

Minutes of Macclesfield Harriers & AC Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th January 2016

Chaired by Neil Gunn

Time: 20:15

Venue: Athletics Club House

Attendees: Nicola Tasker (NT), Kevin Ranshaw (KR), Barry Blyth (BB), Bob Lynch (BL), Daisy Pickles (DP), James Noakes (JN), Alison Gunn (AG), Neil Gunn (NG), Keith Mulholland (KM), Barbara Murray (BM), Tracey Porritt (TP).

Apologies: Brian Macfadyen, Julian Brown, Scott Wilson

1) **Agreement of previous Meeting's Minutes** – already approved

2) **Correspondence (TP)** – all forwarded

3) **Club Membership Update (JB & NG)**

NG reported that Julian (Membership Secretary) had emailed a report to the committee outlining how many members we have and statistics on the male/female ages and split between the two. It seems we have an exact 50/50 split between male and female members. NG asked if everyone was happy with the membership plan discussed last year to be executed this year, which is to get reminders out in the 'GO Magazine' a month before the membership is due. Membership renewal forms have been updated for 2016 and any new members could pay now and get 15 months for the price of 12. The EA part would be from 1 April 2016. BL did say that at the moment we do not have a lot of U17 and junior members as they appear to drop off when they go to university. NG did say that he felt this was not the same across the county, where clubs have Universities local to them.

4) **Finance (NG)**

NG has forwarded a summary of the club accounts for the end of December 2015, and commented that the funds are basically the same this year. One exception was that a lot of money had been paid to England Athletics more than in previous years. Club profit/net plus this year would be lower than in previous years but everything was paid for. BL commented that we have been more successful in getting people to sign up. NG agreed absolutely. NG said that he had now completed the 'year-end' (with help from Chris Bentley) and all the paperwork, reports and spreadsheets are ready to submit to Harts. This will be done early February when they have had time to review the accounts. NG said that he expects to have them signed off before the AGM in March. BL did stress that the income raised by the Leisure Centre, did not cover the upkeep and maintenance of the facility. KR did suggest an option to increase track fees. NG said that we had raised track fees from £2.00 to £2.50 and that we should hold at this price for the agreed 3 years. KR stated that this option finishes in June 2016 and that the committee could review the fees then. This was agreed by the committee.

5) Club AGM – (NG/Committee)

NG is going to confirm our booking at Bollington Arts centre for 18 March 2016. NG wanted to confirm arrangements for food saying that he would like to keep it the same as last year with disposable items to keep the cost down. 130 people were catered for last year so NG asked 'do we keep it the same'. The committee decided to order the same food as last year. NG did say that if we have more than 130 attendees that the venue may have to be moved in future years as the Arts Centre cannot accommodate any more people from a health and safety aspect, as Philip Barnes who has helped in previous years has expressed concern regarding the number of people attending. The committee decided to review after this year.

6) The Awards – Who is doing what this year with regard to presenting and engraving of trophies? BL said we would need a sub-group meeting, (Thursday 25 February 2016 at 20:00) to discuss how to deal with all the categories. BL did say that he was prepared to take the trophies for engraving but needed the section heads to decide on the names of the winners and also to present them at the AGM. Also some thought would have to be given to the 'Special Awards' category. Section heads would need to initiate this and inform BL by the end of February the recipients of these awards. BB reported that the Fell Section awards are organised. KR asked who would lead the AGM and BL said he would.

7) Club Development Plan 2016-2021 – Approval BM

BM thanked everyone for their input and said that the document had been updated following input from all the different sections. This is now a good working document and various meetings would be taking place to start implementing the plan, for example, the coaches are meeting next week to discuss. If the committee were happy about the direction in which the plan was going approval was being sought to share this document with the Everybody Sport and Leisure Trust. The plan would need to be updated regularly and perhaps could be launched at the forthcoming AGM – to raise awareness of the plan. NG asked the committee for approval. This was granted. NG then asked about launching the document on the website before the AGM to inform members of the documents existence with an accompanying article. BL will inform members at the AGM that there is a new development plan and thank all who contributed to it. The committee agreed that the sooner more people knew about the plan the more all sections of the club could get involved.

