

HYDE PARK HARRIERS

Minutes of the annual general meeting (the **AGM**) of Hyde Park Harriers (the **Club**) duly held and convened at the New Headingley Club on Tuesday 07 May 2024 at 7pm.

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

Full list of attendees appended to these minutes.

1 Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 It was noted that the AGM had been duly convened and that a quorum was present for the purposes of the Club's constitution.
- 1.2 It was further noted that, although AR-Y intended to step down as Chair of the Club during the AGM, she would serve as Chair for the duration of the AGM as the presumptive Chair (TA) was serving as Club Secretary.

2 Previous AGM Minutes

The minutes of the annual general meeting of the Club held on 09 May 2023 were approved as circulated and will be uploaded to the Club's website.

3 Chair's Report

- 3.1 AR-Y reported on the Club's activities over the last year, highlighting the races, events, trips, sessions and celebrations which the Club's members had undertaken and participated in. AR-Y expressed her thanks to the Club's committee (the **Committee**) and all the other volunteers

who have helped the Club provide for its members.

- 3.2 The Committee expressed its thanks to AR-Y for all of her hard work as Chair on behalf of the entire Club.

4 Election of Committee Members

- 4.1 It was noted that AR-Y (as Chair) and each of DC, Jonathan Spain (**JS**), LG and XP (each as Committee Members) had reached the end of their existing terms and each intended to step down from their roles on the Committee.
- 4.2 It was further noted that TA intended to serve as Chair and accordingly he would vacate his role as Club Secretary. TA's nomination as Chair was proposed by Kay Jefferies, seconded by Jaz Bangerh and passed unanimously.
- 4.3 It was further noted that GR and RG (each as Committee Members) had reached the end of their existing terms and:
- 4.3.1 GR intended to serve as Club Secretary and accordingly she would vacate her role as a Committee Member; and
- 4.3.2 RG had applied for re-election as a Committee Member.
- 4.4 GR's nomination as Club Secretary was proposed by Dan Donnelly, seconded by Naomi Adkins and passed unanimously.
- 4.5 It was noted that the Club would also be appointing two new roles to the Committee:
- 4.5.1 Training and Development Lead Coach, for which two applications had been received – Honor Baldry and Curtis Broadhead; and
- 4.5.2 Social Media and Communications Lead, for which two applications had been received – Sam Hadfield and Sharon Nahal.
- 4.6 Those present at the AGM were then invited to vote in respect of the election of the two roles and votes were also noted and tallied from members who had notified the Committee of their votes in absentia.

The meeting was adjourned to enable the members in attendance to vote.

- 4.7 CL acted as returning officer and, upon the meeting being convened, he confirmed that:
- 4.7.1 Honor Baldry had been elected as the Training and Development Lead Coach; and
- 4.7.2 Sam Hadfield had been elected as the Social Media and Communications Lead.
- 4.8 It was noted that there were five ordinary Committee Member roles and the Club had received applications from each of the following:
- 4.8.1 Sharon Nahal (who had asked to be considered in the event she was not elected as Social Media and Communications Lead), whose nomination was proposed by Curtis Ledger, seconded by Curtis Broadhead and passed unanimously;

- 4.8.2 RG, whose nomination was proposed by Jaz Bangerh, seconded by Lucy Rider and passed unanimously;
- 4.8.3 Bethany Chambers, whose nomination was proposed by Richard Cartwright, seconded by Louise Gardham and passed unanimously;
- 4.8.4 Ellie Williams, whose nomination was proposed by Ed Shakespeare, seconded by Laura Garratt and passed unanimously; and
- 4.8.5 Ed Shakespeare, whose nomination was proposed by Joseph Elmes, seconded by Chris Kemp and passed unanimously.

5 President's Words

- 5.1 Kay Jefferies (**KJ**) provided a presentation in her capacity as President, highlighting the importance of attendance at the AGM and how the Club has changed in the 18 years she has been involved (16 of which have involved serving on the Committee in one capacity or another).
- 5.2 KJ noted the members of the Club who are sadly no longer with us and thanked all those who have been involved in making the Club successful, including Committee members past and present, run group leaders, volunteers and members.
- 5.3 KJ noted that she was handing the role of President to AR-Y and was very much looking forward to the future of the Club, including its 20th anniversary celebrations in 2026.
- 5.4 The Committee and the Club expressed its thanks to KJ for all she has done for the Club.

