



Minutes AGM Wednesday 21st October 2015

Apologies: 50 members

With over 100 members in attendance the meeting was quorate.

Chairman's Opening Comments and welcome:

Tom welcomed members to the meeting in this our 30th year as a running club. It has been an eventful year. Tom extended his thanks to Mike Hughes for the Strawberry evening; to Jon for the summer Sports Day; to Paul for the Pennine Way relays; to Jules for designing the 30th anniversary T shirts and the buffs and to Allan for the graded mile. Still to come is the Lumiere event and the Christmas handicap. The Open Meeting in July gave members the opportunity to air their concerns over recent events which are now resolved. Tom thanked the committee for their steadfast support over the year and to Kerry, Steph and Pam who stood in at short notice for committee roles which had become vacant.

1. Matters arising from the Minutes 2014

There being no matters arising the minutes were considered to be read and accepted by the meeting.

2. Election of Officers

Ballot papers were distributed to members on arrival and were counted after the meeting. Lesley Charman oversaw the count to ensure the count was accurate. The outcome was very close – Fiona Kinghorn-Jones was voted as Female Club Captain and Penny Browell was voted as Female Vice Captain.

3. Role of Coaching Co-ordinator/ track Captains

Allan Seheult proposed that we create a more substantial role of coaching co-ordinator to oversee all areas of coaching within the club, to look at opportunities for members of all abilities and to cover a wide range of running genres. Considerable discussion followed and the proposal was largely accepted by the club with 8 abstentions. Nominations will be made at a later date and there will be an e-mail vote.

Geoff Davis proposed that we create the role of Track Captain(s) on the same basis as the XC captains – i.e. non-committee roles. The success of Allan's track sessions on a Wednesday, the graded mile and the possibility of extending that formally to include Mondays for some of the year has had an impact on the interest in Track & Field. Such roles may prevent talented runners from joining other clubs so that they can enter Track/Field Events. An interest was expressed in this by Katy Walton and once again nominations will be made at a later date and voting will be by e-mail.

4. Officers' Reports

Treasurer's report –The club is in a healthy position financially. We have £9000 in funds. Michael's report will be published as an attachment to these minutes. The club thanked Michael for his work as treasurer.

Captain's report – Paul outlined the highlights of the year. 150 races have been run; over a dozen marathons some completed in under 3 hours; a wide range of disciplines have been included – relays including Calderdale, Signals, Cathedral and some Fell. Lots of road races including Blaydon, Brampton & GNR. The Aykley heads XC was a triumph for local clubs. Susan Davis completed the Joss Naylor Challenge, seven members did Ultra events for the first time while others competed in some extremely difficult fell runs. Over 100 people took part in the Pennine Way event.

Website officer – Since 2006 there have been 1542 reports. The busiest month was June 2012 with 30. Dave Robson is the most prolific contributor with 181 reports.

XC Captains – There has been an increase in participation in XC all over the country. For Striders a record 100+ runners took part. More runners are achieving fast and medium pack status. 76 ran at Aykley Heads. The women were 5th in the league. For the men it was tougher but they avoided relegation and were actually first team at Alnwick. Members will dig deep this season. The highlight was AH last year – the build-up and the atmosphere on the day was wonderful. Feedback was great for what was the toughest course. The Alan Purves trophy will be awarded at AH. 11 runners took part in the Nationals, 14 at the Northerns and 26 at the NE Championships. We were well represented at the NE Masters. The Wednesday Out and About sessions are well attended as well as Monday lunchtimes. Geoff names 2 people who have stood out – Mike Hughes and Sarah Davies.

C25K Co-ordinator – This has been running since 2013 to encourage new runners. There have been 4 courses this year – 3 Saturday courses with 25 runners. There are now 2 courses on Wednesdays and Saturdays which have attracted 30/40 new people. These people may go on to join the club. Neil & Lisa have since done the LiRF qualification and are now leading C25K groups with a different Strider helper each Saturday. Move into Sport funding has been achieved - £1000 which is paying for LiRF training. Kate has been developing leaders this year to spread the load. C25K is not enough necessarily to give people the confidence to join a club hence the 5to10K course. In addition there is a 5K improvers course. This work is recognised by EA and Kate is now working with them to develop work place running leaders.

5. **Monday Nights at MC -**

Pam and Allan met with Quentin and Katie Taylor at MC on 8th Oct to discuss our current provision and to consider the possibility of using MC on Monday nights. Our current fee of £4000 had to be raised to £5000 because of the increase of our membership. £4000 was for a maximum of 250 full members. Mondays is an option for 30 weeks of the year – i.e. excluding the Autumn and Spring term but from the end of March through to the 2nd week in October we could use the centre on Mondays (as well as the short time between autumn and spring terms). This would be for an additional £2500. So £7500 based on a membership of 300 would increase the membership to £43. Into that is also included a £1 raise in EA fees from £12 to 3£13 a year. The MC fee works out at less than 50p per week. The club voted in favour of this. The new management of the Duke of Wellington have asked us to stop using their car-park as a meeting venue for Monday night running, as non-paying customers.

6. **Membership numbers**

The club now has 357 members including associate and 2nd claim members. Should there be a cap on membership since we have around 12 new members per month? Parking is an issue at MC as is capacity for them. With ever increasing numbers running groups could become too

big and so could have safety issues. Houghall was suggested as a parking alternative. It was agreed that this needs to be voted on by the whole club.

7. Clubmark/ Affiliated club Status

Paul referred to the committee's recent meeting with Andy, Acting Chair of DCH and their experience of Clubmark – more necessary for clubs with a junior section. Whilst Affiliated Club Status (in our case) gives us access to funding streams, it does impose certain responsibilities upon us. We could choose to ignore some of the ratios – coach/LiRF to runners in a training group (Max 1 to 12) but if it's worth doing it should be done properly. We don't have the coaches or LiRFs across the wide range of abilities to staff this. We need qualified first aiders – GPs don't count – as well as trained welfare officers. The general overall advantage to the club was questioned. The main costs to us would be in training. When put to club the main body voted against it at the moment. 5 people abstained

8. Social events

A formal Awards Dinner? This could be very expensive -£60 a head was quoted. David Shipman suggested hiring a hall with a disco and a more casual atmosphere with a band and a few beers. This was well-received. The idea of a social committee was raised but it was observed that all members are free to organise anything they like at the moment. Burns night was suggested as a possibility for the awards night.

9. Facebook – This was set up 4 years ago and has been a huge success with few problems.

However if someone is blocked then they cannot read the messages which may exclude them from something. An admin can read but cannot comment. The rule for this group is to be nice and respectful to others. Threads do meander and can cause problems. The last resort would be to remove someone from the group. It was added that FB is a public forum and members should think about the club's reputation.

10. London Marathon Numbers – These were won by the following people. Andrew Davies, Jane Freeman, Kate McPherson, Christine Farnsworth and Camilla Lauren-Maata. Reserves are Aaron Gourley, Greta Jones, Lesley Charman, Jane Ives and Lucy Herkes.

11. Runners of the Year – Stephen Jackson and Penny Browell, Most improved Runners of the year – Neil Jennings and Kelly Collier.

Meeting closed at 10pm