

## Burnham Harriers AGM Minutes – 20 February 2024

Held at: Burnham on Sea Motorboat and Sailing Club, 7.30pm



**Present:** Matt Powell (Chair), Steve Dorrall (Club Secretary), Steve Wilcox (Members Secretary), Mark Benton (Treasurer), Alex Hamilton (Captain), Reg Huxtable (Coach), Julie Lench (Vice-Captain), Margaret Tatum, Lisa Farley, Dave Male, Alan Beech, Hannah Beech, Alexis Briggs, Jason Roberts, Jonathan Williams, Graham Thomas, Hazel Thomas, Sue Nicholls, Alison Savell, Kelly Sherriff, Ian Waude, Steve Tucker, Alfie Lismore-Pope, Tony Milburn, Todd Johnson, Anna Taylor, Karl Prince, Michelle Prince, Len Horlock, Christy Longley, Lesley Goulding, Katrina Bufton, Lindsay Woodward, Stuart Anderson, Phil Hobbs, Tracey Benton, Georgina Hainsby, Nick Charles, Sorrel Langley-Hobbs, Tony Gore, Bev Gore.

**Apologies:** Victoria Byrne, Tony McKee, Adrian Smith, Maria Casey, Lewis Perry, Mary Ham.

- 1. Opening and Welcome:** Matt opened the meeting at 7.40pm, welcoming everyone present.
- 2. Notice of Annual General Meeting:** Announced as part of the meeting opening.
- 3. Apologies, additions, Changes to the Agenda:** Apologies detailed above, no changes or additions to the agenda.
- 4. Minutes from the 2023 AGM:** Minutes agreed as accurate. The only comment was the need to have up to 4 committee meetings during the year to address and complete actions **(SD to organise next committee meeting date)**.
- 5. Matters Arising:**
  - Leaders in Running Fitness:** Club requires additional leaders in running fitness to reflect growing membership, participation at club runs and to support races or other running needs. Expressions of interest came from Nigel Shipton, Nick Charles, and Phil Hobbs: [Leadership in Running Fitness | England Athletics Coaching](#)
  - Coach in Running Fitness:** Everyone present was asked to consider the role as Reg is currently the only coach in the club. The role of the coach is to help improve runners with their fitness and running technique: [Coach In Running Fitness | UK Athletics Coaching Courses \(englandathletics.org\)](#)
  - Club Kit:** Alex approached Scimitar obtaining designs for race shirts/vests. The designs were cascaded to members giving feedback on the preferred designs. Race shirts and vests have been ordered and due to arrive late March – thank you to Burnham Harriers for funding these tops for members. Jackets and arm warmers can also be ordered, but will need to be purchased by members, with a club shop webpage to be designed to allow members to order. Anyone who could coordinate and distribute orders is welcome.
- 6. Constitution:** Constitution is on the **organisation** page of the Harriers website, last reviewed in 2022. A review will take place in 2024. Additionally, a runner's etiquette was kindly created by Julie L and is posted on the health and safety page of the Harriers website. Both the constitution and etiquette are to be included in new member's welcome pack. Additional meetings to be arranged in line with constitution.
- 7. Election of Officers:**
  - **Chairperson:** Matt Powell, proposed by Tony G, Seconded by Nick C.
  - **Vice-Chairperson:** Adrian Smith (agreed by Adrian prior to AGM), proposed by Katrina B, seconded by Sue Nicholls.
  - **Treasurer:** Mark Benton, proposed by Steve D, seconded by Matt Powell.

- **Secretary:** Steve Dorrall, proposed by Matt P, seconded by Steve W.
- **Members Secretary:** Steve Wilcox, proposed by Mark Benton, seconded by Sue Nicholls.
- **Welfare Officer:** Victoria Byrne (agreed by Victoria prior to AGM), proposed by Matt P, seconded by Mark B
- **Social Secretary:** Tracey Benton, proposed by Tony G, seconded by Mark B.
- **Captain:** Alex Hamilton, proposed by Matt P, seconded by Mark B.
- **Vice-Captain:** Julie Lench (Selected by club captain).
- **Social Media:** Jonathan Williams
- **Race Directors:** Pawlett Plod: (17 July) – Alex Hamilton

Burnham half: (13 October) – Katrina Bufton

Brent Knoll: (24 November) – Matt Powell

Discussions were also held on organising a Brean Down race in 2025, replacing the Pawlett Plod event. Enquiries will also seek the Brean Down race involving a beach stage, a terrain not immediately recognised by England Athletics licenced races.

## 8. Club reports:

**Chair:** Matt commended the organisation and delivery of Harrier's 3 races with good attendance, including special thanks to Alex for implementing many of the arrangements. Matt gave thanks to all the volunteers and members for their support in making the races successful. Matt also gave thanks to the club committee for their work over the year and to the Couch-to-5km team for making the programme such a success. Club is in a good place and Matt also noted how the Thursday night runs are becoming a success too.

**Treasurer:** Mark B reported that the club's finances saw a significant increase in income (total income increase was 277%) for the year ended December 2023 (financial year runs 1 January – 31 December). Much of the income increase came via a return of the half marathon following its absence in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Income from the Pawlett Plod and Brent Knoll races saw an increase in income and membership growth increased income by 43%. The club continues to support charities, supporting BARB in 2023. Ideas welcome on charities to support in 2024. Expenditure increased in 2023 – costs include Couch-to-5km, club challenge, race medals etc, the total income exceeded expenditure.

