

Minutes of Macclesfield Harriers & AC Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th April 2016

Chaired by Keith Mulholland

Time: 20:15

Venue: Athletics Club House

Attendees: Kevin Ranshaw (KR), Barry Blyth (BB), Alison Gunn (AG), Neil Gunn (NG), Keith Mulholland (KM), Barbara Murray (BM), Jenny Airey (JA), Wendy Boardman (WB), Tracey Porritt (TP).

Apologies: Brian Macfadyen (BMac), Rob Hasler (RH), Ray O'Keefe (RO'K), Julian Brown (JB), Scott Wilson (SW), Nicola Tasker (NT), Bob Lynch (BL), Daisy Pickles (DP).

- 1) **Agreement of previous Meeting's Minutes** – already approved
- 2) **Correspondence (TP)** – all forwarded
- 3) **Club Membership Update (JB & NG)**

KM reported that Julian (Membership Secretary) had sent an update. NG said that he had processed £3,500 membership fees and that Julian has a pile of cheques that are yet to be banked. KM replied that Julian was going to pay them all into the bank and his intention was to tick through the list of members and send reminders to the ones who had not paid. New signing in sheets will be provided that KR has requested, so that when people come in to sign off on their name, if they are not on the sheet then they have not paid.

4) Finance (NG)

NG has sent a summary of the club accounts for the end of March 2016.

NG reported that this year it was likely that the clubs expenditure would exceed income, but he felt that there was no need to worry unduly as the club has reserves and the money should be spent on the club as intended on coaching and training. KR commented that hire charge for the track was due to go up this month, and that track income varied from quarter to quarter for e.g. January would normally have cancellations due to poor weather but that had not happened this year, summer months were quieter due to holidays. NG said that the club has adequate reserves to cover the potential shortfall this year. KR did agree that it was not a problem but this was the first time that expenditure would exceed income and would not want that to continue to happen. NG will be using the club card to pay athletics fees in instalments rather than one large sum which will ensure more control over expenditure. NG then asked JA and WB if they would like a copy of the accounts summary when he sends them out monthly and TP to put them on the circulation list for the committee.

5) Tenure of T&F Facility – (BL & KM)

KM reported that he and Bob had discussed a situation that had occurred at the Leisure Centre with regard to the swimming lessons. KR said that MASC (Macclesfield Amateur Swimming Club) had provided swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre either free or at a reduced rate, and provided the coaches to take those lessons. Everybody Sport has now said that they want to teach and use their own coaches and charge a fee. The amateur swimming club has said no because a) it might put the swimming lessons out of some families reach and b) it is a big part of the swimming clubs income, and chances are that the club will not be able to exist anymore, so BL's concern is that maybe the same thing may happen to athletics. KR is confident that they will not want to get involved with the Harriers and the coaching facilities. JA asked who owns the track. KR responded that Cheshire East Council but they have set up Everybody Sport and Leisure Trust a charitable company to run the eleven or so Leisure centres within the Trust. KR also said that there were certain items on the track and in the clubhouse that needed attention and so the question is 'who will be paying for the repairs and replacements, Cheshire East or Everybody Sport and Leisure. KM said that Bob had spoken to the Leisure Centre Manager and it had been agreed that a meeting would take place once a year to discuss what needed to be done to keep the track in good condition. NG did stress that we rent the clubhouse and the track so as such it should be 'fit for purpose', and maintaining good relations was in everybody's interest.

6) Club AGM - NG reported a very successful evening and has booked the Bollington Arts Centre for next year on March 24th 2017. The committee approved this date.

7) Club Development Plan 2016-2021 – Approval BM

BM thanked everyone for their input and said that the document was continually being updated. As it is a large document BM suggested for members to have a look at it to see what has been updated in each section. A lot has been done in terms of volunteers attending coaching courses, contact with schools has started, and coaching clinics are beginning for adults as well as children. We still have not got a volunteer co-ordinator yet. NG suggested using 'Dropbox' to help with updating the document as it can be sent to the different section heads and they can update and forward the document back with ease as there is a lot going on and this would make it easy for members to access the document.

8) New Group Leaders/Coaches – (NG)

NG asked the committee to approve courses for new group leaders/coaches, a budget of £2,000 would be needed this year. The new people being trained are as follows:-

Anna Carey and Simon Frith ... any carry over from the full coach qualifications they undertook in 2015.

Barbara Murray.... online and assessments to achieve Event Group Coach Status £150.

Jonny Plumb/Rose McCormick/Sue Spencer... coaching assistants course x 3 at £180 each

Emma Mason/Kim Eastham/Damian Lacey/Karen Anderson Group Leader course x 4 at £160 each.

The committee approved the spending.

NG wanted to discuss the Wilmslow Half Marathon with regard to the donation we get for helping marshal the event. NG proposed we pass the money back to the Trust for the young man's family that died running the Wilmslow Half Marathon, so the club will not benefit from that donation. The committee approved this proposal.

9) Track and Relay Event – (AG) Saturday 16th April

AG informed the committee that everything is in place for the event and the track has been booked. KR reminded members that the track and field event booked for the afternoon would mean that the relay event would need to be finished by 12:15pm. AG assured the committee that as the relay had been brought forward slightly, the event would be finished in plenty of time before the afternoon session. NG said that money raised on the day would be given to Louise Brown who is running the London Marathon this year for Rossendale Trust. AG also stated that the club would be funding prizes for the first team.

