

HYDE PARK HARRIERS

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Sunday 26th October 2025

1 Open Committee Meeting

Present:

Toby Adkins	TA	Chair
Amy Ramsden-Young	AR-Y	President
Grace Roberts	GR	Club Secretary
Ed Shakespeare	ES	Committee member
Ellie Williams	EW	Committee member
Lucy Bonnett	LB	Committee member
Will Dow	WD	Committee member
Bethany Chambers	BC	Committee member
Clare Evans	CE	Membership Secretary
Euan Douglas	ED	Club Treasurer
Richard Garratt	RG	Committee member
Sam Hadfield	SH	Social Media and Communications Lead

From point 3 onwards:

Honor Baldry	HB	Coaching and Development Lead
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From point 7 onwards:

Sharon Nahal	SN	Committee member
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1.1 This is an open committee meeting; however, no non-committee were in attendance.

2 Previous Minutes

2.1 September 2025 minutes – were read and ratified by all (as Sept meeting was not quorate).
Action point – GR to put on the website.

3 President's update

3.1 AR-Y thanked the committee for their efforts over the past year.

3.2 AR-Y noted the success of the recent varied HPH events & sessions as they appear to be attracting a wider range of members compared to the regular Tues and Thurs sessions.

4 Summer Mile updates

4.1 AR-Y reported that the Summer mile (SM) committee now having monthly to every-6-weekly meetings.

4.2 AR-Y and TA are working to bring the SM committee and the HPH committee closer to increase efficiency:

- 4.2.1 **Action point** – TA to add AR-Y into committee WhatsApp group.
- 4.2.2 AR-Y & SM committee will set timeframes for key SM decisions
- 4.2.3 SM and the Club Committee will agree on and set budget for SM
- 4.2.4 AR-Y updated that there is a draft plan in the GoogleDrive of decision making and a budget planner formed by the SM committee.

4.3 Other points:

- 4.3.1 SM committee are looking to re-design the SM logo (aiming to improve for social media and marketing purposes. AR-Y reported that member SU has already volunteered to do this).
- 4.3.2 The SM committee are looking at alternative sourcing of medals and trophies, and how many are needed. Particularly looking at sustainable options. AR-Y to keep Club committee updated with this decision.
- 4.3.3 SM committee are looking at either: reducing price of entries or keep the same but allow transfers to boost sign ups.
- 4.3.4 It was noted that 2026 will be 15th year of the event. It was suggested to do 15th year mementos to mark the event (e.g. tote bag, t shirts).

- 4.4 It was noted that ED and SH would both be worth having input into the SM for finances and communications. **Action point** – AR-Y to invite hello@hydeparkharriers.co.uk to SM committee meetings so the club committee is invited to the SM committee meetings
- 4.5 **Action points** - AR-Y to share planner & budget with the group – **all committee** to raise any questions/concerns with AR-Y.

5 PECO

- 5.1 Middleton race organising / volunteers:
 - 5.1.1 TA reported that NA is on top of organising at present
 - 5.1.2 Currently, there are lots of club volunteers with all roles all filled (but more volunteers are welcome).
 - 5.1.3 TA reported a slight concern over reduced runners from the Club due to high numbers volunteering. Suggested to leave PECO captains to sort.
- 5.2 Captains
 - 5.2.1 Vets captain role is unfilled. Currently three potential vets captains responded to the call. **Action point**: TA to sort Vets captain.
 - 5.2.2 TA has set up WhatsApp group for captains.
- 5.3 Leeds Uni cross country relays
 - 5.3.1 The Club has been invited by the University Cross-country team to their cross country

relay at West park, Sat 6th Dec. TA reported club members participating previously.

5.3.2 **Action point** – EW to promote interest.

6 Sessions and Coaching

6.1 HB reported that Tuesday sessions have mostly been running without issues.

6.2 Thursday night sessions / “full club” sessions

6.2.1 HB reported Thursday track sessions are more difficult to organise as only qualified coaches can lead track sessions. HB trying to form group of committed coaches to ensure all track sessions are covered.

6.2.2 TA raised there have been smaller turnout at track sessions: it was suggested this was potentially due to location, cost, or later start (19:30).

6.2.3 Hills is more popular, and easier to run.

6.2.4 It was suggested to reduce track sessions to once a month: and includ intervals around University grounds.

6.2.5 **Action point** – HB to investigate alternative Thursday sessions.

6.3 Number of Tuesday groups

6.3.1 TA raised the fact that not all 12 groups have gone out this year.

6.3.2 HB noted that it is not the same group missing each week, and there is enough coverage across the paces that people can find a group that still suits them. Also, reducing available groups risks increasing group size in the middle paces.

6.3.3 GR noted more groups means less populated groups, so it may encourage people to lead more.

6.3.4 ES also noted smaller groups make us less of an intrusion on the streets.

6.3.5 AR-Y recommended waiting until January to see if any changes over a longer period, and adapt to potential increased numbers in January.

6.3.6 There was a discussion over whether certain groups are oversubscribed due to other groups not having leaders. Most agreed it did not seem to be a particular problem.

6.4 LiRF and CiRF applications progress:

6.4.1 HB reported wanting to mobilise current coaches before recruiting more.

6.4.2 TA suggested making a formal process of coaches: informing new / training coaches what the Club expects of them once qualified.

6.4.3 **Action point** – HB/TA to make WhatsApp group for coaches.

7 Finance

- 7.1 ED reported a correction to previous understanding of SM finances – it made more money than was initially understood. AR-Y noted this mainly came from increased entry fees and places.
- 7.2 ED reported the Club currently has ~£5,900 currently in the account (~£400 is earmarked for the Club's Christmas party)
- 7.3 TA raised an email in inbox from EA requesting payment – CE needed to remake invoice, ED confirmed payments were made to EA yesterday (25th Oct).

