

Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 16th September 2025

Crowshaw Drive

Present: Peter Gilligan, Ge Kirk, Debbie Sheen, John Hall, Mandy Cregg, Steve Bassam, Cathie Murphy, Craig Sutherland.

Apologies: Janine Jordan, Louise Butterworth, Jen Laptew.

Minutes: Agreed.

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence: Northern Athletics affiliation letter – agreed to renew affiliation.

Chairman's Report: Peter thanked everyone for attending and noted that there was a full agenda. He had been following the activities of the various sections of the club with interest since the previous meeting and there appears to have been a lot going on. The Road Championship has attracted a lot of member involvement and the fell group has also been very active. Overall the Club appears to be in good shape and is moving into the Cross Country Season.

Finance: The finance report was distributed. Steve reported that the finances were quite healthy there was a £2,513 surplus with £225 to be deducted. He raised a question on the Hopwood Trot race. Should the club be paying for the use of Hopwood College as a venue? It used to cost the club in the region of £200 but have not been charged and Paul Driver, the manager had not been present. Cathie to investigate.

He also expressed his frustration with WhatsMyTime (race timers) for not providing paperwork for quotations, invoices or receipts. Craig (ER) and Cathie (HT) to follow up.

Debbie asked what the income from Transport related to? This was money taken in advance (as a sign of commitment) for the coach to the Derwent 10.

Welfare: Craig reported that Mick Buck had recently had a stumble and sustained light grazing. He expressed concern that Mick was pushing himself too hard. He was returning after a lay-off due to a fractured hip and needed to do less distance and not try to keep up with the faster runners. Craig to talk to Mick.

Membership: Ge reported that we had new members Steve Tierney, Rachel Frickers (transfer from Royton +C25K £15 paid). Mandy to supply Ge with Rachel's personal details. The figures now stand at 68 men, 52 ladies, 21 Social. This is 4 down on last year.

Social Media: Facebook was getting good updates from posts. Craig reported that Jen was now Managing the Facebook page. It was suggested that there be more information on races and how scores and results were arrived at. Craig to chase up.

Couch to 5K Report: Mandy reported that she had started an "Autumn" C25K group and that she had two people taking part and that they would Qualify soon - Toni Moore and Janine Vincent. Craig to prepare Certificates.

Road Championship: The recent Yarrow River trail race had not been well marked and the first 6 runners had gone off route and ran a short race. They were not awarded the prizes but were given free entry into next years race by the race organisers by way of compensation. It was agreed that the runners who had not completed the course not be counted in the Club Championship. The Trafford 10K will now take place on Sunday 19th Oct and will count in the Club Championship and will not be included in next years Championship.

Race Selection committee will meet on Sat 29th Nov and will include the Bury 10K. Craig & Cathie

Fell Championship: The ladies team are leading the RTMFGP Championship and are likely to win it provided they get full team turnout (3) for the final race of the series. The men are coming a well earned 3rd.

Janine's report:

People are keen for the group to continue and through conversations and feedback via the WhatsApp group I am going to make a few changes to take the pressure off me and also to encourage participation.

Continue to include some Sunday morning sessions.

Update the website to include more comprehensive information/tips about fell running and kit.

Attendees to fill in a simple google form with health/next of kin and an acknowledgement that they are responsible for their own safety. They only need to do this once.

Include some trail runs with less demanding terrain for beginners and note this clearly on the venue list.

People to confirm by Weds lunchtime if they plan to attend to support me with planning my week.

Include some special one-off sessions such as orienteering and navigation training.

For consideration by the committee:

1. Would I (or other suitable experienced club member) be OK to continue to lead fell sessions on Thurs evening with the above changes in place?
2. Would the committee approve my taking the LIRF qualification over the summer? (Please note that I cannot commit to leading any of the Monday/Wednesday sessions due to my work/family commitments.)
3. Do we have any qualified coach capacity within the club for some coached/led sessions? These could be scheduled one-off sessions on the calendar, they don't need to be every week. Martha Urwin has expressed interest in some one-off sessions.