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

NG reported that the Sport Relief day was very successful; club literature was handed out on the day, excellent turn-out. KR said the event took place every two years and this was our first year hosting this event.

11) 401 Challenge (NG) – (11 April 2016)

NG informed the committee that everything was organised for Ben's second visit and would be more popular than his first, media coverage, 100 school children from various local schools all keen to run, at least 150 people on the track. The track and the clubhouse have been offered for use for no-charge for the day.

12) Track and Field and Sports hall (KR)

KR reported that the Indoor Sportshall has finished. Just the National Final is left – over the same weekend as the relay/track and field mini event – 16 April 2016. Cheshire did not qualify.

Cheshire and Greater Manchester County championships are weekend 14 and 15 May 2016. This will be a very busy weekend as they are at Macclesfield.

In the Northern League we have gone up a division so competition will be strong. Fixtures start in May.

Following a mid-table finish in the Youth Development league (YDL) for the last 3 seasons we aim to at least equal this position this year, but ideally better it. The first match is 23 April at Leigh.

The Cheshire Track and Field League starts this weekend (10 April) at Warrington. 21 teams will contest the league this year and we hope for a top three place.

NG asked about the volunteer situation for the events hosted by the club. JA offered assistance through E Group. KR thanked JA, but advised most home fixtures were quite a way off yet. Catering help will be the first requirement on the weekend of 14/15 May.

13) Cross Country (JN/DP) No report, nothing happening at the moment

14) Road Running (RO'K/DP)

KM informed the committee that RO'K had sent a report as follows:-

I would like to thank Keith Mulholland for making the transition to Road Running Manager very easy for me and to thank Keith for all his hard work at this position. As Keith has already set everything up for the 2016 road running season, my main role will be to maintain communication about road running between myself, race organisers, road runners and any other outside parties. I have already approached a number of race organisers to ask them to keep me up to date with our road running championship races so I can communicate any important information to road runners like entry levels. These communication links should also be useful for promoting our own races. I plan to maintain the monthly road running update started by Keith via the club website, email and the club Facebook page. One idea would be to liaise with running group leaders about organising practice runs on some of the road running championship race courses where this is possible.

Participation has been very high in the first four road running championship races with runners at all levels taking part. In addition, many runners are regularly participating in local Park runs, especially the junior runners who may not be able to participate in some of the longer road races. As the road running season ramps up to its peak in the summer it is hoped that these high participation levels will be maintained.

15) Fell Running (BB)

BB has sent his report out; this will be available to read on the website. KR asked if BB would consider attending a training evening to talk to the younger club members about what's involved in Fell Running to encourage participation. BB said he would happily come along to give advice and encouragement. BB did say that there was a lack of people to take them out, as it was very controlled up to the age of 18. NG asked if there was anyone who would be interested on taking a leading role on and be prepared to take the EA course. BB will look into it.

16) Statistics (NT)

NT report as follows; Barbara and Rachael have sent an updated Records list to NT with amendments. NT has received a few record claims so they will be added to the list and updated.

17) Publicity (SW)

NG informed the members that Scott was really busy, there is information going in the local paper and Facebook, RO'K has started to do articles and RH is quite prolific, so things are happening, just not in a managed way.

Any other business

a) **London Marathon** – NG informed the committee that a club member, Sean Connolly who is running for the Stroke Association has asked us if we could promote his 'Just Giving' page on the club website. We also have two or three other members that are running for different charities and therefore should we do nothing, or put them all on our web page. It was decided by the committee that we would put all the marathon runners under one article on our webpage with a link to their 'Just Giving' page.

b) **Go Magazine** – NG advised the committee that a meeting had taken place with the new printers and the price will be about the same as last time and we are close to buying the software. All members agreed that the magazine was looking very professional especially now that it was in colour. The presentation was exceptionally good. The only problem was that the magazine would have to be ordered in 100.s so there would be too many but it was felt that we could distribute the remainder around different practices i.e. doctors surgeries, dentists, primary schools, John Honey etc.

c) **Road Running Group Structure** – NG would like to have a meeting with the road group leaders to discuss the structure of the groups as it was felt the way the groups are designed to work is not happening. The group leaders need to operate the runs within the guidelines of the club rules. KM agreed to speak to RO'K to arrange a leader meeting. KR suggested that it is really up to the leaders to get together and that the groups should have a proposed structure and put this forward to the committee, especially if we are looking for runners to progress then it is necessary to streamline the groups. NG also said that some of the leaders were not fully qualified and had let their licences expire. BL is chasing this up as the welfare officer.

d) **Headphones in Races** – The new UKA rulebook has come into force as of 1 April 2016 and amongst the new rules it states that 'headphones are now banned in any road race where the roads are not wholly closed to traffic. And even then may be banned if the organiser so chooses'. NG shared his concerns over the new ruling as we can strongly recommend no earphones but cannot take responsibility for this, as the marshals would find this very difficult to police. It does clearly state on entry forms that earphones should not be worn, so participants in races cannot say that have not seen it. BL has reported that he is strongly in favour of this ruling. The committee did not have a resolution to the problem at this time.

Date and Time of next meeting: Thursday 9th June 2016 at 08:15PM

Chair: Keith Mulholland (KM)