6 Treasurer's Report

- 6.1 KK provided an update on the Club's financial position, summarised as follows:
 - 6.1.1 The Club has c.£3,000 in its bank account, which is an appropriate balance given the Club's income, expenditure and status as a not-for-profit organisation.
 - 6.1.2 Spending has been higher in the last couple of years than the years immediately prior, which is to be expected as a consequence of reduced spending during the pandemic.
 - 6.1.3 The Club effectively made a £34 profit during the last financial year (the figure of £934 in the balance sheet effectively including profit which is partially representative of previous years) – essentially, the Club's budget is very neatly balanced.
 - 6.1.4 It is important to note that only £5 of membership fees (increasing to £10 after the "early-bird" discount expires) goes to the Club – the rest covers the England Athletics registration fee.
- 6.2 KK highlighted the Summer Mile in particular and the following points were noted and discussed:
 - 6.2.1 the Summer Mile has steady income but expenditure fluctuates year-to-year (i.e. when medals are bought, etc);
 - 6.2.2 the Club has essentially made a profit of c.£600 from the last three years of the Summer Mile, which is good to have but shows that the event is not a major money generator in

itself;

6.2.3 the Club will consider the Summer Mile in this context and what changes (if any) need to be made – various points were made and raised including:

- a) whether increased sponsorship might offset costs;
- b) the fact that, as not-for-profit organisation, increased revenue would increase the Club's requirement to spend;
- c) the Summer Mile is an advertisement for the Club and there are hidden benefits to it, such as new members, etc; and
- d) whether there was scope for the Club to host a second race, such as a Winter Mile or something entirely new.

6.2.4 TA advised that he intended to circulate a survey to the Club's membership covering a wide variety of activities and issues and that the Summer Mile would be included – the members of the Club were therefore invited to consider this and feedback to the Committee in due course.

7 Membership Report

7.1 CE provided an update on the Club's membership, summarised as follows:

7.1.1 The Club currently has 221 members, closely in line with recent years.

7.1.2 There are slightly more male runners than female runners (it being noted that the Club differentiates in accordance with England Athletics policy, but non-binary members are welcome).

7.1.3 The Club anticipated receiving two club places for the London Marathon ballot (plus the additional deferred place for the member who would have run in 2024 but for an injury) and it was noted that the Committee would ask those who have already won a club place to refrain from participating in future ballots.

7.1.4 By reference to a graph of membership numbers, the Club's membership is logical with no obvious spikes or falls – a point was raised regarding analysis of membership and sign-ups by reference to university term times, which the Committee will consider.

7.1.5 As a general comment, the Club has strong membership numbers and perhaps does not need to grow in terms of mass attendance, but it may be good to focus on conversion of attendees into full members instead.

7.2 CE also advised that there were indications that England Athletics may require all registered members of clubs to confirm their agreement to the Codes of Conduct, as has been required for leaders and volunteers during the last year. The Committee will monitor this and advise Club members of any action that needs to be taken as and when necessary.

8 Sessions

TA provided an update on the Club's sessions as follows:

- 8.1 2023 saw the Club's largest number of participants in sessions since current records began.
- 8.2 The Club had a record attendance for a Tuesday night session in January 2024, being 184 participants.
- 8.3 Since the last AGM, there have been c.630 official groups/sessions offered by the Club. The large number of sessions means the Club requires lots of leaders to properly function.
- 8.4 The Club continues to use Spond to co-ordinate sessions, as it allows leaders to know how big their groups will be and to centralise messaging to participants. There are disadvantages, such as groups filling up quickly and maximum Spond size, which remain under review, but for now the Committee believes the benefits outweigh the downsides.
- 8.5 It is noted that 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays is not convenient for all Club members. The Committee is not proposing to change the times and days of formal sessions, as it would increase the administration and work, both for the Committee and run leaders, but members are encouraged to arrange informal and ad-hoc runs themselves.
- 8.6 The Club has switched to 12 groups on Tuesday evening runs, which hopefully allow for easier transitions between groups. Feedback has been generally positive and the Committee will continue to monitor this.
- 8.7 The Club's progression sessions also seem to have been well-received. It is noted that there are slight variances in how the sessions are interpreted by leaders (i.e. slower, shorter, or both), but ultimately the sessions seem to have the desired effect.
- 8.8 The Club continues to offer Thursday sessions, being track intervals interspersed with Kirkstall Hills and Woodhouse Moor runs, dependent on season. These will continue to be offered, with additional input from the Training and Development Lead Coach.
- 8.9 The Club will reintroduce Sunday Long Runs on an ad-hoc basis, as these seemed to be well-received in previous years. LG noted that the Committee does not chase for leaders for these sessions, but anyone keen to lead need only to let the Committee know.
- 8.10 The Club has a strong relationship with the North Running Club and will continue to provide leaders for their runs.

