

Minutes of Macclesfield Harriers & AC Committee Meeting

Thursday 9th June 2016

Chaired by Keith Mulholland

Time: 20:15

Venue: Athletics Club House

Attendees: Kevin Ranshaw (KR), Alison Gunn (AG), Neil Gunn (NG), Keith Mulholland (KM), Nicola Tasker (NT), Rob Hasler (RH) Jenny Airey (JA), Wendy Boardman (WB), Tracey Porritt (TP).

Apologies: Brian Macfadyen (BMac), Ray O'Keefe (RO'K), Julian Brown (JB), Scott Wilson (SW), Barry Blyth (BB), Bob Lynch (BL), Daisy Pickles (DP), Barbara Murray (BM).

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

No update from Julian sent this month. NG reported that we still have 100 plus members that have not, as yet paid to renew their membership. These members would still be able to compete up to 1 July 2016 but after that time despite the club doing everything it could to encourage people to renew, it seemed the best course of action would be to delete them from the database. KR agreed and did say that if they came back at any-time we could resurrect there membership. The committee agreed to have the non-payers removed from the database.

- 4) **Finance (NG)**

NG has sent a summary of the club accounts for the end of May 2016. The next update would not be until the end of July due to holidays. KR said that we were going to review the track fees, as in April 2013 it was agreed that they would be reviewed in three years. Last year the fees were up a little and this enabled money to be transferred to the development plan. The committee agreed to keep the track fees at £2.50 and review in a years' time.

- 5) **Macclesfield Half Marathon**

NG informed the committee that the course for the half marathon was going to be re-measured to ensure that it was accurate and within the guidelines. It would be started at a different point on the track if too short. All other aspects of race preparation are going well.

- 6) **C25K**

JA informed the committee that 14 people had finished the course with just the Congleton Park Run to complete on Saturday 11 June. A social evening was also planned on Wednesday 15 June at the Park Tavern to welcome all the new runners to the Harriers. NG thanked all the leaders of E Group for running the course and making it once again a great success.

A new C25K course was discussed; JA said that E Group leaders were happy to run another course at the end of August/September. WB said that they already had a list of new recruits and that generally new intakes recommended it to friends and the course would soon fill up. KR did say that September on the track was the busiest time of year, but as previous courses had been held at this time of year without problems the committee agreed another course with the fee being held at the same price of £40.00 per person.

7) Track and Field and Sports hall (KR)

KR reported that the Indoor Sportshall was due to re-commence in October.

KR reported second round matches have been held and we are scheduled to host the YDL and Northern League third rounds on 19 June and 3 July. The home territory may give the athletes a boost as at the moment the U13/15 are in relegation position.

The 2nd round of Track & Field would be held at Wrexham and we are currently around 3rd or 4th but KR had not seen the table. U11's are currently leading.

2 big matches to come on 10 July and 4 September. NG asked if help would be needed on any of the dates held at the track. KR thanked NG and said that catering assistance would be required and also on 4 September it would be all hands on deck with catering, scoring etc.

8) Cross Country (RH)

RH report as follows

Cross Country will begin this year with the first race in the North Staffs season on 1 October at Winsford. The North Staffs league are struggling to find a fourth venue which could mean that the season will be over three races. I hope that we can field a good team as we have the potential to place well in divisions. The Manchester league starts on 15 October 15 at Heaton Park. We have always managed to field a good team at these events and I hope that we can continue to do so this year.

For those interested in cross country racing, you do not need to be an 'elite' runner. These are great events suitable to all runners. Cross Country is where the vast majority of great runners start their careers largely due to the many benefits the low impact and undulating terrain offers. Cross Country is a team event with all runners scoring points for the team. It is free to enter and all you need is a pair of running shoes (fell or spikes ideally) and a passion for mud.

We hope to hold some taster sessions before the season for any runner wanting to experience a cross country event. If you are interested in racing this season please contact rhasler@gmail.com and I will set you up on our database.

Finally, I would like to thank James Noakes for his role as Cross Country Manager over the past few years. James encouraged me to join the harriers and I have learned a lot from his determination and passion for the sport. I look forward to taking over his role in the years to come.

9) Road Running (RO'K)

RO'K report as follows

Participation in road running events that are part of our Road Running Championship has continued to be strong with 21 runners at Mad Hatters 5M, 22 runners at Mid Cheshire 5k and 27 runners at Whitely 10k. Overall we have had 39 male runners and 51 female runners participate in at least one road race. I am providing monthly road running updates by email and the clubs website.

The Blaze Hill Glory Run in May, put on by Bramhall runners, was cancelled due to road closure issues. The race has now been replaced with another Bramhall Runners race, the Foodbank 5k on Wednesday 10 August to continue our support for this local club.

Neil Gunn, Keith Mulholland, Bob and I will meet with road running group leaders on 20 July to discuss issues like group structure, group dynamics, size of groups, and progression of runners between groups, defining group leader roles and first aid approaches for group sessions. Thanks to Neil and Keith for instigating the meeting.

NG wanted to talk about Forest 5 and indicated that a new organiser for this race was needed and it was felt that we could accommodate this particular race it being one of the smaller events. KR said he felt BL might not want to take it on for safety management reasons. A discussion with BL would be needed.

New Leaders for the running groups were discussed. NG put forward Emma Mason (C Group) and Lynda Cooke, Kim Eastham (D Group). JA put forward 2 members of E Group (D Lacey and L. Evans). These five new leaders will take the LiRF course in Macclesfield on 2 July 2016.

10) Fell Running (BB)

BB has sent his report out as follows:-

The recent Go magazine covers races up to the Rainow 5 on May 4th. A further six races including last night's Boars head race, Most of these have been reported on the website so briefly: Highlights have been some good turnouts with 34 at the Bollington 3 Peaks and 38 at the Wincle Trout. These were organised by Andy Skelhorn and Julian Brown with a lot of Harriers helping out with Marshalling etc. Our ladies are regularly picking up the team prize led by Angela Markley.

In addition to races Brian Jackson ran a fun orienteering event May 25th. 4 harriers are planning to have a go at the Bob Graham round in June and July. The challenge is to complete the round (66mls and 27000 ft) within 24 hours.

Julian Brown has sent a message wanting to thank everyone from the club who marshalled or helped out in anyway at the Wincle Trout Race, we had a full field of runners (so thanks to them as well) and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

11) Statistics (NT)

NT wanted to touch on a recent email sent by BL regarding club records. At the moment the rule is that a record can only be claimed for the age group in which the Athlete is competing. The question to be asked is 'if an athlete competes in a senior event and establishes a club record but also has a record distance in the same event can a record be claimed for both'. JB thinks that there shouldn't really be senior records. NT proposed not to make any changes, so it was agreed by the committee to carry on with the same ruling.

12) Publicity (SW)

NG informed the members that Scott was really busy, but the website was being updated and information is going in the local paper and Facebook.

Any other business

a) **Guide Running-** TP has received several inquiries as to the ability of Macclesfield Harriers to accommodate Guide Running. RNIB have clients that would like to run and use our facilities at the track. The question was also asked if we could supply guide runners. This was put to the committee and it was felt generally that it was a big commitment and that TP needed to gather more information about what would be required from us and what the RNIB are looking to achieve.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 8 September 2016 at 08:15PM