

# HYDE PARK HARRIERS

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Minutes of a meeting of the committee (the **Committee**) of Hyde Park Harriers (the **Club**) duly held and convened by teleconference on Sunday 06 August 2023 at 6pm.

Present:	Amy Ramsden-Young	(AR-Y – Chair)
	Clare Evans	(CE – Membership Secretary)
	Curtis Ledger	(CL – Committee Member)
	Grace Roberts	(GR – Committee Member)
	Jonathan Spain	(JS – Committee Member)
	Katherine Kirkham	(KK – Club Treasurer)
	Toby Adkins	(TA – Club Secretary)
	Xeni Perry	(XP – Committee Member)
Apologies:	Danny Clayton	(DC – Committee Member)
	Laura Garratt	(LG – Committee Member)
	Richard Garratt	(RG – Committee Member)

## **1 Notice and Quorum**

It was noted that the meeting had been duly convened and that a quorum was present for the purposes of the Club's constitution.

## **2 Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee on 16 April 2023 and 25 June 2023 were each approved as circulated.

## **3 Membership Update**

### **3.1 CE reported that:**

3.1.1 the Club currently had 246 members;

3.1.2 the London Marathon organisers had contacted the Club to confirm that, due to low uptake by running clubs, the number of allocated places was being reduced – the maximum number of places per club was now two, which would be granted to any club

with more than 190 members; and

3.1.3 the deadline for club entries in the London Marathon was 25 January 2024.

3.2 The Committee discussed how and when the Club's two places should be allocated via the ballot:

3.2.1 it was decided that it would be best to hold the ballot in the near future, to allow participants time to train – early October would be ideal;

3.2.2 there were currently approximately 30 entries in the ballot so far;

3.2.3 there was further discussion of whether the Club's group leaders should be given weighted allocations in the ballot – this will be discussed and determined ahead of the ballot draw; and

3.2.4 only members of the Club who have joined before April should be included in the Club ballot.

#### **4 Finance Update**

KK reported that:

4.1 KK had been in touch with the relevant club member (**DB**) regarding the Leeds Country Way entry costs – it had been decided that the relay participants would be required to pay closer to the time, to avoid issues with last-minute changes to the teams;

4.2 KK had been in touch with England Athletics regarding AR-Y's coaching voucher to see if it could be refunded/extended but not yet had a confirmation;

4.3 there were several leading/coaching vouchers which were due to expire in the next few months – AR-Y has already chased up with the relevant individuals and would do so again, but KK will check to see if the coaching course deadlines can be extended, as the dates for the courses had been limited and unsuitable for the participants; and

4.4 KK had prepared an initial draft of the Club's budget and specifically noted that the Summer Mile appeared to have operated at a loss this year, but this was due to the periodic cost of medals (usually required every couple of years – the cost was to be reviewed and factored into Summer Mile planning for the future) and that the Club had been charged by EvenSplits for timing, with the understanding that there will be rebate of an amount to be determined by the number of volunteers provided at the Vale of York Half Marathon.

#### **5 Social Events**

5.1 As noted in minute 3.2 above, it was proposed that the Club's London Marathon draw would take place on the first Tuesday in October at the Club's usual social following the group run session.

5.2 It was noted that the first Tuesday of the month socials were well-attended but it would be worth including them in the round-up the week before to make sure members were aware they were taking place – there was also discussion of whether to try different venues, including the Fenton (the ground floor of which is free to book).

- 5.3 KK noted that the social committee had begun planning for the Club's Christmas party, with the proviso that space be available for a pantomime – an update will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee. The consensus was that a Friday or Saturday night would work best. XP suggested Hyde Park Picture House as a possible venue and will look into the viability.
- 5.4 The Club's trip for 2024 was briefly discussed – the Committee will check in with the usual organisers to see if any plans have been made as yet.
- 5.5 GR mentioned that last year's run to Saltaire had been popular and she intended to organise again with assistance from a member of the Club (**OC**).
- 5.6 The Committee noted its thanks to:
  - 5.6.1 James Tarbit for organising the Ultra Tour of North Bars; and
  - 5.6.2 GR for organising the Club's Track Day.

## **6 Volunteering**

- 6.1 CL reported that uptake for volunteering at the Vale of York Half Marathon was currently quite low and it was decided that this should be pushed via:
  - 6.1.1 the usual announcements on the steps before Tuesday night sessions;
  - 6.1.2 an event to be created on Spond to manage sign-ups; and
  - 6.1.3 the round-up email.
- 6.2 It was noted that there was often a last-minute rush to volunteer and that there was a good number of members participating in the race this year, which may help to publicise it and give their friends an incentive to volunteer.

## **7 Club Competitions/Championships**

- 7.1 It was noted that some of the Championship awards were still to be collected from CE by the relevant winners and that CL still had some of the awards from the Summer Mile for participants from other clubs – the Committee is likely to have links to these clubs who can help to get the awards to the relevant recipients.
- 7.2 It was noted that some of the Club's records were out-of-date on the Club's website and that these would be updated as soon as possible.
- 7.3 The Committee discussed the basis of recognising Club records and the following principles were agreed:
  - 7.3.1 the race must be run by a first or second claim member of the Club;
  - 7.3.2 the race must be a qualifying performance on a course certified by UKA (i.e. shows on Power of Ten); and
  - 7.3.3 the athlete must be running as a representative of Hyde Park Harriers (both as registered in results and clearly wearing the Club's kit).

