicap be rescheduled to 13th August to avoid clashing with the Golf Ball Fell Race. There were still a number of outstanding TBC races later in the season.

Fell Championship: The race selection has taken place and has been published. There is only one race which clashes – The Yorkshireman will clash with the Yarrow River 10K.

Relays: Cathie reported that she had entered 2 teams in Calderdale (both open). Leon Wint has agreed to manage the A team and Cathie will manage the B team. Craig to send out an E-mail publicising the event and asking for expressions of interest. Other events to be promoted for expressions of interest include: BMAF (Mallory) 3rd May, Close Park Relays 5th May (Radcliffe) and Cross Keys Relay (Road-Fell) 6th Sept.

Cross Country: Craig reported that the final SELCC would take place on 18th Jan and that potential award winners from our club will be reminded that they must compete to complete the minimum of 3 races. We have 5 podium finishers (all being well.) MACC League has had problems with races being re-scheduled or cancelled (Tatton Park) and the MACC series has been reduced from nest 4 races from 5 to best 3 races from 4. It was agreed that the XC Presentation would take place in early April.

Club Events: Cathie reported that the Hopwood Trot was open and that everything was in order. s. Craig reported that Eddies revenge was now listed on FRA site. Craig would contact Gina at Bowlee re: Club Handicap.

Training: John reported that there had been a few cancellations but we were getting a good turnout on a Monday (20+). He asked if it was possible to separate the groups on a Wednesday according to pace. Craig thought this was a good idea and would work on it with himself, Debbie and Mandy.

Presentation Evening, Road and Fell: Ge asked if Craig had produced the Certificates and he said he would do them in the next day or so. It was agreed that he would leave them at the Arena on Sunday morning for Ge to collect. Ge reported that the food had been organised – with a choice of Meat & Potato, Cheese & Onion and a vegan option. The raffle was sorted and it was agreed that the tickets would be £2 per strip or £5 for 3 strips. Peter had agreed to be MC and Mandy would take photos. The Trophies were the new style (non-returnable) and everything was in order.

AGM: The date of the AGM was set for 11th Feb at the Ring O Bells pub, 7:30 start. Craig asked about the Officers Posts on the Committee – would anyone wish to take on other roles or responsibilities? Craig asked if anyone would like to take on responsibility as RO for the Club Handicap and Eddie's Revenge Fell Race. Mandy volunteered for the Club Handicap and Louise volunteered to be RO for Eddie's Revenge – this would come into play for the 2026 Race. Full support and training was offered. Jen asked if she could be an administrator on the whatsapp group. Agreed.

C25K to start 12th May with a 19th July finish, and for those wishing to continue it would conclude at the Bury 10K. Start time 8:00pm. Jen to produce a leaflet and create a FB Event. £15 joining fee. Inc. membership until Jan 1st 2026.

AOB: Xmas Do – Sat 13th Dec. Due to the difficulty in getting a venue, it was agreed book early and it was agreed to book the Cricket Club via Chris Brooks with a DJ if possible. John H suggested using Lords caterers if possible.

London Marathon – There was a discussion on the the procedure of the Boxing Day Run draw – should non-attendees be allowed to enter, should reserve numbers be drawn, how should the evidence of “rejection slips” be presented (phone paper etc.), identify a named person for slips? Craig proposed that he and Steve get together and draw up rules for future ballots. Agreed.

Louise has donated her place in the Marathon to Jen. Craig agreed to send Louise/Jen the relevant e-mail or ensure that the place was sent to Jen.

Club 50 Draw: To be held at the presentation.

Next Meeting: 11th Mar 7:30pm at Crowshaw Dr.