

Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 10th September 2024

Crowshaw Drive

Present: John Hall, Mandy Cregg, Ge Kirk, Jen Laptew, Janine Jordan, Craig Sutherland, Cathie Murphy, Steve Bassam, Louise Butterworth, Ruth Hare.

Apologies: Peter Gillingan.

Minutes: Agreed

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence: England Athletics Race Permits information. Noted
ARC – require Hopwood Trot Report. Cathie to pursue.

Chairman's Report: N/A.

Finance: Steve reported that he not had an opportunity to complete the report but that he will forward it. He went on to give an approximate breakdown and that we were approximately £400 down on this time last year.

Membership: Ge reported that we had three new members and a re-join – Janice Whitelegge, Stuart Litster, Mary Murphy and Caroline Jones. The numbers now stood at 68 Men, 56 Ladies and 19 Social and Life members.

This was 5 down on this time last year. It was agreed that from the end of September, Club membership will be carried over.

EA membership will run out at the end of March 2025 and the EA individual subs will be raised to £20. England Athletics have also raised the Club Affiliation fee to £205.

Ge expressed disapproval of the England Athletics fees considering the poor website and lack of benefits for the club. There was general approval of Ge's sentiments.

Social Media: Jen reported on the Recommendations Report Meeting, comprising of Jen, Mandy and Janine. The key points were that the majority were happy with the club, and the start time of the Wednesday run (6:00pm) from the Arena. And that the other start times were OK. Middleton Arena met with 60% approval as a meet-up venue. It was agreed that we continue to monitor over time and keep the item on the AGM Agenda.

The feedback also said that whilst there should be a formal aspect to the AGM, there should also be a social aspect to it once the business was complete.

There was a discussion on using the Ring O Bells pub for the 2025 AGM. Ruth proposed it as a venue, seconded by Ge. Passed unanimously.

I was agreed that the club maintain regular communication with the membership using existing techniques - E-Mail, Whatsapp, Facebook, and Website. Jen to action.

There was also a need for the Club championship points systems and rules be publicised, in the interests of transparency. Jen to set a FAQ under About Us Page.

It was also felt that there should be a supportive Club environment with the onus on all members take part , Eg express gratitude to members and celebrate achievements. It was agreed that an award be made to Mick Buck in addition to the Club man and lady awards in recognition for all the support he has given fellow club runners (esp C25K and new members) and in recognition of his comeback from illness.

Road Championship: The last race of the Road Championship be the Morecambe Half Marathon on Sunday, 29th Sept. The club has arranged for a coach (£280) and there are currently 2 seats available. Departing Middleton Area at 8:30 tbc.

Fell Championship: Craig reported that The ladies were lying in 3rd place in the team event and that there were a number of top 3 contenders, with 2 races left to run, the last one being Oct 6th at Castle C'Alf.

Ge asked that the Trophies be returned before 7th Nov.

Relays: Craig reported that the next relays were the Cross Keys Road/Fell in which we had 3 teams entered.

Welsh Castles – Craig to promote – 9 min/mile pace for 9-10 miles. Mixed Team, Caernarvon to Cardiff.

Cross Country: Craig reported that this season consist of 5 MACCL races and 3 SELCC races. SELCC had raised their entry fees. It was agreed that we charge £10 per member for all the races. Both leagues require EA Membership to participate. Craig and Cathie are to be the contacts. John raised the issue of 75 & 80 Age groups – Craig to investigate at next SELCC as a number of clubs have competitive runners in this age category.

Hopwood Trot: Cathie reported that Julie Burrows will e-mail the invoice (£660) for Hoptwood Trot. Last years was £500. next year will be an amount per runner. Quotation required for both Hopwood Trot and Eddie's Revenge for next year. Jen to challenge the quote for this years HT and try for a reduction.

Club Handicap: Craig reported that the event went well and raised £63 for the club and £20 for the community centre.

Training: Training sessions are going well with a steady attendance. Debbie Sheen and Tony Walsh to do LiRF Courses on the understanding that they take some of the sessions.

Road Championship Appeals: Ashley McCabe could not enter Royton Trail as MH due to not being a member of Middleton Harriers. Upheld

Leo Cain was unable to get an entry for the Mossley 10K and subsequently ran under another persons name.. Refused.

Alan Garvey, unable to enter as Middleton Harrier as his son submitted Alan's entry without knowing his EA number. Upheld but we need to emphasize the Alan must submit his own entries.

Xmas Parties: Mandy to check on availability – Formal on in Mid December. To be costed at £20 per head with vegan options. Additional cost – DJ.

Club 50 Draw: August: Fiona Bolton, September: Alyson Smith

AOB:

Accident Reporting Procedures: John has a form for Run Leaders to complete in the event of an incident/accident. Craig to investigate EA forms.

Training sessions with dogs: There was an involved debate as a lady wished to train with us with an assistance dog. Background Kelsey had attended one of our Heaton Park sessions in daylight and on a wide path. She had then attended our evening speed session (min on/min off) on M/Cr Old Rd. The dog had taken a sudden change of direction (to go to the toilet) and caused runners to check their stride. On the return session the lead had got entangled

Kelsey had attended a Friday track session and the dog had sat on it's bed off the track in the Spectator area without incident.

We took the decision to disallow members running with dogs at our road sessions in our regular committee meeting on Tuesday 10th September. We had an in-depth discussion, taking into consideration the poor state of Middleton's pavement, the poor lighting, the amount of street furniture and the number of runners coming to our sessions as well as the age profile of the group and the chances of doing serious harm in the event of a fall. Our speed and hill rep sessions are often "out and back" with runners having to avoid people returning in the opposite direction. We felt that given all of the above factors, adding a dog on a lead was increasing the list of accident and injury to an unacceptable level.

The dog was perfectly welcome to attend the Track session as it had done previously.

We have no way to contact Kelsey to inform her of our position.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 19th November, 2, Crowcroft Drive 7:30.