

## Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Crowshaw Drive

**Present:** Ge Kirk, Louise Butterworth, Jen Laptew, Debbie Sheen, Peter Gilligan, Steve Bassam, Craig Sutherland, Mandy Cregg.

**Apologies:** John Hall, Janine Jordan, Cathie Murphy.

**Minutes:** Agreed.

**Matters Arising:** Steve reported on the results of the MH Committees' preferred candidates for the EA regional elections. Five MH Committee members expressed a preference for: Brian Copper, Sarah Hodgson-Jones, Ronan Kearney.

**Correspondence:** None

**Chairman's Report:** Peter reported that since the last meeting we had had Easter. The Cross Country Presentation had gone well and he thanked Ge for all her hard work on making it a success. The presentation clashed with the London and Manchester Marathon and there was low turnout.

**Finance:** Steve reported that the finances were looking good, being £2,331.53 up on the same the year and was better than this time last year. Two Club 50 Cheques had been included. Money owing for Monday evening coaching is estimated.

There was a discussion on what we could spend the Fairplay grant money on, given that we had a 6 months timescale beginning 21/3/25.

Jen suggested that we may be able to get an extension and suggested some of the following: Club car window stickers, equipment, awards for club races – Hopwood Trot, Eddie's Revenge, training, coaching. Questionnaire asking for ideas, proposals.

Debbie asked who gets paid for training currently? Currently the Monday evening sessions are paid for, this began when Jason Cunningham took on the role and we have continued it ever since @£10 per session.

There was also a question re. C25K payments - everyone had paid up, it was agreed that Club Members did not need to make a payment to participate. Steve would send Mandy an update on payments made. Jen asked about awards for C25K graduates – At present the graduates get a certificate, a club buff and club membership for the rest of the year.

**Welfare:** Craig gave his report. Since the last report Mick Buck had a serious fall when doing a solo run from the Arena and had to be brought back by a passing motorist. He managed to drive home shadowed by John Hall and Karen Garry. He was then taken to A&E by his family where he was diagnosed with a fractured pelvis. He is now convalescing. Ge to enquire if ARC can provide any assistance for Mick.

**Membership:** Ge reported that the membership was stable – 50 ladies and 62 men. There were a total of 133 members including social and life, five up on last year.

Debbie asked if there was a membership strategy. Mandy - all C25K graduate become full members on graduation. Ge added that membership enquiries from EA are often regarding children, but there was no formal strategy. Also in the past the Rochdale Half and 10K were used to promote the club but these races no longer take place.

**Social Media:** Jen reported that there had been a massive increase in our FB page +74 and that we were getting more input from club members, particularly John Cox, Mandy for her C25K updates and Lou for the Close Park Relays. We have also been promoting the club 50 wins on our Media

pages. Jen also pointed out that we had 5 members included in the Guinness book of records for participating in the biggest Park Run.

Upcoming events that will be promoted are the Hopwood Trot and Eddie's Revenge.

**Couch to 5K Report:** Mandy reported that the programme was progressing well and that the FB book pages promoting the club and the C25K were very good, and the current intake of 14 C25K runners were good runners. Mandy pointed out that due to events at Heaton Park the date for the final 5K had been changed to 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Road Championship:** Craig reported that 5 events had taken place including marathons and the early 5K series. Dawn Anderson was leading the ladies, from Louise Butterworth in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jen Laptew in 3<sup>rd</sup>. 16 ladies have completed at least 1 event. For the men, Andy Smith leads from Steve Bibby, with Steve Vasiliou in 3<sup>rd</sup>. 26 men have completed 1 or more events.

Debbie asked why the previous meeting had agreed to maintain the ban on headphones and included bone conductors. EA permit of the use of Bone Conductor Headphone in competition, and that EA would not allow this unless Health & Safety and insurance had been had been looked into. Craig pointed out that whilst he had been in favour of lifting the ban at the previous meeting he had now changed his position in the light of people wearing headphones at training sessions and missing instructions and conversation.

**Fell Championship:** Two events had been held. In the ladies Championship Sandra McGrail leads from Cathie Murphy with Janine Jordan in 3<sup>rd</sup>. 5 Ladies have completed in one or more race. In the Men's Tony Walsh leads from Craig Sutherland with Stuart Litster in 3<sup>rd</sup>. 6 men have completed in one or more race.

**Relays:** We had 2 teams representing us at the Close Park Relays. Both teams of 4 ran brilliantly, with the men picking up a prize for the oldest cumulative age in the event. Mandy agreed it was a good event and said that we should get more teams in next year.

Coming up we have the Calderdale Relay and we are confident of getting a full turnout for 2 teams on the day.

**Cross Country Update SELCC AGM:** Craig gave his report. It was quite poorly attended. We agreed that we have the same format as last year – 3 races at Heaton Park and One at Marl Pits (shared with the Red Rose League). Talks are on going about a merger with Red Rose, and it must be said that moral was not too good with uncertainty over who the Officers might be for next year. Vince from Belle Vue is trying to identify other venues such as Boggart Hole Clough.

**Club Event Reports:** Craig reported that Eddie's Revenge was going as planned and that Cathie had let him know that Hopwood Trot was OK.

The Club Handicap still needed organising – Craig to follow up with Mandy.

There was a discussion on the use of the megaphone at the award ceremony. Alternative pa to be explored.

Discussion on top 3 finishers not getting awarded best in age Cat. Agreed only 1 prize per person.

**Training Updates:** All training sessions were going well.

**Club Venue & Christmas Party:** Mandy reported that there was a possibility of using the New Inn as a training base. She also reported that she had had unfavourable feedback from on the previous Christmas Party and as a result would not be organising the coming one. Debbie volunteered to organise the coming one in December.

**Trophies:** Ge reported that a number of Road Race & Cross Country Trophies had not been collected. Rather than collect large trophies for engraving and re-distributing, why not give 1 small

trophy which the winners would keep in perpetuity? Some samples were passed round and it was agreed that the Mirage Multisport Trophy was preferred. Purchase cost plus engraving would be less than current practice without the grief of collecting them each year.

**Club 50 Draw:** April - Steve Bassam, May – Christine Eckersley.

**AOB:** Ge has a list of XC winners dating back to 1982 which will be useful for the Roll of Honour.

**Next Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 19:30 Crowcroft Drive.