9 Leaders and Coaching Committee

GR and AR-Y provided an update on the Club's leaders and coaching arrangements as follows:

- 9.1 During the last year, the Club has had 83 different run leaders, taking 7,291 participants through 585 sessions.
- 9.2 The Club and Committee expressed thanks to everyone who has led groups and encouraged those who would like to try leading to have a go.
- 9.3 During the last year, the Club has supported four individuals to complete their Leadership in Running Fitness courses, with three more currently in process.
- 9.4 Honor Baldry has completed her Coach in Running Fitness Course, and two more coaches are currently undertaking the course.

- 9.5 Multiple sessions for leaders have been arranged and have been well-attended – thanks was noted to GR for organising these.
- 9.6 The Club was reminded to use the group leading Facebook page and the online roster to minimise the administration of leader for the Committee.
- 9.7 Consideration will continue to be given as to how best to recognise and reward leaders – it was noted that the extra places in the Club’s London Marathon ballot had been appreciated.

10 Mental Health and #runandtalk

XP and Lucy Rider (LR) summarised the Club’s Run and Talk sessions as follows:

- 10.1 The sessions are offered once a month, with LR usually leading but others are more than welcome to get involved.
- 10.2 There are not usually large numbers of participants, but this is not necessarily an issue – as long as members know it is there when needed.
- 10.3 Most runs include a monthly “theme”.
- 10.4 LR intends to promote more social events following the sessions for those who are interested.
- 10.5 The Club expressed its thanks to LR for all her hard work as a mental health ambassador for the Club.

11 Summer Mile

AR-Y provided an update on the Summer Mile (on behalf of JS), summarised as follows:

- 11.1 The event has a new sponsor, Notch.
- 11.2 The event has been increased from 400 to 500 entries, with 15 heats.
- 11.3 The Club expressed its thanks for Sarah Underwood for designing the flyers and marketing materials and members were encouraged to promote the event wherever and whenever possible.
- 11.4 Members were also reminded to enter themselves, as Club participation was currently low.

12 Club Trip

AR-Y provided an update on the Club’s trips, summarised as follows:

- 12.1 The three trips in 2023 (to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) had been well-received – it was noted that the Club’s fell-running t-shirt (designed and arranged by Sarah Underwood) had been very popular.
- 12.2 Trips planned for 2024 include:
 - 12.2.1 the Lake District, to take part in the Blisco Dash Fell Race;
 - 12.2.2 Galway; and

12.2.3 Lisbon.

- 12.3 Club members were encouraged to participate in and arrange any other trips that they would like to do.

13 Social Events

TA provided an update on the Club's social events, summarised as follows:

- 13.1 The major events had been the traditional ones – the Christmas party and the Awards Evening. The Club and Committee noted its thanks to the social committee for all their hard work, especially Paul Sawyer.
- 13.2 The monthly post-run socials fluctuated in their attendance, but were well-received and would be promoted more strongly.
- 13.3 Post-race social events are always popular – there will be events following the Leeds Marathon and Half and the Calderdale Way Relay.
- 13.4 Around the Park, Around the Clock had been well-attended and would hopefully be another success this year, offering an opportunity for the Club to socialise across groups and pace brackets.
- 13.5 There have been multiple ad-hoc trips and socials (e.g. parkrun milestones, ice hockey, etc) – if a member has a good idea for a social event, they should feel encouraged to organise it. Members were reminded to try to make events inclusive where possible.
- 13.6 Members are encouraged to join the social committee and help with the organising of the Club's formal events, particularly by car sharing to more remote events.

14 Volunteering

CL provided an update on the Club's volunteering activities, summarised as follows:

- 14.1 In 2023, the Club had provided volunteers at the Leeds Marathon and Half, Leeds 10K, the Middleton PECO and the Vale of York Half and thanks was expressed by the Club to those who had assisted with these events.
- 14.2 The Club's main volunteering events in 2024 will be:
- 14.2.1 The Leeds Marathon and Half – uptake on volunteering has been lower than last year, potentially because of the earlier start time and the difficulties relating to bag drop which the event experienced last year.
- 14.2.2 The Summer Mile – members were reminded that it is very feasible to both run and volunteer at the event and that it is a good opportunity to represent the Club and promote it to the wider community.
- 14.2.3 The Vale of York Half – an important volunteering opportunity as the Club receives funding for each volunteer it sends and the event often struggles to recruit sufficient volunteers due to its remoteness. Car sharing will be arranged to make transport to and from the event easier.

