

## 43rd Burnham Harriers AGM, 25 February 2025

Burnham Association of Sports Clubs (BASC) 7.30pm



- 1. Opening and welcome:** Matt P, Club Chair welcomed everyone and opened the AGM.
- 2. Notice Convening the AGM:** Notice of the AGM was posted to the Burnham Harriers website and Facebook page prior to the meeting.
- 3. Apologies, Additions and Changes to the Agenda:** Attendees were as follows:

**Present:** Matt Powell (Chair), Mark Benton (Treasurer), Alex Hamilton (Captain), Steve Dorrall (Secretary), Steve Wilcox (Member Secretary), Julie Lench (Vice Captain), Reg Huxtable, Stuart Anderson, Cecilia Young, Phil Hobbs, Tracey Benton, Sue Nicholls, Jon Williams, Alan Beech, Hannah Beech, Toby Brown, Alfie Lismore-Pope, Nigel Shipton, Ian Waude, Karen Shipton, Graham Thomas, Hazel Thomas, Richard Saupe, Jason Roberts, Katrina Bufton, Tony Gore, Todd Johnson, Luke Bugler, Anna Taylor, Jane Benton, Georgina Hainsby, Karl Prince, Michelle Prince, Tony Milburn, Annette Milburn (Welfare Officer), Abi Milburn, Lindsay Woodward, Steve Pike, Lloyd Arthur, Hannah Tucker, Steve Tucker, Ruth Brown.

Apologies given and noted on Spond.

No additions or amendments to the agenda.

**4. Minutes from 2024 AGM:** Minutes available on the Harriers website (Organisation page) and were agreed as an accurate representation of the discussions and actions from last year's AGM.

### 5. Matters Arising:

**a. LiRF/CiRF:** Proposal for Alfie L-P to become a run leader was unanimously agreed by everyone present at the meeting.

**b. Club Kit:** Alexis Briggs has kindly agreed to become the club's kit manager. New kit designs were circulated to everyone. Suggestions to have the club's name and centre of the new shirts were designed, although race numbers can obscure the Harriers name and logo. Members welcome to make suggestions on the design of the concepts shown to everyone.

**c. Club run risk assessment:** Steve D outlined the current club run risk assessment which is overdue for review. A newly updated risk assessment will include references to the various club runs that are organised each week, including Fab-5, Super 7, speed, trail, club run, and Tuesday evening walk. Other runs including Couch-2-5km and social runs under the Harriers umbrella will be included. However, SD asked run leaders to outline the format of each run so they can be accurately reflected in the risk assessment. **(Action - Run Leaders).**

Other considerations raised by those present include provision for visually impaired runners **(SD to investigate)**, and new first aid kits that have an attachable strap as the current kits have no carrying device for run leaders. First aid training should be a requirement of run

leaders and enquiries with Apex First Aid to be made to train willing volunteers (**Action - Run leaders**).

**d. Race clock:** Attendees proposed and agreed unanimously to purchase a race clock, primarily aimed for Harrier's own races. Research to be made on identifying and purchasing a clock suitable for the races. The club does not intend to hire out the clock, unless by exception. Further detail and arrangement for the clock purchase to be made at the next committee meeting (**Action - Committee**).

**6. Constitution, Additions and Changes:** SD outlined a newly updated Constitution. The new version proposes 3 Committee meetings a year, with the fourth meeting the AGM. Other changes include reference to the new Grievance and Disciplinary Policy, an update to the committee structure and members etc. Constitution is a template taken from England Athletics, adapted to be specific to Burnham Harriers set up. The constitution is available on the organisation webpage of the Harriers site and any comments can be made to the committee or to the Harriers Mailbox.

## **7. Election of Officers**

- a. Chair** - Matt Powell (Seconded - Steve W)
- b. Vice Chair** - Phil Hobbs (Seconded - Mark B)
- c. Treasurer** - Mark Benton (Seconded - Matt P)
- d. Secretary** - Steve Dorrall (Seconded - Nick C)
- e. Members Secretary** - Steve W (Seconded - Matt P)
- f. Wellbeing Officer** - Annette Milburn (Seconded - Tony M)
- g. Social Secretary** - Todd Johnson (Seconded - Matt P)
- h. Captain** - Alex Hamilton (Seconded - Mark B)
- i. Vice-Captain** - Julie Lench (Seconded - Alex H)
- j. Race Director (Brean Banger)** - Alex Hamilton
- k. Race Director (Burnham Half)** - Todd Johnson
- l. Race Director (Brent Knoll)** - Steve Dorrall
- m. Webmaster** - Steve D, Matt P and Katrina B.