**Secretary:** Steve D noted increased participation by members at over 140 races locally, nationally, and internationally, reflecting the growing membership at the club. Appreciation shown to all members for their support at the club's own races, club runs, and couch-to-5km. Steve D noted work done to introduce various policies in line with England Athletics, with the club now fulfilling 5 of the 7 standards. Thanks to Julie L also for creating the runner's etiquette, posted on the health and safety page of the Harriers website. Steve D asked all members to review the risk assessments (races and club runs) because all our runners need to be aware of the risk assessment contents and to provide feedback following incidents or measures that need updating.

**Captain:** Alex H gave thanks to everyone for their efforts at club runs, races, both as runners and volunteers. Alex promoted Reg as the club's coach and for Reg to be utilised more for coaching or for running plans. Club is in a good place, continually promoting its profile, attracting new members. Alex continues to provide the weekly update, and raised ideas for future runs, including the handicap race (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in March), and thanks to Reg

for organising the club cross-country run last summer.

Aims for the year include:

- Attract new run leaders and coaches.
- Sell virtual races – old medals could be provided with funds going to charity.
- Running drill events in summer to support and improve running styles.
- Monopoly challenge.

**Members secretary:** Steve W informed everyone that the club has 148 members – 131 running and 17 social.

The club diversity is reflected by having 73 men, 75 women and 1 junior member, with 26 members aged 60-80; 85 members aged 40-60; and 36 members aged 28-40.

London marathon criteria has altered, and the club will need to have 175 members to attain a second club place.

**Welfare Officer:** Victoria B sent apologies for the AGM, but informed the club that she is happy to remain as the club welfare officer. Aware that Safeguarding and Time-2-listen courses need to be completed to fulfil the role and remaining club standards – will liaise with colleagues to complete these courses. Additional welfare officers are always welcome.

**Race Directors:**

**Brent Knoll:** Race was a success with good adjudicator feedback. Additional signage planned for the 2024 race as well as marshal improvements to avoid runners from becoming lost.

**Burnham half:** Race was successful, although warm, considering time of year. High praise given to Apex first aid for their provision, and they have been booked for our 2024 races.

**Pawlett Plod:** Successful race with some useful feedback (marshalling and first aid) from the race adjudicator for the 2024 event. Course had to be changed 2-days before, which wasn't helpful and an interesting near miss involving cows was described!

**Webmaster:** Couch-to-5km and Captains Cup pages added to the site. Previous winners to Harriers own races and club championship have also been added. **Members asked to provide images** to keep the site updated and Karl P volunteered to maintain the site alongside Steve D and Matt P.

**9. Special Awards: Somerset Series (Ann Hutchison award for FV55) – Sorrel Langley-Hobbs.**

**Captains Cup:** Tony McKee.

**Runner's runner:** Tony Gore

**Sheila Baker award:** Julie Lench

**Club Championship: Men:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Alex H; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Alfie LP; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Richard S.

**Women:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Julie L; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sue N; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sorrel LH.

**10. General: Club Subscriptions 2024/25:** Membership will increase to £21 to account for the planned new Strip payment system. System charges 1.5% per transaction (approx. 28p per person). Increase agreed by everyone present. Social membership to remain at £10. England athletics affiliation has risen from £17 to £19 from 1 April 2024, so much of the annual

membership for runners goes to England Athletics. England Athletics club affiliation fees are going up from £150 to £200 from 1 April 2024.

**Race entry fees:** Burnham half: £22 (affiliated); £24 (non-affiliated). Race capacity – 300.

Brent Knoll: £18 (affiliated); £20 (non-affiliated). Race capacity – 200.

Pawlett Plod: £16 (affiliated); £18 (non-affiliated). Race capacity – 200.

**Club Championship Criteria:** No formal agreement reached, discussions considered creating a nominated race list, including parkrun. Discussions also highlighted concerns on runner welfare and burnout where the incentive is to enter many races to gain championship points. Limiting race entries or best results discussed along with recognising most improved runner among the categories, but no immediate changes to the current format.

**UKA License standards/Data Protection:** No immediate updates, just a reminder to issue our race information packs to entrants via a BCC email.

**11. Any other business:** Matt asked if new storage arrangements could be considered for the race equipment. Matt currently stores a lot of the equipment via his business unit, but has now ceased trading. Offers from members welcome and the club will also be happy to support Matt with storage costs.

**Parkrun:** Reg thanked everyone for supporting parkrun, making the Burnham and Highbridge well run and popular.

**Coach sessions:** Plans to run coaching sessions in the summer when weather improves. A venue is also required for the session with the BASC and beach among consideration. Core sessions would also be popular, although finding an available indoor venue remains difficult.

**3-peak challenge:** Steve D outlined approaches made by Kevin C to complete the 3-peaks challenge in early June. Members would be welcome to complete the challenge alongside rusty road, the men's mental health charity that Kevin supports.

Meeting closed at 10pm.

Next meeting (Committee meeting) – 24 April, 7pm (Dunstan Inn).