

# HYDE PARK HARRIERS

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## COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

SUNDAY 01 DECEMBER 2024 AT 5PM

### COFFEE ON THE CRESCENT

#### Present:

Toby Adkins	(TA – Chair)
Amy Ramsden-Young	(A-RY – President)
Clare Evans	(CE – Membership Secretary)
Ed Shakespeare	(ES – Committee Member)
Ellie Williams	(EW – Committee Member)
Honor Baldry	(HB – Coaching and Development Lead)
Grace Roberts	(GR – Club Secretary)
Richard Garratt	(RG – Committee Member)
Sam Hadfield	(SH – Social Media and Communications Lead)
Katherine Kirkham	(KK – Club Treasurer – for point 6 only)
Curtis Ledger	(CL – Committee Member)
John Pratt	(JP – Tri club committee representative)

#### Apologies:

Bethany Chambers	(BC – Committee Member)
Sharon Nahal	(SH – 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 Minutes – All

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 27 October 2024 were approved as circulated and will be uploaded to the Club's website.

## 3 PECO – All

- 3.1 It was noted that today's race (Pontefract) had a good turnout from the club with 75 runners, and a good result for all teams. The committee would like to thank the PECO captains – Charlotte Eva, Dan Donnelly and Richard Knighton for their continued hard work, and to all those who helped with the gazebo.
- 3.2 PECO Race hosting Middleton park 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Organising team in place of: TA, Naomi Adkins (NA) and ES. The route has been checked on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, some minor changes due to obstacles in the park but largely the same as previous years. Volunteer numbers are ok – enough to cover the route exactly, but would be beneficial to have a few additional volunteers in the case of any last minute drop-outs. Rothwell (co-hosts) currently providing 15 volunteers to cover 15 spaces, so additional volunteers ideally needed.
- 3.3 TA is in contact with Mark from RB. TA noted there is also a swimming gala at John Charles at the same time. **TA to ask Mark to not have car parking marshals.** It was also noted that limited access is available past the barriers in the park exclusively for race organisers, first aid and Racebest/Evensplits vans.
- 3.4 **AR-Y** suggested to contact RaceBest to suggest producing a “pack” to guide clubs on how to put on a PECO event – including what needs to be done and when each task would need to be done by, and clarity as to which person/club/company is responsible for each aspect of race hosting. **TA to take forward to Mark.**

## 4 Social Events – All

- 4.1 Christmas party – TA reported that Paul Sawyer (PS) reports approximately 80 tickets sold. **RG to push in roundup email this week.** KK reported the venue requires £2.5 k min spend – £1k of this is already achieved via ticket sales. KK reported it has never been an issue to achieve this limit in the past.
- 4.2 TA and RC in contact with Leeds Rhinos trip who are willing to provide group tickets at discounted price to local clubs. Potential club trip option in the new year. **TA to continue to liaise with RC and Leeds Rhinos to arrange.**
- 4.3 CE also suggested arranging a club trip to netball at Leeds Arena – **CE to investigate potential group discount/booking**
- 4.4 TA also suggested another ice hockey trip– previous year was a good suggestion but on a date that induced low turnout. **TA to investigate potential dates.**
- 4.5 A-RY suggested Auld Lang Syne fell race over festive period for run and social event. **AR-Y to promote on social channels.**
- 4.6 **All Committee to continue to support any member's ideas for socials.**

## 5 Club Competitions/Championships – All

- 5.1 Champs Survey – TA reported 37 responses from members for the club champs survey. This was noted to be a lower response rate than previous surveys – potential reduced promotion or lack of interest in championships.
  - 5.1.1 Of the 37 who responded to the survey, 35 were aware of all champs, 2 were aware of some but not all.
  - 5.1.2 Road, off-road and parkrun champs reported to be most popular participation-wise
  - 5.1.3 14 respondents reported not actively participating in the champs for the previous 2 years.
  - 5.1.4 Reasons for participating included using the competitive element as a driver for improvement, being able to attend races with high Club turnout and to try new races/parkrun events. Many respondents said the champs were “fun” but did not elaborate on why.
  - 5.1.5 For those who did not actively participate, most reported in not being interested in intra-club comps.
  - 5.1.6 General feedback included that many races were too close together in the year (it was suggested there may be a misunderstanding of how championships work with only 5 out of 10 races counting in the results).
  - 5.1.7 Summary of responses – those who are currently actively participating indicate they are happy with the current format, other than wanting fewer races and/or less close together in the calendar. The committee would like to make changes to increase participation suggestions on how to improve this are noted in section 5.2.
- 5.2 From the survey – several suggestions were discussed for future championships seasons:
  - 5.2.1 The Club could dispense with official championships but promote local/interesting races
  - 5.2.2 JP noted that the tri club suggested doing an intra-club championships via PECO events, but interest was low.
  - 5.2.3 CE suggested an FAQ of what the championships are and how they work for new members or those who are unsure.
  - 5.2.4 A-RY suggested having members nominate which championship they are actively competing in to prevent members winning multiple championships each year.
  - 5.2.5 There was much discussion over whether we need multiple divisions in the championships or just have one. Multiple reasons for and against were discussed (multiple champs allow multiple winners across different abilities, but can be undone by particularly fast newer members entering in the lower divisions, but one division would make the championships easier to understand). It was also suggested if doing one division, to have more winners – e.g. top 5 rather than winner & runner up. **CE to mock up what this year’s championships results would look like if it were only one division.**
  - 5.2.6 It was noted that parkrun championships is very popular with high participation. TA noted that encouraging members may not be within the spirit of parkrun, however it was noted that, as parkrun is free, it allows all members to access this particular

championships regardless of finances. The suggestion of making the parkrun champs 9 or 10 best efforts out of 12 – **All to consider this change for the 25/26 season.**