14.2.4 PECO – the Club will take the lead role in organising its event this year and will need lots of members to assist.

14.3 CL noted that there were many other ad-hoc volunteering opportunities, such as parkrun takeovers and local races, which members were encouraged to take part in.

15 Welfare

CL provided an update on the Club's welfare offering, summarised as follows:

15.1 The Committee maintains a confidential email address for welfare matters, which is monitored by the Welfare Lead (notified to England Athletics) who will refer matters as appropriate to the circumstances.

15.2 It is not widely used, but members should be aware of its existence and not be concerned about using it as and when necessary.

15.3 An out-of-office response will be added to the email to manage expectations and provide context for anyone using it regarding the Club's welfare policies and procedures.

16 Relays

AR-Y provided an update on the Club's participation in relay races, summarised as follows:

16.1 The Club has two teams entered in the Calderdale Way Relay race – the Club and Committee expressed their thanks to Richard Cartwright and Jonathan Carpenter for all their work in co-ordinating the teams.

16.2 The Club will enter teams into the Leeds Country Way Relay race later this year – the date has been confirmed, so teams will start to be co-ordinated soon.

16.3 There are a number of other relay races which can be entered directly by members organising their own teams, including PECO, Golden Acre, Danefield and Post Hill. Members are encouraged to use the Club's social media to co-ordinate teams and enter these events.

17 Veterans

RG provided an update on the Club's veterans, summarised as follows:

17.1 Veteran status begins at 35 and there are a number of races and events specifically designed for veteran runners – Michael Vargas has written a useful post about these events, specifically those hosted in the Yorkshire Veterans Grand Prix series.

17.2 The Club's veterans had had a successful year at PECO, although more participants in certain age brackets would be very helpful.

17.3 Highlights of the Club's veterans had included:

17.3.1 Various successful events at the Northern Masters for Jason Newell;

17.3.2 Richard Sykes finishing second in the V40 category at PECO;

17.3.3 Chrissy Donnelly and Sharron Neugebauer had both finished first in their age categories

at the recent Piglove-by-the-River races.

18 Club Kit

CE and Jaz Bangerh (**JB**) provided an update on the Club's kit, summarised as follows:

- 18.1 Following feedback from members, the Club had now arranged a new running t-shirt as an alternative to the Club vest, provided by Fastrax.
- 18.2 The Club has a new order form for t-shirts and vests – orders will have a minimum threshold, which may result in short delays in receiving kit, but will assist in keeping costs down.
- 18.3 The Club will continue to use PB Teamwear for non-standard kit.
- 18.4 Members are encouraged to continue providing feedback on the Club's kit so that it can continue to be improved.
- 18.5 The Club expressed its thanks to JB for her work in arranging and co-ordinating the changes to the kit and ordering process.
- 18.6 CE advised that the Club would now allow members to choose between the different vest and t-shirt options and that, as a consequence, she would be keeping a smaller stock of items but would endeavour to arrange orders ahead of major events (such as popular marathons and PECO).
- 18.7 A query was raised regarding the possibility of recycling old items of kit – CE will check with Fastrax whether they would be interested in the return of fabric for re-use.

19 Club Competitions

TA provided an update on the Club's competitions and championships, summarised as follows:

- 19.1 Congratulations were offered again to all the winners and runners-up for the 2023/2024 season and it was noted that the Club's Awards Evening had been well-attended.
- 19.2 The new championship season has begun – full details are set out on the Club's website and in the weekly round-up email.
- 19.3 Members were reminded to include their Club membership details on race entries to obtain discounted entry and ensure their results are collected for the Club's competitions.
- 19.4 The Club and Committee noted their gratitude and appreciation to the Committee members who have collated the results of the various competitions over the last year, particularly LG.
- 19.5 The Club's parkrun championship has been slightly adapted and now no longer includes the best result from Woodhouse Moor, as this created a huge administrative burden. The Committee will now check who has participated in the nominated parkruns during the first few months of the season and track those participants for the rest of the year – there is therefore no need to formally opt-in to the championship, but if a member decides to start participating later during the season, they may need to notify the Committee. There had been suggestions of changing the championship to count the best nine results (rather than the current practice of counting all 12) – this will be reviewed, mostly likely for next season.