- 7.4 LG had noted prior to the meeting that the Club's championships were up-to-date save for the Flat Cap Five (for which results had not yet been published).
- 7.5 CE noted that the St Aidan's Half Marathon had not yet been confirmed to be taking place but an update was expected soon – Bolton Abbey Half Marathon was a possible replacement.
- 7.6 It was noted that certain local races had been cancelled recently due to low entries – the Committee noted that it would be good to include these type of races in the Club's championships (as is already the case in several instances).
- 7.7 JS suggested including a page on the Club's website to provide details of the relay races that the Club typically enters, so that newer members were aware of them and to avoid them being run by the same people in the same teams every time.

## **8 Relays**

CE noted that the Club had two teams entered for the Leeds Country Way relay race, with enough reserves. She will assist the organisers and keep the Committee updated as necessary.

## **9 Club Standards**

- 9.1 The Committee confirmed they were happy with the proposed amendments to the Club's documents and policies as prepared by TA, the majority of which were anodyne.
- 9.2 TA highlighted certain key changes as follows:
  - 9.2.1 the provisions regarding Covid-19 had been removed due to the removal of all associated guidelines and requirements by UKA; and
  - 9.2.2 the welfare policy had been updated to make it more appropriate for the Club and its obligations to its members.
- 9.3 TA will finalise the updated documents and arrange for them to be uploaded to the Club's website and UKA portal.

## **10 Sessions**

- 10.1 GR advised that she had started work on the leader blogs, with the intention of publishing these on the first Wednesday of each month. GR is intending to check in with the Club's group leaders to gauge interest and participation.
- 10.2 The Committee discussed the leading of Group 1 at Tuesday sessions, as it was noted that this often falls to a very small group of leaders. XP advised that she was happy to continue leading this frequently at present and that she and certain other members of the group were investigating methods of increasing the leadership pool.
- 10.3 The Committee agreed that:
  - 10.3.1 the Kirkstall Hills sessions would recommence from 14 September 2024;
  - 10.3.2 as the Club continued to have access to the Leeds Beckett track, the track sessions would also continue alternating weeks with the Kirkstall Hills session; and

10.3.3 leaders of the Kirkstall Hills sessions would be reminded to ensure that participants were not isolated during the session if this can be avoided – participants would be encouraged to “buddy up”.

10.4 CE advised that the Club’s Spond user list was approaching the limit and would likely need to be trimmed again – JS noted that it was important to filter by date of joining to avoid removing recently-joined participants.

## **11 Events**

11.1 JS and CL confirmed that the Summer Mile had largely gone as planned – JS was intending to compile a “lessons learned” log for future reference. It was noted that it would be helpful to have a full guide for continuity purposes and to avoid issues if a particular organiser was unavailable in the future.

11.2 GR confirmed that the Track Day had been a success despite the weather. The event next year may include a variety of “sports day” events, due to the popularity of the short-distance runs this year. It was noted that the Club had not had exclusive use of the track and that social media and other outlets had indicated that the track was in fact free to use that day – this will be flagged to Leeds Beckett before next year’s event as, although there were no issues with the other users of the track on the day, it would be better to reduce the risk of disputes.

11.3 TA advised that he had not yet had an opportunity to arrange a Club volunteering takeover at Woodhouse Moor parkrun, but would progress this before the next meeting of the Committee.

11.4 TA also advised that he was not intending to organise the usual parkrun day in the near future but would re-visit it later in the year – if any other member of the Club was keen to organise and run the event, TA would be more than happy to assist.

## **12 Welfare**

12.1 CL advised there were no on-going matters.

12.2 The Club briefly discussed a welfare issue that had arisen since the previous meeting, whereby a member of the Club had raised concerns directly with AR-Y regarding another member. AR-Y had referred the member to the welfare email address and the matter had been satisfactorily resolved (with no on-going action required of the Club). It was noted that, although the Club’s welfare system had worked appropriately once engaged, the matter should not have been raised with AR-Y personally as this was unfair on her (or on any other Committee member or member of the Club in their personal capacity) – members should be reminded that any relevant concerns should be referred directly to the welfare officers via the dedicated email address.

12.3 The Committee discussed the remits of its welfare obligations and it was agreed that, whilst the Club, the Committee and its members took the welfare and well-being of its members and participants very seriously, those obligations extended only to the Club’s activities and events and not to personal or external matters.

## **13 Any Other Business**

13.1 The Committee discussed the Club’s vest and t-shirts as follows:

13.1.1 a member (LC) was investigating the possibility of club t-shirts featuring an offset white stripe – CE advised that Fastrax were able to provide these with a minimum order of six,

which meant there would likely be sufficient interest; and

13.1.2 the Club had a substantial stock of the existing vests and therefore there was little appetite to change supplier (especially given that, given the diversity of the Club's members, it was very unlikely that any vest would be ideal for all members).

13.2 TA noted that he had received an email on 17 July 2023 regarding accepting new terms and conditions from England Athletics. The Committee confirmed they had also received this email – some had actioned, others had not. No particular action was needed unless and until England Athletics pursued the matter.

#### **14 Future Meetings**

TA will arrange a poll on the Committee's Facebook page to determine the date of the next meeting, which will be in person if at all possible.

#### **15 Close of Meeting**

15.1 There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

15.2 TA will circulate a draft of the minutes and action points as soon as practicable following the meeting.