- 5.2.7 On the matter of retiring shields and moving to online records, TA reported majority in favour (20 out of 24 responses) and accordingly the Club will be retiring shields when the current versions are completed, and records will move entirely online.
  - 5.2.8 When suggesting a “Grand Prix” format, 10 respondents were in favour, but 15 were against therefore no further action on this suggestion.
  - 5.2.9 Seasonal champs – EW explained her experience of a different club staging seasonal races, but many of the races were hosted by the club that had access to appropriate venues. **EW to mock up a potential seasonal championships and share with the committee to discuss at the next meeting.**
  - 5.2.10 Personal goals / achievements – it was suggested to replace existing champs and in place have members suggest a personal goal and celebrate when members achieve these. **TA to test this as a system next year in addition to existing championships.** It was noted that the Club does celebrate members achievements (e.g. on socials and at awards do) but quieter members may not promote their achievements and therefore be missed. JP suggested perhaps nominating a role similar to PECO captains throughout the year to identify members’ achievements.
  - 5.2.11 HB suggested celebrating participation better (either those who complete many races or make effort to improve) either via prize draws or participation prizes (e.g. like those at PECO)
- 5.3 Many suggestions were made for possible events for future championships – (see separate document in GoogleDrive). These will be decided at future committee meetings. It was noted that when deciding future championship races, there needs to be consideration as to dates to ensure races are appropriately spaced out across the year. With parkrun championships – care needs to be taken to avoid parkruns that are frequently very busy.
- 5.4 It was noted that the current championships follow the England Athletics (EA) race gender format of “male” and “female.” It was suggested we reflect in the champs what members registered their race entry as, but it was noted that this is an ongoing conversation, with the priority to ensure members feel welcome and included when communicating on sensitive matters.

## **6 Finance – Katherine Kirkham**

- 6.1 KK reported that general club finances are healthy, with money available to spend:
  - 6.1.1 ARY suggestion to spend money on members at awards do (socks/etc.) – **all to think about what we could award.**
  - 6.1.2 SH suggested using a professional videographer to create a promo video – good for social media – **SH to scout potential providers/costs.**
- 6.2 KK reports that the crop-top payments are all in order. KK and CE in contact with FB (Felicity Burton) to keep the list of payments updated.
- 6.3 KK confirmed that, from the Summer Mile event, Rainbow Junktion have now been transferred

a donation of £448. KK reported that the Summer Mile 2024 produced an approximate £1k profit (as opposed to previous years of breaking even/losses). Detailed finances are available for the committee on a spreadsheet in the Club GoogleDrive.

6.4 Re: Christmas party, KK state that last year it was paid for on the night and claimed back from Club finances, but KK is unavailable to do so this year. **TA to meet with PS to see how we can arrange this for this year, and whether there is a system in place to pay and organise food vendors** (raffle ticket system worked very well last year).

6.5 KK reported there are, to date, no invoices for LiRF/CiRF yet from EA.

## **7 Sessions and Coaching – Honor Baldry**

7.1 Christmas break:

7.1.1 The committee set the dates for the Christmas pause – the last session of 2024 will be Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Club sessions will return on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. (it was noted that the first PECO of 2025 is on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan). **TA to communicate these dates on social channels etc.**

7.1.2 JP suggested a festive challenge - **ARY to organise and promote a Roundhay Rudolf run for the Club on 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

7.2 Track closures issues – HB reported the track was closed at a previous session at short notice due to ice. Only runners with track spikes were permitted to run. A discussion was had as to whether to promote shoes to club members but decided this would not be appropriate due to costs and potential injury due to change in shoe. For future sessions, **HB to keep an eye on the weather and communicate possibility that sessions might be “spikes only”**. It was suggested to move to a different location, but HB noted this wouldn't necessarily solve the issue of ice.

7.3 LiRF and CiRF application process – HB reported that the application form for members to apply to the club to get a LiRF/CiRF is ready and will be sent to members (**HB to communicate process and form to members**). If oversubscribed (3 LiRFS and 2 CiRFs available) it will be decided at committee meeting who to award funding to. It was noted that a key criterion should be commitment to leading and/or coaching at the club.

7.4 Training - It was noted that some members struggle to progress through the groups, even at progression sessions. A particular problem in groups 1-3. **HB to develop a training plan for members to use in their own time to help progression.** HB also reported working on a training block in the new year for Dewsbury 10 and a marathon training group for Spring 2025.

