

Minutes of Macclesfield Harriers & AC Committee Meeting

Tuesday 15 November 2016

Chair: Keith Mulholland

Time: 20.15

Venue: Athletics Club House

Attendees: Bob Lynch (BL), Kevin Ranshaw (KR), Alison Gunn (AG), Neil Gunn (NG), Keith Mulholland (KM), Nicola Tasker (NT), Rob Hasler (RH), Ray O'Keefe (RO'K), Barbara Murray (BM), Tracey Porritt (TP).

Apologies: Brian Macfadyen (BMac), Barry Blyth (BB), Daisy Pickles (DP), Jenny Airey (JA), Wendy Boardman (WB).

- 1. Agreement of Previous Meeting's Minutes** - already agreed
- 2. Correspondence (TP)**- all forwarded
- 3. Club Membership Update and 2017/18 Fee (NG)**

NG reported that Julian Brown had sent a membership report for the latest 'GO' Magazine (due early December). We currently have 690 members. NG proposed that we hold the club annual membership fee at £16.00 with £14 extra for England Athletics affiliation (for 2017/18 season). The committee approved holding the membership fee at £16.00 and that will formally be approved at the AGM.
- 4. Finance (NG)**

NG has sent the monthly finance summary to members. NG said that we should have a surplus again this year. We have spent more money on coaching and training but not on equipment.
- 5. AGM - (Bollington Arts Centre 31/03/2017) (NG)**

NG has booked Bollington Arts Centre for our AGM meeting. Same format as last year, food included. A responsible person in charge of building and fire safety will be appointed nearer the time.
- 6a MADF (BM) – including Cheshire East survey of indoor facilities**

BM reported back on the indoor facility survey and recent interactions with Cheshire East by MADF (full report in GO magazine)

 - Cheshire East have commissioned a management consultancy (Knight Kavanagh and Page, KPP) to assess indoor sports facilities across Cheshire East. BM responded to the telephone survey by KPP on behalf of MHAC highlighting the strength of MHAC, the use of the existing outdoor facilities and the advantages an indoor athletics / multi sport facility would have on development of athletics in the Macclesfield area (for all regardless of ability or age).
 - MADF (Macclesfield Athletics Development Fund) continues to liaise with Cheshire East and Everybody Sport and Recreation to progress the indoor facility adjacent to the track. In the

most recent meeting the deputy leisure portfolio holder from Cheshire East was impressed with MADFs preparatory work on the design specification and costs, and also with the funds raised so far towards this. Next steps are to work with ESR to further refine the requirements, in parallel with Cheshire East's inclusion of the facility in the business plan in the next few months

6b MHAC Development Plan. BM provided an update on the progress of objectives and actions. Main points:

- **Participation:** Excellent progress is being made with increasing senior participation, but more work is required in encouraging U13s and U15s to participate in competitions (numbers in these groups are increasing at training sessions, but not translated into competitions).
- **Coaching:** Very good progress with increasing coaching base for T&F, more helpers always welcomed
- **Communication:** internal communication is very good via Facebook site and website in encouraging participation and sharing awareness of success across the club. More work required on external communication of MHAC - press officer needed to ensure regular coverage by Macclesfield Express
- **Volunteering:** great number of members volunteering, although more volunteers would reduce workload for others. Additional T&F officials would be very welcome for 2017 season

7. Club Officers (KM) – any changes

KM asked all committee members if they are prepared to carry on in their current roles.

NG said he would like to start to stand down as treasurer but would be happy to continue for 12 months or until a suitable volunteer could be found.

RH is happy to continue with the role of Cross Country Manager but the administration side was proving to much. KM asked RH if he had found anyone to help and BM offered advice that it might be an idea to ask individuals involved in Cross Country to take it in turns to help with reports. It was also suggested that club runners take responsibility for their own entries for races and payment.

KR informed the committee that he would be stepping down as Track & Field Manager and as of 31st March 2017 he would not be collecting track fees or putting together the fixture list. KR will also be stepping down as Indoor Sports-hall co-ordinator. KR did say that he and his wife would still officiate when they are available. Therefore 2017 will be KR's last season as Track & Field Manager.

We would like all club/family members to consider if they would like to volunteer to take on the roles of Club Treasurer and Track & Field Manager and/or Sports-hall Co-ordinator. NG and KR are very happy to help and support anyone wishing to take these positions. You can contact any committee or club member to offer your support or email secretary@macclesfield-harriers.co.uk Telephone: 07706 163120 and I will pass your details to the appropriate person.