Agreed Janine, Craig & Jen to follow up.

Cathie will go to presentation and ensure the trophies are collected.

London Marathon: The Club allocation of one place has been confirmed and we will receive an e-mail on 31st Oct on how to confirm the place. It was agreed that the draw take place at the the Boxing Day Run at the Hopwood Arms, that the rejection notices be transferred onto identical slips before going into the draw and that 3 names be drawn out in the order 1, 2 3 with 1 being awarded the place, 2 and 3 to be reserves.

Relays: 2 teams represented the club at the Cross Keys Relay – excellent days running with no injuries and some good times.

Updates have been received re: National cross Country Relay and National Cross Country Championship. The Website has been updated.

Cross Country Update: All dates and start times have been posted up on the website.

Middleton are hosting the 1st SELCC race

Clash on 6th Dec - The men have indicated that they are looking to win the SELCC team prize and would prefer that the MACC race is declared as a non-counter. Also Garvey would prefer SELCC be included as we have a better chance of doing well in SELCC League. SELCC at Marl Pitts to count. 21 people have paid up.

Signage – We need more Caution Runners signs, Runners keep left signs, Tape, anything else?

Long term – Most of the officials have given notice of retirement after this season – Start/finishers, Secretary, Treasurer. Merger with Red Rose looks certain at this point.

Xmas Social: Debbie to send menus round. Date – Sat, 20th December Venue – M/Cr golf Club – Slattocks.

Roll Of Honour: John reported that he has entered the data of all the awards over the years and is awaiting Jen to Post it up on the site. He pointed out that there were some anomalies but that he would publish what he had and ask for feedback for corrections.

Club Events: Eddie's Revenge (Louise & Craig) was awaiting the FRA start date to register. 1x Cheque sent to Deafblind, 2 awaiting distribution. Timers to be contacted for quote. Club Handicap – new possible course outlined- 2 laps internal to Bowlee. Craig and Mandy.

Training: Fridays going well. Steve noted that the monthly fee had dropped for a period but had then risen from £58.30 to £109.50 without any explanation.

Mike has expressed an interest in hosting Fridays nights session. Martha is likely to move away from the area in the near future and we could do with a replacement CiRF/Fell coach.

Mondays are getting a large turnout and are now back to the Arena.

Wednesday: Debbie now takes the faster runners and Mike the slower group, John hall takes the Long Slow group. Mandy takes the improvers. All set off at 6.00pm.

Thursday is under review.

1st Aid: John Hall showed a sample of a first aid kit suitable for the Run Leaders to carry. Cost was approx £12.00

He gave an outline of a 1 day course which would be useful for the LiRF at a reasonable price. Our current certified 1st Aider (Martha Urwin) was moving soon and her assistant Karen Hallett would need to do the 2 day course to get the certification required by O/M Council for Eddie's Revenge and Hopwood Trot..

It was agreed that it would be a good to promote on the Club Site.

John, Jen & Craig to follow up.

Navigation Course: John Hall to arrange and Craig to put details out on Website.

Club 50 Draw: August - Tony Walsh, September – Teresa Hollins

AOB: Announcement – John Cox was hosting an Orienteering taster at Heaton Park.

Hi-Viz Vests: John displayed some HiViz vests carrying the Club name which he suggested the club might buy and distribute to members to promote the club.

Club Hut: Rochdale Council were looking for an organisation to purchase(?) the Scout Hut on Long St. Jen has put a bid in from Middleton Harriers.

Trophies: Agreed that current holders of trophies can keep them in perpetuity or return to the club for long term storage in Ge's loft.

Also The 1st Lady & Man Fell runner would get a large trophy to keep.

Next Meeting: 11^h Nov 19:30 Crowcroft Drive.