8) C25K – NG Course 4 Approval

NG informed the committee that a new C25K course was planned for the spring but that he would not be able to run it as NG did not have the capacity or the energy for another course. Fortunately E Group has decided that they are going to run it. Jenny Airey (E Group leader) has said she will take the overall lead, supported by other E Group leaders starting in April finishing in June and culminating in a Park Run at Congleton. The committee approved the new course for 25 novices.

9) Track and Relay Event- (AG)

AG informed the committee that DP and Nina Moss had organised a very successful event last year in January and proposed that we organise another one sometime this year. DP said it was a good idea as other club members had asked her if an event was going to be organised this year. AG offered to co-organise it and asked the committee for help with this. BL and DP offered their help as did TP. NG asked about a possible date. DP suggested April as long as it did not clash with other events and races. BL suggested the weekend April 16 and 17 as this was the only free weekend and asked Alison to ensure that the track was free and to book. AG will check this as the committee approved this event.

10) Sport Relief 1/3/6 Mile - (BL)

BL informed the committee that every year there had been a Sports Relief run for 1, 3 and 6 miles. We have never been involved before but BL thought we should accommodate it this year as it would give the club an opportunity to showcase the facilities we offer. It would not take a lot of organising as all entries would be online and it would be a case of turning up on the day to run the chosen option. At the present time BL said that he had filled in two application forms online to see if we will be accepted as one of the venues. KR said that assuming we are accepted it would showcase the club and revenue would come in from the sale of food and drink and this would probably cover the track fee costs. JN suggested that it may be a good idea to contact Sainsbury's who are heavily involved in Sports Relief to see if they could help with our costs and/or food. KR did not think that Sainsbury's would help out but something to think about. BL said that he would need help and the idea is to run the 1 mile on the track, the 3 miles round the outside lanes of the track and the 6 mile would have to be run outside the track altogether on a route that did not require road management. KR asked about the age-range allowed. NG responded that all details are on the website. The committee have approved the Sport Relief runs that will take place on Sunday 20 March 2016. Subsequent to the meeting our application to host has been approved and the event was now live.

11) Navigation Course (NG) – On behalf of Phil Cheek from Fell section

NG informed the committee that Phil Cheek has offered to host a day's navigation course. Not a lot of details are available as yet but the idea would be to hold the classroom based basics (possibly at St Dunstan Inn, Langley) in the morning then move outside for practical activity. JN asked if it was for beginners or intended for people who had basic knowledge. NG said it was for beginners and it would be simple and safe for all who attended. The committee approved this course.

12) 401 Challenge (NG) – (11 January 2016 and 11 April 2016)

NG informed the committee that everything was organised for Bens visit on Monday 11 January. David Rutley MP would be available to start the run along with Silk FM and The Macclesfield Express. There would be a pop up café available for food and we have donated the clubhouse for the event. DP suggested giving him presents from the club and NG informed the committee that it was in hand and clothing and a 'goody box' would be given. Everyone is looking forward to meeting Ben and at 9:30am Ben would start the run with

school children running with him for the first mile. Ben would also be giving a talk on school bullying which is what the 401 challenge is all about. BL spoke about donations to this worthy cause and felt as a club we should also donate. An amount of £100 was agreed to be given for the charity. BB suggested we use this event to promote the Macclesfield half-marathon. Everybody was in agreement with this. NG did say that he would advise about the April run nearer the time but it would likely be very similar, maybe a few changes.

