

Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 11^h March 2025

Crowshaw Drive

Present: Ge Kirk, Louise Butterworth, Cathie Murphy, Janine Jordan, Peter Gilligan, John Hall, Steve Bassam, Craig Sutherland.

Apologies: Jen Laptew, Mandy Cregg

Minutes: Agreed.

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence: Steve reported that that we had received an e-mail notification of EA Regional Council Election.

Ge had been contacted by EA with updates on Affiliation fees and EA website availability surrounding the date of new Membership Year. Affiliation fees paid to EA and ARC.

Chairman's Report: Peter reported that the AGM had been well attended by the ladies but the men had not seemed too interested and had not turned up.

The meeting had been interesting and had raised topics which would be discussed later in the present meeting.

Finance: Steve reported that it was early in the year and no conclusions could be drawn. At present the club was holding £8,673.39 with about £1000 membership fees for EA coming up along with club affiliations, so we can expect a drop in the money held. He noted that we had not had an invoice and that training would take away any surplus. The future balance depends on income from our club races in the coming year.

Club Kit: Cathie had started to reduce the amount of stock we were holding with older stock being sold at a discount.

Welfare: Craig reported that this item would now be a standard item on the agenda. In line with EA policy there was now an on-line accident/incident reporting procedure on the website for minor accidents/incidents/near misses which would be dealt with internally by the club. The online form would be picked up by the two welfare officers (Craig and Cathie) and processed. There was also a link to the EA national reporting process (this would cover areas of a more serious nature).

There had been 2 incidents to report since the last meeting. The first involved a runner on the Monday evening session was accompanied back to the Arena due to fatigue. The recommendation was that the runner drive to the training site to conserve energy.

The second happened when a runner stumbled and fell on a training in very cold, wet weather and badly twisted her ankle. The recommendation was that Arena, Heywood, Heywood Old Rd route not be done in the dark or in inclement weather.

John pointed out that a runner had pulled out of the same training run due to severe cold/exposure. Craig to investigate.

Membership: Ge reported that Barry Gerard, Bev Gerard, Ryan Harrison and Wayne O'Connell had joined the club. Membership stood at 59 Men, 50 Ladies, giving a total of 109 which is 14 up on this time last year. Socials now stood at 21, with Roger Pealin joining as a social member.

Social Media: Jen's report was read out and there was discussion on the £1000 grant that was available to the Club. There were questions over what the funding could/should be spent on and whether there were any rules that we would have to comply with Eg logos on fliers and web pages. It

was agreed to accept in principle but that we needed some clarification on some issues. Craig to speak with Jen.

Road Championship: Season started with the Hale 10K on 16th Feb. Well attended despite cool temperature. This was a new event to Middleton Harriers and was a well marshalled event on a closed course. The Race Results did not include Team names which made club scores difficult, but Middleton probably won the team event. 14 men counted, 1 non-counter – no club vest. 9 Ladies completed.

The Second road race was the first of the 5K series. This was at Ashton Cycle track. A well managed event with 4 individual time graded races where all times were combined. 13 Men counted and 0 non-counters. Teresa Hollins was not registered to Middleton Harriers but this was due to an admin error by the organisers and it was agreed to include her. 7 Ladies completed.

Club Championship Leaders – 1. Jordan Hughes 2. Andy Smith 3. Leon Wint.

1. Faye Aydin 2. Fiona Bolton 3. Dawn Anderson.

Next race – Garstang Gallop, Sun 16th March.

Agreed to have age cat MV80 & LV80 in 2026.

Fell Championship: Season started with Pendle Hill. 6 runners took part but only 4 counted. 1 no vest, 1 not paid subs.

Unfortunately this meant no complete team for Middleton Men or Ladies. Tony Walsh Leads from Craig Sutherland and Sandra McGrail leads from Cathie Murphy.

Next Race – Wardle Skyline.

Relays: Cathie reported that we still had 2 teams in Calderdale – the A team was 2 men short at present for leg 6 and Linda Sadler had sprained her ankle (Leg 3 B team).

We had one team entered in the Close Park Relays.

Cross Country: Craig reported on the end of the season – only 8 men completed out of 23 entered. 11 ladies completed.

Discussion on low turn-out – this was a cost to the club as we subsidised entries. Next season we need to emphasise that there is a cost to the club.

We had success in the SELCC league with the following: Jorden Burke – Age Cat win, Debbie Sheen - 2nd Age Cat, John Hall - 2nd Age Cat, Fiona Bolton - 2nd Age Cat, Ruth Hare Age Cat.

Training: Craig reported that Mondays continue to be good - +20, Wednesdays have seen a drop to between 15-20. Track varies between 9-15. John added that Mike Grimshaw was ready to do his video as part of his LiRF course in the next week or so. Craig to publicise LiRF course throughout the club.

Presentation Evenings: There was a discussion on whether the Cub Man and Club Lady award should be voted on by the entire club. It was agreed to keep things as they are.

Club Mate of the year – discussion on what criterion should be used, Services to the club?

Agreed to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Use of Bone Conducting Headphones in Races: There was a lengthy discussion on the use of traditional earphones and bone conductors, including an example of a pair of bone conductors. A decision was taken to maintain the club ban on them in Championship Races and training on the following grounds: they are unsocial when participating in a club run, they could be seen as giving an unfair advantage in a race by setting a pace, and whilst they do not block out surrounding sounds they do cause a distraction, and could cause a runner to miss an instruction.

Gun time vs Chip Time in Championship Races: It was agreed that for the purposes of our Club Championship, chip time be used for all places other than the first 20 runners in the race.

Review of Trophies: After discussion the following was agreed: Overall 1st Lady & 1st Man in the Road Championship, Fell Championship & Fell Championship get a Trophy
Category winners get a memento with the Championship, Year and Category. No Name.
All who complete the Championship get a certificate.
Jen to remove questions relating to awards from questionnaire.
Redundant trophies to be offered to the Arena.
Craig to feedback to John Cox.

Membership Pricing: The areas of confidentiality, management and assessment were discussed and the following was agreed: That membership pricing remains as it is but that if anyone does have any difficulties then they contact one of the club Welfare Officers – Cathie Murphy or Craig Sutherland where their needs can be assessed.

Race Fees: To reduce costs to club members, it was agreed that as part of the race selection criteria a minimum of 6 races be local and low cost.

AOB:

England Athletics Regional Elections: Steve reported that the club had received correspondence from EA re: Regional Elections. There were 5 candidates for 4 seats and EA recommended that Committees be consulted before votes are cast. Steve distributed the election addresses of the candidates and Craig was to distribute them by E-mail to all committee members. Contacts Steve & Craig.

Roll of Honour & History of Club Book: John Hall volunteered to create a Roll of Honour - Craig to supply as much information on past results as possible.

Ladies Toilets at Track: John reported that he'd had feedback that the ladies toilets at the track needed cleaning. Craig to investigate.

Xmas Party 2025: Ge had made enquiries regarding venue availability for the Xmas party and reported that the cricket club was available Mon-Thur only, Golf Club use their own caterers, and was unavailable for Dec. She recommended awaiting Mandy's return.

Club 50 Draw: January – Clair Sproson, February - John Cox, March – Mike Pyle.

Next Meeting: 13th May 7:30pm at Crowshaw Dr.