## **8. Club reports - Highlights include:**

**a. Chair:** Matt P described a successful 2024 for the Harriers with many members running nationally and internationally. Matt P gave thanks to the Captains, Committee, Coach and Run Leaders for all their efforts to make the club so welcoming and progressive. Special thanks given to Julie L and Alfie L-P for their charity run along the length of Wales, and to the success of the Couch-2-5km sessions.

**b. Treasurer:** Mark B presented the 2024 Annual Accounts. Another successful year, the club saw increased income from all 3 Harrier organised races (up 20% for Pawlett Plod and half marathon and 26% for Brent Knoll). Membership has seen a 20% increase in income and whilst charity donations were down, there was an overall 15% increase in income. Income from membership subscriptions was down, but this is due in part to the majority amount of membership fees being paid to cover the England Athletics runner affiliation fees. There was a £888 net income over expenditure for 2024.

**c. Secretary:** Steve D congratulated everyone on their running through 2024 at organised races and weekly parkruns nationally and internationally. Thanks, given to the run leaders for the weekly runs, core fitness sessions and the captain's challenges. Everyone was informed of increases to the England Athletics club affiliation fee to £205, and athlete registration fee to £20 (up from £19). Charges will take effect from 1 April 2025. Good luck messages given to Craig Scriven, who was awarded the club 2025 London Marathon place, and thanked everyone's support in achieving the required 7 club standards required to be an England Athletics affiliated running club.

**d. Member's Secretary:** Steve W confirmed that the club has 163 full members and 10 social members. Good to see the club continue to grow. London Marathon club entry allocations increase to 2 where membership exceeds 189 full members.

**e. Captain/Vice-Captain:** Alex H outlined details for the new Brean Banger race, scheduled for June 2025. 5% of the proceeds from the race will go to the National Trust. Race route will need to be flexible depending on the weather; namely the military road will be used if the race is wet, the grassed section of Brean Down can be used if it is dry. Approval gained for the course to run through Warren Farm and other farms. 60% of the roster filled.

100 entrants already booked in for the half marathon, which will take place at a new September date as many large races now clash with the traditional October date. Road closures have been arranged, for example along the outbound section of Queens Drive) and the half marathon will include pacers for the first time (timed at 1 hour 30, 1 hour 45, 2 hours and 2 hours 15). Race will start at 9:45 and a new medal design for 2025; runners that run at all three Harriers races will gain a 3-part medal that creates a single larger medal.

Income from the Virtual Races concept achieved £266 (minus £12 admin fee) - donated to BARB.

Handicap races were popular and everyone present were in favour of a 1-mile time trial.

Lyndsay W volunteered to help Alex H with entrant withdrawals, transfers, and deferrals.

**f. Welfare:** Annette M welcomed herself to everyone, outlining her role as Welfare Officer. A role to provide support to members, and availability to have a simple chat, or to support colleagues that may be facing a crisis or where a safeguarding/disciplinary situation may arise. There is a club welfare email address, although the address is causing some minor problems. Annette is present at parkrun and will seek to attend club runs should anyone wish to have a chat.

#### **g. 2024 Race Director reports:**

- i. Pawlett Plod:** Successful 2024 although the non-appearance of marshals at some of the designated posts was disappointing. The club felt that moving to the new Brean Banger was a good move as the race had run its course from a Harriers view.
- ii. Burnham half:** Successful 2024 race. Race review identified congestion around the finish area, and concerns made about the first corner being slippery/boggy and latter runners experiencing conflict with vehicles departing the event (Cones suggested to segregate runners from vehicles). The event was enhanced by the opera and massage team. Chip timing for 2026 was discussed (entrants who start near the back benefit from a gun time and chip time); whereas costs for chip timing is expensive. Instead, a wider race start was proposed with the aim of all runners taking less time to cross the start line.
- iii. Brean Banger:** New 10km off-road race scheduled for June 2025, with updates noted in the captain's report above. To note that runners have a limited window where they can run on the Brean (15th May - 15th July) owing to nesting and environmental protection measures.

