

Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 19th November 2024

Crowshaw Drive

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

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

Minutes: Agreed

Matters Arising: Craig to send Ge details for Amy Jones and Saarah Hashmi – new members.

Correspondence: England Athletics request for review of Policies & Procedures. Craig to review and document.

Community Events- Rochdale Council – Jen to monitor.

Northern Athletics Affiliation Letter – to be discussed under XC.

Chairman's Report: N/A.

Finance: Steve reported that cheques had been paid out recently and that the report would need amending in the light of this. Overall the finances were down approx £418 on the same time last year. Money had been expended on coaches (£735), but the club remains £6,000 in credit.

Membership: Ge reported that we had seven new members - Mishka Pillay, Jack Dawson, Paul Murray, Joe Henderson, Olivia Spencer, Saarah Hasmi, Amy Jones. Membership now stood at 59 Ladies, 71 men, 19 Social & Life members. The Club was 1 man down and 12 Ladies down on last year.

There was a discussion on the future funding requirements of the club and the difficulties of keeping track of subscriptions when multiple purchases are grouped together under one payment. Steve pointed out that increasing the membership fee to £20 would only take it to parity with 2019. Jen pointed out that inflation had eaten into the club's finances eg. Trophy costs etc.

There was a consensus that the annual membership fee should be increased to £24, Social £4 and EA £20.

Craig to update the Website.

Social Media: Jen reported that Julie Burrows had reduced her charges to the club for the Hopwood Trot and that she advised that a fixed price was a better option than "per -runner" fees.

A FAQ page was now live on our website.

Upon investigating the use of the former Scout Hut on Long St as a Club House the Council pointed out that it was not available due to being in poor repair. There was discussion on the possibility of linking in with the Jumbo Social Centre on Grimshaw Lane.

Jen would continue to pursue funding from Yourtrustrochdale and linked funding groups such as cash4clubs.

The Social Page and Club50 draws were being updated regularly and work was on-going on publishing the Race rules..

Jen was doing further Social Media Training this week and asked that she be made an Administrator of the club WhatsApp Group. This was agreed.

It was agreed that the Club House item be taken off the agenda but people were asked to keep alert to any opportunities.

AGM: Ge would contact the Ring O Bells with the intention of hosting the AGM there. It was agreed that we hold the AGM on Tuesday, 11th Feb 2025.

Road Championship: Craig reported that the Road Championship selection would take place on 23rd November. There was a discussion on the use of Cowm Res series and Sale Sizzlers - would it be possible to use a combination of the two? Cowm gets the better attendance but Sale is usually seen as a faster more competitive event. There was an argument put forward to keep the series all at the same venue to keep the terrain consistent.

Mandy asked that Bury 10K not be included as this was part of the C25K development.

All points would be considered in the selection.

There was a discussion on "Countback" and "Head to Head" (in that order) to separate equal points in the Championship. It was agreed that the current system be continued – Best of 5 with countback being used to separate runners in the first instance (sixth race being the decider etc and then head to head (the runner with the highest position when the two runners have competed in the same race if there is still a draw.)

Fell Championship: Race Selection will take place in the New Year.

Cross country: There was discussion on cut-off times in MACC events and making runners aware of them.

Relays: There was a discussion on promoting involvement in relays and team events. Northern Athletics put on inter club events in the North which are more accessible than National events. Steve pointed out that the cost of affiliation was based on EA registered members and would cost £136. It was agreed to affiliate. Ge would contact Northern and affiliate.

Club Events: Cathie reported that the Hopwood Trot was open to entries. Craig reported that Eddies revenge was now listed on FRA site. Craig would contact Gina at Bowlee re: Club Handicap and also review the course.

Training: Mike Grimshaw has requested that he do the LiRF course and that the club reimburse his costs c£160. Agreed.

Presentation Evening: Ge reported that the the Presentation Evening will be held at Manchester Golf Club, Rochdale Road on Saturday, 25th January. There was a discussion on menu options and it was agreed that that the Steak & Ale Pie and Cheese & Onion Pie be the options at a cost of £20 approx. People were to state their preference via E-Mail of let Cathie know.

Xmas Party: Mandy reported that the Xmas party wouls cost £80 for the room and have a buffet and DJ.

Club 50 Draw: October- Mike Pyle. November: Clair Sproson.

AOB: There was a brief discussion on trophies and whether the club award trophies to be kept in perpetuity. To be on agenda at AGM.

Boxing Day Run: To take place at Hopwood at 11:00 – Cathie to arrange. Craig reported that he had no information as yet regarding the Club place in the London Marathon. It was noted that it was the same date and M/Cr Marathon.

Next Meeting: 14th Jan 7:30pm at Crowshaw Dr.