

Middleton Harriers Committee Meeting Minutes, 15th March 2022

Crowshaw Drive, Rochdale

Present: Peter Gilligan (Chairman), Ge Kirk (President), Cathie Murphy (Ladies Teams), Steve Bassam (Finance), Jen Laptew (Media), Rob Bishop (Relays & C25K), Craig Sutherland (Sec).

Apologies: Ruth Hare

Minutes: Agreed.

Matters Arising: None.

Correspondence: ARC Affiliation, EAA Payments, Swinton Ladies 5 Mile Trail Race notification. Noted and Craig to promote the Trail Race.

Chairman's Report: Welcome to the first Committee for 2022/23 and thank you for remaining and joining the committee.

Since the last meeting we have had the annual presentation and Fell Championships and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. We had the AGM in February and for whatever reasons the attendance was very low. Still on the bright side the Road championship races are underway, supplemented by the Fell Championship. Still to come are the Cross Country Presentation Evening to be held at Middleton Cricket club. Then Eddie's Revenge Fell Race, then the Hopwood Trot followed by the Club Handicap.

So another busy year ahead of us, let us hope that have no more interruption by Covid and that we can settle down into our normal way of life.

Finance: Steve thanked Cathie Murphy for auditing the accounts and asked that the members be updated of this in the next membership e-mail.

Steve reported that the club was approximately £200 down on this time last year but we had kit, so the value of the club is high. The membership money, EAA and Club 50 relates to money this year and that the EAA membership fees will go out when the the EAA subs are due. Jen asked if everyone joined EAA? Steve replied that only members who took part in competitive races needed to join. There was a brief discussion on the pros and cons of EAA compared to ARC.

Club 50 take up was 51. There was a question on the number of people in Club 50 and the amount of income generated. Steve said that it costs £315 to run and administer the Club 51 and that any income over this was profit. At the moment we were making over the break-even point and review the subject regularly.

Membership: Ge reported that we have had 5 new members Jess Hanrahan, Rob McGuinness, Kim Connor, Paul Cain and David Anderson. Ge confirmed that Emma Ball had left the club. The total membership was 40 ladies, 53 men, 13 social and life members making a total of 106.

Media: Jen reported that the current website was generating a good number of "hits", it had a very large and complicated site map with a lot of redundant pages. Jen then gave a presentation of a design she had been working on, including a page for online payments for membership, kit, socials etc. This generated a lot of interest and positive feedback. There was a discussion the the general layout and design and how it could benefit the club by having a "one-stop" shop where income could be clearly identified.

Jen added that the site would need to be upgraded to "Business" at a cost of £16 per month to enable these features to be brought on-line and that she was happy to build the site in the background until the Club was ready for the changeover.

Jen also suggested that a “One Drive” be set up to allow for off-line storage, backup and archiving of information.

There was a discussion on the benefits of analytics (page hits etc,) Peter would forward the reports he received to Jen. The design would also take into account “mobile optimisation” for phone users. Rob felt that these features would be really good for C25K users as well as the C25K organisers. Peter thanked Jen on behalf of the committee for the excellent work she had put in. It was agreed that Jen continue to develop the Web site as outlined.

Cross Country: The season was now completed and the club Championship was won by Jorden Burke and Martha Urwin.

The season finished on a high with Awards being won by 3 Harriers, well done to Martha Urwin, Jorden Burke and John Hall getting awards in their age categories. In the MACC League the Veteran Men came third in their division, winning promotion to League 2.

Some figures –

A total of 21 (18 2019) men took part in at least 1 of the 8 races with 14 completing 4 or more.

A total of 15 (18 2019) ladies took part in at least 1 of the 8 races with 10 completing 4 or more.

Craig felt that as a club we had underperformed in the SELCC League, possibly due to the races coming at the end of a long season. He suggested that the scoring system be changed to allow the SELCC races to have a 5 point bonus attached to encourage our runners to complete the SELCC.

