

Minutes for Macclesfield Harriers & AC

Committee Meeting held on 1st August 2013

Time: 20.15

Venue: Athletics Club House

Attendees: Kevin Ranshaw (KR), Philip Barnes (PB), Neil Gunn (NG), Clare Finnis (CF), Bob Lynch (BL), Phil Cheek (PC)

Apologies: Carol Barnes (CB), Keith Mulholland (KM), Rachel Lawrance (RL) James Noakes (JN), Julian Brown (JB)

1. Agreement of Previous Meeting's Minutes (All)

The minutes for the last meeting were agreed.

2. Correspondence (CF)

No postal correspondence, e-mail correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate club member(s).

3. ClubMembership Update (JB)

There was no report from JB, however, NG noted that there had been an increase in the membership fees deposited in the bank account. The chasing of payments had clearly had a beneficial effect as had the availability of on line payment with 12% now paying online.

4. Finance (NG)

- **Finance update:** The club finances continue to do well. The next payment due to England Athletics is due in September 13 and will be paid promptly.
- **Savings bond maturity decision:** This will mature on the 28th August 13 and will be reinvested accordingly.

5. Track and Field (KR)

The season is almost complete. We are competing in four leagues: U13s and U15s are in the YDL Lower League and all four meetings are complete with Macclesfield hosting one event. U17s and U20s are in the YDL Upper League and completed all four meetings. The U17s and U20s are also competing along with the seniors in the Northern League as a composite team 'Team Cheshire East Athletics'. Their final competition is at Macclesfield on 3rd August. The Cheshire League is for all age groups and has its final meeting on 8th September at Salford. An article will be sent to Alison to

go in the GO! magazine, a copy forwarded to CB so she can include some information in the Macclesfield Express.

The turnout for competitions in the lower age groups is reasonable. It is , however, poor in the upper age groups. Reasons why include: pressures of exams, other sports, jobs. There are also too many fixtures as the upper age group are in too many leagues, meaning athletes are picking and choosing which meetings to attend. The local meetings have better representation. After completion of this season further discussions will take place about next season's possible league commitments.

Macclesfield will host the Cheshire Relay Championships on 31st August 13. BL and KR are arranging a fixture for all our Track and Field athletes followed by the Track and Field awards on 21st September 13.

6. Cross Country (JN)

We are affiliated to both the Manchester and North Staffordshire Leagues. There is a concern over a possible clash of dates with the North Staff League and Cheddleton.

7. Road Running (KM)

We have seen steady numbers of runners at the Club Championship/Cheshire Grand Prix races, usually between 12 and 15. This could be better, particularly as we have often had only one lady turning up! Nina Moss has started to encourage more ladies to take part so hopefully things will improve.

As a contrast, Wilmslow RC often have 40+ members at races. They only have 130 adult members but if you don't race 6 times per year then you can't continue as a member! I think that this approach would not go down well at Macclesfield and we would lose a lot of members.

Although many like to train athletes have different agendas. Some want to improve themselves others just run for social reasons and to keep fit. One possible solution might be to have a ladies team manager, it was also noted we should advertise more.

8. Fell Running and representative options (PB)

PB is disillusioned with so few wanting to compete and has stepped down from his position as Team Representative. He is willing to continue with some roles: Team Manager for FRA, Maintaining email contact and be the GO! contact. For Next season someone/ people will need to offer to run the Wednesday nights. Also someone will need to choose the championships for next year.

With respect to above. Barry Blyth will be approached by PB to be formally asked if he will select the championships for next season. Phil Cheek will have his name put on the welcome letter from the club for new athletes. It is hoped people will offer to take it in turns to organise the Wednesday nights training.

Update:

Wednesday night runs are well represented and Macclesfield are winning races in both female and male sections. Andrea Frost is notably winning outright or at least her age category. The turnout for club championships is lower , two thirds down on numbers. Many only wish to compete in events close to home.

The following teams are hoped to be put forward for the FRA:

Ladies team (for the first time in years)

Senior team

V40s team (picking best 6)

V50s team

9. Indoor Sportshall (KR)

KR went to the annual meeting. The league has lost it's sponsor. All participating teams will pay a higher affiliation fee £80 instead of £40 . This should cover required costs as they have reserves of money for this season. Athletes each pay £2 to compete. This season there are expected to be 3 fixtures and teams will be expected to compete in all 3 fixtures. All fixtures will be before Christmas, provisional dates have been set.

From 1st October Macclesfield will start indoor training for U11s on Tuesday nights. This helps maintain interest over the winter with up to 47 attending.

10. Runners World article on females fearful of joining clubs

Observation that people join clubs for different reasons, clubs need to realise that some just want to go for social reasons. This will be discussed again in the next meeting. All need to consider how we

can welcome women into the club. Questions to ask: do you want a ladies representative? what do they want from a club? Also consider a marketing push.

11. Publicity (CB)

CB has revitalized the Facebook page. It has been agreed that young athletes should be encouraged to use it. We would like to post photos of competing athletes on Facebook, in the clubhouse and in GO! CB has modified all articles received as necessary and forwarded them to the Express.

12. Bollington First Responders and St Johns (PN/NG)

Bollington First responders are not the right first aid group to support our fixtures for a number of reasons: they have to prioritise 999 calls, they have to be 'off duty' to attend, they have to rely on 'good Samaritans' insurance. We will continue to use St Johns. NG will negotiate fees for next season.

13. Sponsorship and high visibility vests (NG)

This is still in hand, it may/ may not go ahead.

14. Committee meetings (CF)

- **location:** Clubhouse
- **designated key holder:** CF and the Chair person will assist in locking up.
- **date of next meeting** 10th October 13, 8.15pm

15. Any Other Items

- KR, RL and BL will decide who will receive the Track and Field awards in September.
- The mis- engraved trophies have been corrected and are in the loft awaiting collection
- BL proposed from 1st October new athletes will pay half year subs plus £10. Seconded by PB
- Coaching (BL). George Fisher is, unfortunately, no longer able to coach. We have four Club Leaders who have recently trained and these are now going to train for the next level- Coaching Assistant. Two more people want to complete the above courses. It was agreed that the funds were there to pay for the above courses.
- Alison is to pose the following question in the September issue of GO! 'would you like hard or electronic copies of the magazine?'