7.5 Couch to 5K – member NA has suggested starting a new Couch to 5k programme starting in January 2025. EW & CL offered support, it was suggested to ask in the leaders' group to provide extra cover for sessions. The aim of the programme would be for both existing/lapsed members looking to return to running and potential new members. EW suggested having a separate Facebook group for C25K participants – this would provide accountability, support, and could replace the need for sessions to be on Spond. It was also suggested for the first session of each week to be done at Tuesday club sessions so people get used to coming to the club and feel part of the club.

## **8 Membership – Clare Evans**

8.1 CE reported current membership is 269, with another 1 in progress. These are very similar numbers to the same time last year. In January, the club will offer “extended” memberships –

with new members able to purchase membership up until the end of the 2025/26 season. 2026,

- 8.2 CE reported the Club's London Marathon draw successfully took place, with members Sam Hadfield and Paul Farmery being allocated places. London Marathon places are still "pending" on the club portal, but CE is in contact with both SH and PF and will update them both in due course as to how to secure their places.

## 9 Club Standards – Grace Roberts

- 9.1 GR communicated there is an update on the EA club portal, reminding clubs that the welfare changes will be mandatory from April 2025. The Club already has all required welfare officers and policies in place so no action is needed at present.
- 9.2 GR reported that the club standards are currently at 6/7 on the portal due to waiting on LiRF/CiRF renewals as these members appear as "unlicenced". Currently, GR is leaving these "unlicenced" members on the coaches list if aware that the individual is in the process of renewing. It was noted that some renewals have not received adequate notice period. **GR to follow up with EA.**

## 10 Communications – Sam Hadfield

### 10.1 Club Newsletter:

10.1.1 The discussion continued from the last meeting with potential changing of HPH newsletter from Thursdays to Sundays in response to the communications survey where members wanted more focus on what's coming up. It was decided to keep the newsletter as is for this year, but **the newsletter team to discuss changes for 2025 and report back at the next meeting.**

10.1.2 Newsletter Christmas pause – **TA to do a chairs Christmas newsletter on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.** The newsletter will then pause until Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. SH suggested moving over from keepnotes to a spreadsheet – including regular items for each month, **SH to share with all, all to feedback to SH.**

### 10.2 Social media:

10.2.1 A discussion was had over a potential social media policy update to avoid charity posts 'swamping' the facebook page. Suggested to move to a 'pinned post' where members can comment. BC posted in committee FaceBook group potential wording for the pinned post - **all to comment whether in agreement or not. GR to draft revised policy to discuss at the next meeting.**

10.2.2 A discussion was had over the new pinned-post format for Tuesday night group posts - majority of members have given positive feedback. **TA to continue to put on a post each week (all other to pick this up if TA absent).** RG suggested doing a special Christmas tree picture run. EW suggested a featured group of the week – noted this was a good idea but it does have logistical issues - **all to think about how this could be practically rolled out.**

10.2.3 Instagram – TA reported regularly posting, **please all committee to post on IG.** The committee could use IG more to encourage participation in club championships. .

## **11 Volunteering – Curtis Ledger**

11.1 VoY volunteers - CL in dialogue with Mark to ensure the list is confirmed with RaceBest. It is unclear whether the club has been paid for these volunteers - CL to contact KK.

11.2 Run for All (RFA) volunteering:

11.2.1 HPH volunteering for Leeds marathon 2024 - CL received gels, a racebelt and vouchers from RFA freebies - gels to be distributed at PECO, other items could potentially be used for prizes.

11.2.2 RFA trialled a new initiative at Bury 10k, offering them dedicated club-related sections for marshalling. This is something the club could do at Leeds Marathon 2025 and Leeds 10k 2025. The Club would need to nominate a section leader (this is a paid role), and recruit 10 minimum volunteers, clubs can display flags and banners on their section. RFA will provide a goody bag for each volunteer, entry into an event and additional entries for club leader, donation of gels, can promote club in advance of event – **CL to ask RFA to ask if we can get a "permanent" section of the course year on year.. CL to report back any potential issues to the committee.**

11.3 PECO – see section 3.

## **12 Welfare – Curtis Ledger**

12.1 CL reported no welfare issues have been raised since the last meeting.

12.2 It was noted that a member was sent flowers as a gesture via access to address details on membership list – it was agreed that this was an appropriate use of data pursuant to the Club's GDPR policy. TA noted that The Committee should always encourage members to reach out to those who need support.

12.3 TA reported there were no further updates from the incident on 1st Oct 2024. Those affected have since continued to interact with the club (via socials).

## **13 Open Committee Meeting - Questions from Attendees**

None raised.

## **14 Any Other Business**

Tri club updates:

14.1 JP reported that current tri club sessions being offered are regular weekly swim and virtual cycling (in addition to run club sessions).

14.2 Currently the tri-club appears to have more participation of runners wanting cross-training rather than members focussed on triathlon at present.

14.3 The new tri club committee is working on future developments, working to form the future direction of the club.

## **15 Future Meetings – Grace Roberts**

The next committee meeting will be at the end of January 2025 – GR will poll committee members for availability.