

Harriers Committee Meeting 10 September 2024



Bay Centre, Burnham on Sea, 7.30pm

- 1. Attendance and Apologies:** Matt P (Chairperson); Steve D (Secretary); Mark B (Treasurer); Tracey B (LiRF); Georgina H (LiRF); Reg H (Coach); Katrina B (LiRF); Nigel S (LiRF); Phil H; Ian W (LiRF); Julie L (Vice Captain); Alex H (Captain).

Apologies: Steve W.

- 2. Minutes/Actions from last meeting (Agreed as accurate):**

- Discussions raised on a track proposal, for example at the BASC. Finding contacts to discuss proposals at the BASC is very difficult. Alternative options include King Alfred's School, although the track is only in use in the summer term. Julie/Matt happy to approach contacts at King Alfred's to identify how accessible the school fields are (**Action Julie/Matt**).
- Core fitness sessions are now in full flow. Discussions at the last meeting were based around use of the scout hut and viability of these sessions.
- Discussion on run leaders and their roles. Good to see new run leaders qualify with a separate forum for run leaders to discuss training and run sessions alongside Reg, our only coach currently.
- Discussion around young Harriers, where sessions would likely be track based, as per the earlier track discussions. Safeguarding requirements will be required (in line with

existing LiRF standards), and promotion to a young Harriers section could come through running for their Duke of Edinburgh's award - physical section.

3. Matters Arising:

- **Who is our committee:** Discussion around who the club committee is in terms of decision making etc. The Constitution requires a minimum of 4 Officers including the Club Chair, Treasurer, Club Secretary, Members Secretary and any other appointed officer e.g.. Captain, Vice-Captain, Coach, Run Leaders, Welfare Officer. Uncertainty on current welfare officer as they have not renewed their club membership, but additional welfare officers are welcome and important because the club will lose its EA accreditation if a welfare officer is not appointed by April 2025 (**Action Matt/Steve D**). Consensus was that run leaders can attend, having the power to deliver 1 vote on decision making processes, although a formal decision will be made at the AGM.
- **Core Fitness Review:** Sessions have been successful but attendance is a concern. Initial booking for the Scout Hut was for a 3-month period, soon to come to an end. Concerns also raised regarding gate/access to the Scout Hut on the BASC ground and storage of equipment. Ideas welcome on improving attendance, with a members survey proposed to gauge why people cannot/do not attend and what can be done to maintain feasible core fitness sessions. It was agreed to extend the current agreement for another month to see whether sessions have a longer term future. (**Action Alex to issue survey via Spond**).
- **Couch-to-5km:** New class commenced at the beginning of September. A large group in attendance, discussion centred on transition for graduates to club runs as several graduates find the transition to 7km club runs difficult. Consideration towards other run types suitable for graduates, but overall, the Couch-to-5km programme has been very successful.
- **Old medals for sale webpage:** Idea generated giving members the ability to donate their old race medals, donating a minimum £5 or more if runners are happy to do so.

Proceeds to go to the club nominated charities (BARB). Alex H happy to manage the process, Steve D to create a webpage allowing members to donate their old medals and details of the scheme **(Action Steve D/Alex H)**.

4. Officer/Captain/Run Leader/Coach Updates:

No significant updates - 1 member withdrew from the run leader process - reclaim of costs to be sought. Interest from other club members to become run leaders continues. Discussion on the current club website, just to gauge that the site is still effective following the recent annual renewal with our provider. Committee happy with the website, new pages or information to keep the site up to date both welcome and a challenge!

5. Pawlett Plod Review: 2024 race was a success with no major issues or concerns raised. Race organisation will now be handed to Yellow Brick Road for the 2025 event as the Harriers plan a new Brean Down race. Harriers also made a £1500 donation to Yellow Brick Road as the nominated charity.

6. 2025 Race Planning: Committee discussed the newly proposed Brean Down 10km race. Route will start on the Brean taking in Brean Down, England Coast path and latter part of the course on Brean Beach. Approval gained from National Trust for use of cafe and facilities, 2% of profits to go to the National Trust. Plan is for the race to take place midweek, with a window for the race between 15 May and 15 July (a June date is likely). Risk Assessment to be completed **(Action - SD)**. Race limit will be 200 - 250 participants. £5 million public liability insurance required, although this is likely to be covered once race licence obtained.

7. Burnham half: Race sold out nine weeks before the race. 27 transfers to organise and 60 on the waiting list. Meeting discussed increasing the number of entrants but concerns regarding increased risks on roads as the event is held on open roads. Additional costs required to close roads, but the committee was happy to enquire on the feasibility to close roads for the event. Committee happy to provide a small donation to Themis to provide sports massage at the race. Food provision and ice cream were also arranged to support the event.

Race adjudicator still to be organised - AH has contacted several adjudicators for availability.

Lead/Tail vehicles required.

Group also discussed potential dates for the 2025 race as the Weston half will be moving to October.

8. Brent Knoll race: 200 race numbers available (can also be used at the 2025 race). Further push to

promote the race after the half marathon. Volunteers to be organised, a list will be published on Facebook for expressions of interest.

Marker flags were discussed to keep runners on track after a few runners got lost on route last year!

9. Any other business: Discussion on format for the Handicap race. Everyone present is happy with the current format, although the committee suggested that marshals would be beneficial as the race has grown in numbers.

Committee also discussed the 5km winter series which was previously organised by Burnham Swimming Pool, as enquiries have been made. No immediate plans to run the event as Harriers are committed to parkrun and other running events.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm