

# 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 15 September 2024 at 6pm.

Present:	Toby Adkins	( <b>TA</b> – Chair)
	Bethany Chambers	( <b>BC</b> – Committee Member)
	Clare Evans	( <b>CE</b> – Membership Secretary)
	Ed Shakespeare	( <b>ES</b> – Committee Member)
	Ellie Williams	( <b>EW</b> – Committee Member)
	Honor Baldry (until minute 5)	( <b>HB</b> – Coaching and Development Lead)
	John Pratt (until minute 5)	( <b>JP</b> – Triathlon Club Representative)
	Richard Garratt	( <b>RG</b> – Committee Member)
	Sam Hadfield	( <b>SH</b> – Social Media and Communications Lead)
	Sharon Nahal	( <b>SN</b> – Committee Member)
Apologies:	Curtis Ledger	( <b>CL</b> – Committee Member)
	Grace Roberts	( <b>GR</b> – Club Secretary)
	Katherine Kirkham	( <b>KK</b> – Club Treasurer)

## 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 meeting of the Committee on 21 July 2024 were approved as circulated and will be uploaded to the Club's website.

## 3 Sessions and Coaching

3.1 HB reported as follows:

- 3.1.1 all is going smoothly generally in terms of coaching and sessions;
  - 3.1.2 the first Kirkstall Hills session of the winter season was well-attended – it was noted that it was important that attention was paid to ensure the group did not leave any participant isolated (solutions will be left to the discretion of the leader, but options include using only a couple of the hills, or ensuring that there are multiple back- and middle-markers available to keep the group safe);
  - 3.1.3 track sessions were well-attended and it was good to see some of the Group 1 and Group 2 regulars attending – the sessions can be adapted for all abilities;
  - 3.1.4 the current training block (targeting Abbey Dash and autumn half-marathons) has not received as much uptake as the previous block and HB will seek feedback on this;
  - 3.1.5 the next training block will likely use the PECO races as targets, with opportunities for off-road improvement and it was suggested that HB liaise with the Club's PECO captains (this season's, once chosen, and historic) to arrange sessions and route recces;
  - 3.1.6 three members (**AR-Y**, **SU** and **CM**) are currently undertaking their Coaching in Running Fitness qualifications and HB will liaise with KK to determine the Club's coaching course budget so that applications can be opened for leaders wishing to qualify in 2025;
  - 3.1.7 HB and GR are arranging the next group leaders' evening, which will take place at the Library after the Club session on 01 October – this will be kept fairly informal and offered as a chance for runners and leaders to discuss leading in conversation; and
  - 3.1.8 in discussion with JP, it was established that HB would continue to develop the running training program and JP would work on the equivalent swimming and cycling programs for the Triathlon club.
- 3.2 There was discussion of the promotion and use of "West Park Wednesdays", an unofficial session often hosted by a member of the Club (**AF**) and it was decided that this would be informally promoted as an unofficial opportunity for runners to attend if they wanted to, but it would not be formalised as a Spond event and would occur at the discretion of AF (who would be acting as a facilitator and not as a coach or leader) and that promotion would be focussed on the HPH Training Pals group to avoid over-posting on the Club's main Facebook page.
- 3.3 TA is intending to bring back the headtorch trail runs (which were popular last year) on a monthly basis and will post in the HPH Leaders' group to gauge interest from fellow leaders.
- 3.4 It was noted that, due to a common bug in the Spond app, it was important that whoever was administering the Spond process each week should check that all invitations were going to all Spond group members – this is a lengthy and frustrating process (which will hopefully be resolved if/when Spond fixes the bug) but is preferable to group members feeling unwelcome because they have not received an invitation.
- 3.5 It was also decided that posting requests for group leaders on Spond (as well as via Facebook) was worth doing, as it would highlight the gaps in the group leading roster to the whole Club (not just existing leaders) and also be likely to get the attention of members who do not use Facebook.

#### **4 Volunteering**

The Committee noted its thanks to the Club members who volunteered at the Vale of York races – CE will confirm the names of the volunteers with CL.

#### **5 Welfare**

CE advised that there was nothing to report.

#### **6 Relays**

The Committee noted its thanks to the three members, (CG, LG and JC) who had organised and arranged the Leeds Country Way Relay Race teams – their efforts were very much appreciated.

#### **7 PECO**

7.1 ES and CE provided feedback from the PECO annual general meeting which they had attended earlier in the month, noting that the season ticket for the races appeared to have increased to £18 (despite being agreed as £17 at the meeting).

7.2 ES will create a post to reemphasise the need for captains and race organisers so that these can be chosen in advance of the PECO season.

#### **8 Membership**

8.1 CE reported that the Club currently has 246 members, roughly in line with expectations for the time of year.

8.2 CE will order some additional hi-vis bibs, subject to confirmation of funds with KK, as the Club's stock is low.

8.3 The Club has not yet had confirmation from the London Marathon regarding its allocated club entries – this should be provided by November.

8.4 TA will submit an application to the Brass Monkey Half Marathon to participate in its club ballot for additional entries, given the race's popularity with the Club.

#### **9 Finance**

In KK's absence, it was noted that there were no known financial issues to discuss.

#### **10 Social Events**

The following upcoming social events were discussed:

10.1 the Club's London Marathon ballot will take place once the number of allocated entries has been confirmed – this will likely be combined with a Club social or event;

10.2 the Club's social committee had confirmed the date and venue for the Club's Christmas party and it was agreed that the ticketing and organisation of the event would largely be replicated from last year, given the event had been successful, save that the Club would pay for a member (CG) to DJ subject to confirmation of available budget by KK;

10.3 there will be a social run to Saltaire at the end of October, culminating in food and drinks at

the Salt Taproom – TA is organising this;

- 10.4 the Club is organising a theatre trip at the end of October – EW is liaising with a member (**DF**) to organise this;
- 10.5 as with previous years, the Club will organise a tour of Light Night at the end of October, which is being led by a member (**AA**) – this event will be formally added to Spond but it is important that numbers remain manageable (or the group is split) to avoid causing difficulties on the streets of the city, which will be very busy;
- 10.6 AA has also organised a Club trip to a pantomime – the Committee noted its thanks to AA for her numerous efforts in creating and organising social events for the Club;
- 10.7 there will be a Q&A session hosted by a Club member (**SB**) on pelvic health – the exact date is to be confirmed, but it will likely be at a monthly Club social (although given the leaders' evening planned for the October social, this will likely be in November);
- 10.8 the Club's trip to Lisbon is fast-approaching and participants will be encouraged to car-share for airport journeys; and
- 10.9 CE has identified an interesting event at the Ilkley Literature Festival – There Is No Wall, by Allie Bailey – which will be promoted to the Club.

## **11 Club Competitions/Championships**

- 11.1 CE reported that all league tables were largely up-to-date.
- 11.2 TA noted that he was intending to prepare a survey to be distributed to the Club to seek views on how the competitions and championships should be organised in the future:
  - 11.2.1EW noted that other clubs often run seasonal championships, which attract wider participation and this could be investigated;
  - 11.2.2CE will provide a breakdown of involvement in the various championships to assist in shaping the survey.
- 11.3 TA also noted that, as part of the survey, it was proposed that the Club be asked to comment on the potential phasing-out of the championship shields, on the basis that these were expensive, environmentally unfriendly, an unnecessarily large administrative burden and (as the Club has no permanent location to display or store them) often lost:
  - 11.3.1it was noted by several Committee members that ideally the Club would maintain its history in some physical form (in addition to the Hall of Fame on the Club's website) and that members would be invited to offer ideas on what this could be;
  - 11.3.2there was no proposal to phase out the individual awards (which are kept by the recipients and are cheaper and more environmentally-friendly to produce) – the Committee would look into the possibility of the historic winners being added to the individual awards, thus combining the purpose of the awards and the shields; and
  - 11.3.3the question would be put to the Club and the Committee would review the responses in due course.

## **12 Club Standards**

- 12.1 TA reported that he and GR had created updated versions of the Club's policies as required by the Club's constitution and England Athletics and these were approved by the Committee – accordingly, TA and GR will arrange for the updated documents to be uploaded to the Club's website and the Club's portal with England Athletics.
- 12.2 TA also reported that progress was being made in relation to Club's compliance with the safeguarding requirements due to be implemented by England Athletics in 2025 and noted his thanks to GR for her hard work in respect of this.

## **13 Communications**

- 13.1 SH reported that he had closed the Club's communications survey and was in the process of reviewing the responses – this process was still on-going, but a number of high level points could already be established:
  - 13.1.1 the Club's members would like communications to be more proactive regarding upcoming events – this will likely drive increased participation and help members plan their diaries around races and Club events;
  - 13.1.2 not all of the Club's members use Facebook (or are members of the private groups used by the Club) so, although Facebook events and groups are useful for organising events, the Club should be careful not to rely on them;
  - 13.1.3 accessibility can be improved in the Club's communications – formatting, alt-text and numerous other tools could be better used to assist with this.
- 13.2 SH will review the responses in detail and provide a deeper update at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **14 Any Other Business**

- 14.1 It was noted that the Committee was required to hold at least one open meeting each calendar year and it was proposed that this could be combined with an in-person committee meeting, potentially in November.
- 14.2 TA noted that he had been asked about the possibility of sourcing club vests from Soar – the Committee's view was that it was important that all members use the same quality of vest and therefore Soar was likely to be too expensive, but that members were welcome to investigate potential suppliers and pass on their findings to the Committee to review.
- 14.3 ES noted that he intended to organise a recce of the Wadsworth Trog route in the next few weeks and would re-post about it shortly to gauge interest.
- 14.4 RG noted that the Billy Bland recces in October and November had confirmed dates and that the legs to be recced would be confirmed closer to the time, based on attendees and conditions.
- 14.5 The Committee noted its thanks and appreciation of ES' work in creating the HPH video for its recent awards nomination – ES will adapt a version of the video for the Club to use as a pinned post on social media.

14.6 TA noted that he had recently met with the new chair of the Hyde Park Harriers Triathlon Club:

14.6.1 the Triathlon Club has a new committee and TA had offered to share any resources and information that the Club has to offer which would be of assistance;

14.6.2 the Triathlon Club will make themselves known to the Club's members on Tuesday evenings on a roughly monthly basis, so that runners could be given the opportunity to learn about triathlon and the opportunities for cross-training and multi-disciplinary sport.

## 15 **Future Meetings**

GR will arrange a poll on the Committee's Facebook page to determine the date of the next meeting.

## 16 **Close of Meeting**

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

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