**h. Webmaster:** Website has had new pages added - Brean Banger, Virtual Races and Couch-2-5km since the 2024 AGM. Requests made for results to be made known so they can be posted to the website in good time. Alex H outlined a results portal managed by Weston Running club where runners can login and upload their own results. Attendees unanimously agreed for further investigations to be made so results can be easy to identify to upload to the weekly newsletter and website. Attendees asked to email the Burnham Harriers mailbox with new pictures and images that can be uploaded to the site (**Action - all**). A website counter was requested to track site usage (**Action - Steve D**).

#### **9. Special Awards:**

- a. Brent Knoll 2024 1st local lady:** Alexis Briggs
- b. Club Championship (Male):** 3rd - Steve Tucker; 2nd - Jon Jacobs; 1st - Alex Hamilton.
- c. Club Championship (Female):** 3rd - Tracey Thomas; 2nd Sue Nicholls; 1st - Alexis Briggs.
- d. Runners Runner award:** 3rd - Todd Johnson; 2nd - Alex Hamilton; 1st - Anna Taylor.
- e. Captains Cup:** Julie Lench and Alfie Lismore-Pope.

#### **10. General:**

- a. Club subscriptions:** Attendees unanimously agreed to increase the 2025 annual club membership to £25. Social membership fee will remain at £10.
- b. Race entries:**
  - i. Brean Banger:** £16 (affiliated); £18 (unaffiliated). Race has a 300-race entry limit.
  - ii. Burnham Half:** £23 (affiliated); £25 (unaffiliated). Race has a 400-race entry limit.

**iii. Brent Knoll:** £18 (affiliated); £20 (unaffiliated). Race has a 250-race entry limit.

**c. Club Championships:** No major changes for 2025. The championship was originally devised to encourage members to enter more races and increase the club's exposure, especially when the club had a smaller membership. There are concerns that the championship encourages over-racing, leading to injury to achieve championship points. Members that enter a single race and gain championship points are seen as a success.

**d. Core fitness:** Sessions are running well. Sessions have a limit of 18 people. Run leader availability to deliver sessions in the summer requested to cover Ian and Nigel's absence. Request for a device to play music requested and provisionally agreed (to be confirmed at the next committee meeting). Storage issues now addressed.

**e. Parkrun:** No major updates, Event continues to be well supported with several young people attending to gain their volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh's award. Proposal for a Harriers takeover made as other clubs (e.g. BADRATS) have completed takeovers of the Burnham and Highbridge parkrun.

**f. UKA License Standards:** Steve D outlined the seven standards that the club has to achieve to remain as an England Athletics affiliated running club. The club achieved its 7 standards at the beginning of 2025. The two outstanding issues was the appointment of a Welfare Officer - welcome to Annette M. The other issue surrounded safeguarding queries. However, following confirmation to England Athletics that the club does not have a junior section, England Athletics recognise that our Adults Safeguarding is in place and happy to confirm that all standards are met. All relevant policies are in place, and have been updated in recent months, available on the Organisation or Health and Safety pages of the Harriers website.

## **11. Any other business:**

**a. Thursday Social Run:** Discussions made on the Thursday Social run, which is led by a current non-member, but advertised on the Harriers Spond (*to note that further enquiries outside of the AGM found that the Thursday social run in question is led by a qualified run leader and Harrier's member*). Discussions centred on whether it can be advertised under Harrier's communication tools and what cover is in place should anyone have an accident. Committee members agreed to hold conversations regarding non-member participation at organised club runs/walks at the next committee meeting. Further enquiries to be made also on risk and liabilities where unofficial runs are advertised under the Harriers umbrella. **(Action - Steve D).**

**b. Non-member runners:** Queries/discussion also on runners who run with the club as non-members, General expectation is that non-members run with the club on three club runs and gain membership thereafter. Concerns that several runners have not paid their memberships. Non-members have been contacted to become members or renew memberships, but in some cases those runners have not replied. The query also applies to the walking group which is encouraging non-members.

## **12. Next Meeting/closure:**

2026 AGM will take place in February 2026 - date to be confirmed. Next meeting will be a Harrier committee meeting - date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 9:50pm.