- 19.6 The Committee had noted that the Club's shields were a significant expense and were not an ideal means of recording the Club's history, as they tend to be kept by the last winner once all space has been filled. The Committee therefore proposed that the shields were phased out (i.e. not replaced when the current ones are filled) and historic winners will instead be recorded in the Club's Hall of Fame on the website. Winners will continue to be presented with individual trophies which are theirs to keep. Members were invited to consider this proposal and provide feedback to the Committee.

20 Triathlon Club

John Pratt (**JP**) provided an update on the Hyde Park Harriers Triathlon Club (the **Triathlon Club**), summarised as follows:

20.1 Recent highlights have included:

20.1.1 Rother Valley Triathlon, where multiple new members made their open-water swimming debuts;

20.1.2 Tadcaster Triathlon, where multiple members had very successful races, including an overall 8th finish for Harvey Renshaw;

20.1.3 JP has qualified for the European sprint and world standard distances Championships for the GB age group team; and

20.1.4 Harvey Renshaw has recently joined the Triathlon Club and become a coach.

20.2 The Triathlon Club's recent developments have included:

20.2.1 Having recently regained access to the Forum for swimming sessions, these have been well-attended, particularly since the advent of a social swimming lane.

20.2.2 The Zwift series during the winter months was popular and expanded the Triathlon Club's participants to outside the immediate geographic area.

20.2.3 Social rides have also been popular, especially with the weather starting to improve.

20.2.4 Membership has been lower than in previous years, connected to recent relocations and lifestyle changes relating to the Committee.

20.2.5 In 2023, several founding members of the Triathlon Club, who also served as committee members, stepped down for various reasons. This has necessitated a return to basics for the Triathlon Club, with special thanks to those who stepped onto the committee to fill the requirements of the organisation.

20.2.6 With Graeme Miles stepping down as chair of the Triathlon Club, it is intended that there will be closer ties with the Club, both to boost membership and to share knowledge and structure as the Triathlon Club evolves.

21 Club Standards

TA provided an update on the Club's standards and regulatory requirements, summarised as follows:

- 21.1 There no significant updates to report – the Club was currently in compliance with its obligations to England Athletics.
- 21.2 The Club’s policies and documents will be reviewed and updated as appropriate within the next couple of months.
- 21.3 As mentioned under the Membership section, there is a possibility that members may be required to confirm agreement with England Athletics’ Codes of Conduct but this will be reviewed and actioned as and when necessary.

22 Club Constitution

- 22.1 TA reported on the proposed changes to the Club’s constitution as summarised in the email invite to the AGM. The proposals were voted on by the attendees of the AGM and were unanimously approved. TA will arrange for the revised version of the Club’s constitution to be updated on the Club’s website and via the Club’s portal with England Athletics.
- 22.2 TA also noted that, due to a minor discrepancy in process, KJ’s life membership (purportedly granted in 2019) required ratification at the AGM. KJ’s status as a life member of the Club was unanimously approved and ratified since the date of its purported grant.
- 22.3 KJ requested that AR-Y be granted life membership in recognition of all her work for the Club and the proposal was unanimously approved.

23 Close of AGM

- 23.1 There being no further business, the AGM was closed.
- 23.2 The Committee will prepare and circulate a draft of the minutes of the AGM as soon as practicable following the AGM.

Appendix – Register of Attendees

HYDE PARK HARRIERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

07 MAY 2024

	PRINT NAME	SIGN NAME
1	T [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2	C [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3	C [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4	G [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5	A [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6	J [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
7	R [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
8	L [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
9	R [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
10	K [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
11	M [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
12	E [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
13	A [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
14	P [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
15	D [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

	PRINT NAME	SIGN NAME
16	J [REDACTED]	
17	P [REDACTED]	
18	J [REDACTED]	
19	A [REDACTED]	
20	S [REDACTED]	
21	X [REDACTED]	
22	R [REDACTED]	
23	B [REDACTED]	
24	M [REDACTED]	
25	E [REDACTED]	
26	S [REDACTED]	
27	K [REDACTED]	
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40	D [REDACTED]	
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49	A [REDACTED]	

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52	<i>H</i> [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
53	<i>M</i> [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
54	<i>C</i> [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
55	<i>S</i> [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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