8. Macclesfield Half Marathon – (KM)

KM attended the Macclesfield Half Committee post race meeting along with BL and NG. The race was very successful in raising £7,000 for the three chosen charities. The number of

runners for the half marathon was 562 compared to 655 in 2015, however the number of runners in the 5k had increased from 156 in 2015 to 221 this year. Mandy Calvert is happy to organise the race next year but the race committee does need to recruit new members in order for the event to go ahead. In particular, a new volunteer co-ordinator is required due to the resignation of NG.

The possibility of the club organising a new Langley based 10k race in spring 2017 was also briefly discussed. This will be investigated further.

9. Boxing Day Handicap – (NG)

NG asked the committee for approval for this club run. Same place St Dunstan and same rules and format as last year. Any donations to go to Rossendale Trust. The committee approved this run.

10. C25K – (NG)

NG apologised on behalf of JA and WB as they were unable to attend the meeting. WB lead the recent course with 23 graduating proving what a successful course this is. Approval for a new C25K course in the spring was sought which would be lead by JA and supported by WB. A new mid-week run for E Group was in the process of being organised to absorb the growing numbers. The committee approved a new course in spring 2017 at a cost of £40.00 per person, this does not include EA membership which can be purchased on completion of the course if desired.

11. Track & Field and Sports-hall (KR)

KR informed the committee that Track & Field events had finished and a report will be in 'GO Magazine. At the moment KR is preparing for next year so will continue in his position as he is the main contact point for the leagues. Three leagues next year:

YDL (Youth Development League) we will more than likely stay in the same division. 4 fixtures with Macclesfield Harriers hosting one of them.

The Northern League (Seniors), 4 fixtures – Trafford, Oldham, Preston and Crewe. We were relegated last year to Division 4 which consists of 8 teams.

The Cheshire Track & Field League – currently for all ages, any changes are unknown at the moment as the AGM meeting will not be held until December. There are 6 dates as to when the 4 fixtures might be. Macclesfield Harriers will more than likely host one of the fixtures.

The Championships should be in May 2017 in Warrington as Cheshire are organising there own championships.

Sports-hall – KR reported that the second round was held at Crewe but the turnout was not too good. KR did not have a league table so could not give information on age groups etc. The third round is the first week of December and if we are in the top 5, the final will be held at Widnes in January 2017.

12. Cross Country (RH)

RH reported that numbers were increasing as we are attracting more people to the sport. Very strong teams, well supported. The U15's were placed first at North Staffs. Seniors are third in this league. With the Cheshire Championships coming up RH is looking positively to a good turnout and support for each other.

13. Road Running (RO'K) - Managers report

Participation in road running events that are part of our Road Running Championship or outside our Road Running Championship has continued to be strong. We had 42 at Gawsworth 10K, 18 at NW Road Relays, 15 at Congleton Half, 7 at Manchester Half and 67 at Langley 7. Overall we have had 67 different male runners and 85 different female runners participate in at least one road race. I am providing monthly road running updates by email and the club website. Only the Stockport 10 left.

I'm starting to think about the Road Running Championship races for next year. I will ask for input from the road runners before deciding on the races to include. I'd like to continue to support local races and of course all the Cheshire Grand Prix races when announced.

Potential races. Park run

14. Fell Running (BB)

KM informed the committee that BB has sent in his report for Fell Running. The Roaches Race attracted a record number of Harriers and there is only one race left The Club Fell Handicap which takes place on 11th December. BL wanted to make the committee aware that Shaun Wilde a Fell runner has taken a coaching and fitness course and has indicated that he would be happy to take the lead in Fell running events and coaching for juniors. He is a member of the Harriers and is more than happy to help take on a role if asked to do so.

15. Statistics (NT)

NT wanted to make the committee aware that after discussions with committee members the age category for claiming records for road running would be lowered to accommodate our younger members providing it is within the Athletic Rules.

Park runs – NT wanted to know if the committee were in favour of a club record being claimed and times for Park runs being recorded. BM and other committee members made the point that it is not a race and not accurately measured so participants would not be allowed to claim a club record. Club records can only be claimed for official races. The committee also stressed that all times and information for Park runs were on their official websites and readily available for runners to look through.

16. Publicity

We are still looking for volunteer for the position of Publicity Officer – if anyone is interested please contact the club.

17. Any Other Business

a) Mixed Ability Relay 2017 (NG)

NG asked the committee for approval for a Mixed Ability Relay in Spring 2017. The committee approved and it was agreed to include juniors next year. Track fees of £2.50 payable.

b) 'Running Technique' Sessions 2017 (NG)

NG asked the committee for approval to introduce a day of 'Running Techniques' with a qualified coach. A morning and afternoon session consisting of 2 to 2.5 hours each. Plenty of interest is anticipated. The committee approved the course.

18. Date of next meeting

Thursday 12 January 2017 at The Clubhouse