After some discussion it was agreed that we wait until after the SELCC AGM before any decision was taken.

Road Championship: Craig reported that the season was underway and that there had been 2 well attended races at the Lostock 6 and the Roddlesworth Roller with a total of 19 men and 11 women completing at least one race. Tony Campbell leads the Mens Championship and Karen Hallett leads the Ladies. First lady home at Roddlesworth was Jess Hanrahan in her first race as a Middleton Harrier.

Fell Championship: Craig reported that there had been 2 races in the Club Championship, Hoppit’s Hill and Pendle Round, and that while turnout for Hoppit’s had been good, the Pendle race had filled quickly and runners were unable to book on.

The Club Championship was led by Graham Jorden and Catherine Murphy and the RTMGP results had the ladies team in 2nd position and the men in 5th.

Relays: Craig reported that there had been a little show of interest in the Northern Athletics 6 & 12 Stage at Birkenhead or the ERRA at Sutton Park and we have not entered teams.

Rob was managing Calderdale and reported that we had enough for one team (16 people on the list) but he expected the numbers available to be reduced due to injury etc. Ge pointed out that some of the runners on the list had not paid their annual subs yet. Craig would put out more appeals for runners.

BMAF – Sutton Park – Cathie reported that she had 6 ladies committed and that she would enter 2 teams of 3. Craig reported that he was confident of at least one V65 team. Rob added that there was a large pool of 40 yr olds in the club who might be approached. Craig to follow up with more appeals.

Club Races:

1. Eddies Revenge – Craig reported that the application to run the race on Council land had been submitted and that he would contact the Church and OMRT to confirm the date. Whats My Time had been booked and the race was live on the booking system. There was a discussion on holding the presentation at the Church to bring revenue to the club via drinks and cake and it was agreed to review nearer the date.

2. Hopwood Trot – Cathie reported that all was going well and that bookings had been received.

3. Club Handicap – Cathie pointed out that the Pavillion at Bowlee was now being run by a Councillor and that we might need to contact her about the use of the facilities. Craig to follow up.

4. Rochdale Half – Ge Reported that several meetings had been cancelled and that no meeting was planned. She will monitor the situation but noted that Sue Taylor was due to retire in the near future.

Training:

C25K: Rob reported that he planned to commence the next Session on the 9th May. It would be a 9 week programme with the final session on 11th July to fill-in with the 16th July Park Run for their 5K. He intended holding sessions at 8:00, which is the most convenient time for participants, using Heaton Park on Monday and BHC Track on Friday.

Monday Nights (Arena): Craig reported that Jason’s sessions were well attended and that they were anticipating relocating for the Summer Session in Heaton Park in the near future.

Wednesday Evenings (Arena): The 6:00pm sessions were well attended but there had been a drop off in the 7:00pm session. Martha could only attend every other week and it was seen as a “fast group” which deterred a lot of runners. We would keep the position under review but it looked likely that the 7:00pm session might be discontinued.

Friday Evenings (BHC Track): Attendance is quite low (between 2 – 8) but still worthwhile. Hopefully with warmer, lighter evenings attendance will pick up.

Club 50 Draw: January (18) – Ro Bowness, Feb (21) Sue Sproson, Mar (38) John Sproson.

AOB: London Marathon: Peter reported that he had received an offer of a place in the London Marathon for the club. It was agreed that we hold a raffle at the XC Presentation & Quiz using the same rules as for Boxing Day. Applicants would turn up with their rejection slips and they would go into a hat. The winner would be sent the place as soon as the London Marathon posted them out. It was agreed to provide a coach from Middleton for the BMAF Relays.

Agreed to keep Endeavour and most Improved Trophy for XC. Endeavour M – Simon Scarfe.

Endeavour F – Catherine Murphy. Most Improved M – Michael Griffin, Most improved F – Janine Jordan.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10th May 2022, 7:30pm at 2 Crowshaw Drive Rochdale OL12 0SR.