

Harriers Committee Meeting 10 December 2024



Bay Centre, Burnham on Sea, 7.30pm

Attendance and apologies: Matt P (Chair), Steve D (Secretary), Mark B (Treasurer), Tracey B (Run leader), Georgina H (Run leader), Alex H (Captain), Nick C (Run leader), Reg H (Coach), Katrina B (Run leader), Julie L (Run leader/vice-captain), Anna T (Run leader), Nigel S (Run leader)

Apologies: Steve W (club secretary).

1. Actions/discussion from last meeting:

- **Core fitness:** NS reported that the storage issue is now resolved. Transportation of gym equipment that supports the session needs to be arranged. Recent sessions are running well although additional run leader support to run sessions would be appreciated.
- **Young Harriers:** No immediate appetite or facility to organise and deliver sessions for young people. Youngest age considered to be 12 and above. Concerns including safeguarding requirements, a lack of a suitable facility to host sessions and whether existing run leaders have the necessary qualifications to host and deliver sessions for young people currently work against a young harriers group.
- **Couch-2-5km:** The cohort that completed the Couch-2-5km that started in September went well. A new cohort will be organised to start in March 2025.
- **Club run sessions:** Committee discussed current Tuesday sessions and feasibility to sessions on Thursday evenings. MP will create a session list each Friday which a run leader can deliver

the following Tuesday or Thursday (**Action - MP**). The committee also discussed what training could be offered or is currently delivered and suggested that training sessions could be designed on the website enabling members to engage in training sessions should they wish to do so.

- **Virtual Races:** Webpage presented to the committee showing how the virtual races scheme works. Members sign up to a virtual race, selecting a medal from a previous Harriers event, making a £5 payment. Once the run is complete, a screenshot showing the completed virtual run is submitted. To date, £95 has been raised, with the BARB the chosen charity for 2024. A new charity will be identified for 2025.

2. Review from 2024 Harriers races

- **Pawlett Plod:** No updates beyond discussions from the last meeting. Rusty Road have asked the Harriers to submit a race application for the 2025 event. The committee are keen that Rusty Road take full ownership and responsibility for the race organisation.
- **Burnham half:** The committee discussed the finish area which became congested with runners, supporters and volunteers/agents to aid runners upon completion. A review of the finish area is required to ease congestion. Noted also a minor incident at the finish line where one runner stumbled as he crossed the line (speed/loss of footing), subsequently crashing into the funnel netting. Incident will be noted in updated risk assessment, but finish line to be re-assessed.

Concerns raised regarding vehicles on Red Road/Lympsham where near misses were experienced (irate drivers). AH is seeking quotes for road closures (**Action - AH**), although timing to close relevant roads will need consideration as runners become more distant as the race progresses. Tail vehicle to be discussed to safeguard back runners.

- **Brent Knoll:** A successful race, although the weather (Storm Bert) did put the race in doubt. Race went ahead with good feedback. Suggestion made for ropes to be provided through the orchard stage of the route as several runners struggled with the ascent. Feedback also noted

minor injuries to runners caused by barbed wire attached to the top of gates/fences as runners used these objects to maintain balance as conditions were very wet and slippery.

3. Burnham half/Brent Knoll risk assessment reviews:

SD will review/update existing risk assessments in readiness for the 2025 event. Feedback mentioned above will help to update the current assessments, and SD is proposing adding route stages to the risk assessment to highlight key hazards at each mile/significant checkpoint.

SD also asked that risk assessments are only effective where colleagues input and feedback on the assessment and SD will welcome comments to make the race assessments suitable and sufficient (**Action - all**).

4. Personal Safety Training: SD highlighted incidents to one individual at a recent parkrun along with the anti-social behaviour experiences that Harriers have experienced when on club runs. Suggestion was made for personal safety training to help individuals instances of threatening behaviour. Charities including the Suzy Lamplugh trust offer advice and training courses which SD is happy to enquire (**Action SD**). Committee supported the action.

5. England Athletics Club Standards Scorecard review: 5 of the 7 standards are in place with existing policies due for review. These include the constitution, inclusion policy, health and safety policy and privacy policy. Policies to be updated and uploaded to the portal. Appointment of a new Welfare Lead Officer has been made helping to achieve one of the outstanding standards.

6. Financial interim position before end of year: MB presented the financial position to the committee following completion of the 2024 Harrier races and other income/expenditure through the year. The club is in a very healthy financial position with 20-25% income increase

from each of the three races. The position also showed a 20% increase in membership income even though much of the membership fee goes to England Athletics and Stripe for the online payment administration. Charitable donations have decreased, mainly due to a set amount given to Rusty Road following the Pawlett Plod rather than all the income. Overall, there is an 8% increase in income for the club.

- 7. Welfare Officer appointment:** Committee happy to announce that Annette Milburn has taken on the role of the Lead Welfare Officer for the club. The club required a welfare officer to comply with club standards and to avoid losing its affiliated status, as it's a mandatory role required by April 2025. Annette has completed the required training to fulfil the role.

- 8. Reports from Committee Role Holders:** No updates - MP thanked everyone as chair for their efforts in making the club so successful.. SD will update the club constitution to include London Marathon club entry requirements and committee meeting terms (**Action - SD**).

- 9. Couch-2-5km forward planning:** No immediate updates. Next session is scheduled to run in March 2025.

- 10. The need for a club base (after 40-years we meet on a street corner):** Concerns raised that the club does not have a permanent base. A few running clubs were recognised as having a base, but not the majority. The committee identified the Yacht Club and Community Centre as suggested bases, with the BASC ruled out owing to its location away from Burnham centrally. Committee will ask Tony G to see what availability the Yacht Club has as a base moving forward.

- 11. Any other business:**

- a. London Marathon 2025 club entry: Congratulations to Craig Scriven who was awarded the club place following a draw, witnessed and verified by the committee.
- b. Committee discussed organising a special event in memory of Olivia Tucker (Steve & Hannah) who tragically passed away. Events included a 24-hour parkrun or run raising funds to a chosen charity.
- c. AH proposed a social run/walk for members on Christmas Eve. Happy to post the event on Spond to identify interest/attendees **(Action - AH)**.
- d. AH presented race medals for the Harriers 3 races. Medals appear unique to each race, but can be assembled to create a single, larger medal for runners who complete all three races. Committee supported and agreed to the new design.

Meeting ended at 9:10pm

Next meeting - AGM, Tuesday 25 February, BASC Ground, 7.15pm.