13) Track and Field and Sports hall (KR)

KR reported that track and field is quiet through the winter but the new fixture list is up and covers all this year's fixtures. We are hosting the Cheshire and Greater Manchester track and field championships this year in May. A prestigious event covering 2 days 14 and 15 May. The Saturday would probably be busier but both days will have a good attendance. As it is a county event they would be doing the organising with assistance from us on the track. BL concluded that we would need volunteers in a variety of roles from catering to admin. NG said we should document the needs required and do some publicity in line with the development plan. KR also reminded the committee that we would be hosting 3 track and field events during the summer June, July and September and volunteers would again be needed in a variety of roles.

Indoor Sports Hall League - KR advised that there are 3 fixtures in the league in October, November and December 2015. The top five go through to the finals in Widnes on 24 January 2016.

U11 Girls came 3rd will be at the final

U11 Boys came 4th will be at the final

U13 Girls came 4th will be at the final

U13 Boys - no one competed

U15 Girls - no one competed

U15 Boys - just 1 athlete who was unable to amass sufficient points to reach the final.

KR did say that we do have a chance to achieve top spots but other teams are very strong and the aim this year is to improve our league position.

14) Cross Country (JN/DP)

JN informed the committee that he would be stepping down from his role as Cross Country manager, but will carry on until the end of the season. Rob Hasler has expressed an interest in taking over. BL asked if Rob had definitely confirmed this and JN said he would speak to him and get full confirmation. DP said that she thought Scott and Rob would probably share the role with help from her. JN offered to draw up a list of detailed activities associated with the role to make the handover as smooth as possible. BL suggested a job description should be available and NG said he would put one together to pass to JN's successor. BL thanked James for his hard work over the past 3 years and wished him good luck in his new job.

JN discussed the batch entry system online and reported having difficulties with this. Fortunately if the seniors inputted their own entries it would ease the pressure.

15) Road Running (KM/DP)

KM reported that races have been well attended with the following numbers.

Langley 7 - 41

Preston 10 - 20

Newcastle 10k - 10

It was particularly pleasing to get a good turn-out at Preston as it has been the furthest race away from Macclesfield. The 2016 Club Championship races have been announced on the website. For 2015 Mark Walker won the men's title (Ray O'Keefe, men's vet champion). Daisy Pickles won the ladies title with Alison Gunn the ladies vet champion.

After some discussion in December, the scoring system for the Club Champs has been modified to give bonus points for inter-club competition races (Cheshire Grand Prix and NW Road Relays). This is to encourage participation in these races and raise the profile of the club. Handicap prizes will also be awarded on the basis of positions in the Cheshire Grand Prix Handicap Competition, as well as prizes for the most points in the championship.

Over 30 harriers have signed up for the next race in the Club Champs and Cheshire Grand Prix – 4 Villages Half Marathon. BL wanted to know what the committee thought about the possibility of doing a joint 10 mile race with Wilmslow, as there is no 10 mile race in Cheshire at the moment. The committee agreed to pursue this option.

16) Fell Running (BB)

BB reported a successful year in terms of participation. A big contributor was 'novices' having a go at their first Fell Race. There were plenty of races to have a go at. The full details will be posted on the website and in 'GO Magazine'. BL asked if the winners of the fell awards had been confirmed. BB said they had.

17) Statistics (NT)

NT mentioned corrections on certain categories regarding age group claims. BL said that the ruling is that you can only claim a record for the age group you are competing in, for example someone can claim a record for the high jump for the age group they are in and it can be a better record than the senior's record but they cannot claim both. NT did say that Rachael was going to go through the claim records and see where the double records had occurred.

18) Publicity (SW)

DP reported on behalf of SW that there was nothing to update. NG did say that there was some publicity going on but more was needed and asked if Scott (given that he was very busy with exams) wanted to continue or should we look for someone else to volunteer their services in this area. We could put an advert in the 'GO Magazine'. DP did say that it would be appropriate to do so.

19) Any other business

AG said that she had been looking into options for printing of the 'Go!' Magazine. Alison has identified that we can now have the magazine printed in full colour for the same price as Black and White. The committee agreed to change printers for the magazine.

Date and Time of next meeting: Thursday 7th April 2016 at 08:15PM

Chair: Keith Mulholland (KM)