8 Membership

- 8.1 CE reported the Club currently has 259 members; very similar to last year's numbers.
- 8.2 London Marathon ballot places:
 - 8.2.1 29 entrants thus far.
 - 8.2.2 TA to make spreadsheet of who is leaders or committee members (as these individuals have +1 entry in the club ballot)
 - 8.2.3 Those who won Brass Monkey Ballot are not in LM ballot. Both have confirmed they've sorted their entries.
- 8.3 Membership cost and tiers:
 - 8.3.1 The EA club affiliation fee is increasing from £205 to £210 per year from 2026 onwards.
 - 8.3.2 Individual affiliation fee (cost per member) is also going up from £20 to £23. This is a larger increase than previous years. Historically the Club passes this charge to members, charging EA's fee + £5 (for earlybird)/£10 (for standard membership) for the Club:
 - a) It was noted that HPH is one of the cheapest club membership in Leeds, and would remain the same if we put up charge by £3
 - b) ED reported that if we decided to absorb the increased fees, it would have a significant effect on the accounts of ~£800. And not putting it up this year would mean the Club would likely have to increase it in future years. ED also noted that a lot of money will go towards 20th year celebration events.
 - 8.3.3 AR-Y raised the possibility of challenging EA over the price increase – where does the money go? What is the justification for the increase? CE reported that EA justified it in their email by saying it was to cover their increased costs (insurance) and mentions youth athletics which is not in our interests as a Club. **Action point – AR-Y to draft email to EA to question increased fees.**
 - 8.3.4 ES suggested having EA and non-EA (social) membership options:
 - a) AR-Y also noted that in SM admin, some sign ups think their club is affiliated when it isn't, and this causes a loss of £2/entrant.
 - b) BC agreed and said two-tier pricing could add confusion for sign ups and when members are entering races

c) EW also noted it may cause confusion for club comps.

8.3.5 It was agreed that an increase of membership by £3 would not be a likely reason for people not to join or renew. The Club should make it clear why the increase in price, and to offer for members to get in touch if they are unable to afford the membership fee. SH suggested clear communication when renewals are due to explain where the money of the membership fees go.

9 Club Standards

9.1 GR reported one LiRF renewal was progress, but no other updates

10 Communications

10.1 SH shared there is now a document on GoogleDrive to keep data on the social media posts to pull out trends from communications:

10.1.1 Templates have been well-received. PECO and Winter Champs posts have been very successful.

10.1.2 Quality of the image contributes to the success on Instagram – use of high quality images, with key information working well. Ideally, the Club needs more high-quality photos of activities. **Action point** - SH to form a photo-library on the GoogleDrive.

10.1.3 Timing of posts is key – having posts on weekends (particularly Sunday) seems to make a big difference, so SH to continue with this going forward.

10.1.4 Most people are not engaging with IG stories, most contact is from 'in-feed' posts.

10.1.5 Success of a post is also influenced by how much engagement it gets within 30 mins of posting. **Action point** – SH to post in committee group when new post, and all committee to try to engage with the post if possible.

10.1.6 Action point – All committee; if announcing anything, please inform SH before doing so SH can enhance communications.

10.1.7 SH reported that the post on the HPH pub quiz had to be taken down due to a member not wanting to be in promotional photos. **Action point – CE to send SH list of which members have opted out of photos.**

10.2 SH raised using pinned posts on IG. Currently about club info, but no imagery other than the club logo. It was highlighted that these might want to be re-done to attract a younger audience. GR raised the possibility of using University resources to show where we meet, how sessions run etc. **Action point – GR to look into this.**

10.3 Key upcoming events to advertise via social media:

10.3.1 PECO (participation/sign ups, but not volunteers as we have plenty)

10.3.2 Sunday long runs

10.3.3 Quiz on Tues (replacing bonfire Tues night run)

10.3.4 Christmas party

10.4 WhatsApp group launch

10.4.1 Announcements vs general group – what posts should go where?

- a) TA noted most people are in announcements, but not all are in general chat. TA suggested announcements are for ‘forward facing’ messages. E.g. weekly upcoming stuff posts, Harrier of the Month etc.

10.4.2 TA noted the WhatsApp community seems to be working well, with not too many issues as of yet. Currently, both WhatsApp and Facebook are getting traction, so will duplicate efforts to ensure good coverage.

10.4.3 BC raised issues with previous messages not being visible when people join a new group. Currently no way to fix this at present. TA noted this includes pinned posts. GR suggested putting a link to a relevant blog post & share link in the group key info – **action point – TA to link to blog/website page**

10.4.4 HB noted that using WhatsApp has made it easier to find leaders each week.

10.4.5 SH reported some members questioning which place is the go-to place for things – e.g. Facebook event or WhatsApp group

10.4.6 TA suggested we slowly phase-out use of Facebook, and make WhatsApp & Spond the main points of communication from the Club.

10.5 TA confirmed admins sorted on WhatsApp groups.

11 Club Competitions/Championships

11.1 CE updated parkrun champs – Ilkley had lowest attendance thus far.

11.2 Winter league has started, but first two races had low HPH attendance.

11.3 ES reported 7th Fell Champs race occurred on Saturday, low turnout.

11.3.1 ES reported with the Fell champs, one member (1st claim) entered a race under a different club (of which she was 2nd claim). In a previous race, the same member wore HPH vest but entered unattached – both of which are not in the rules for scoring in the Club championships. All agreed to award the member points in the Fell Champs regardless. **Action points – TA to update working on website, ES to talk to member to inform them of the rules.**

12 HPH 20th Anniversary

12.1 TA created WhatsApp group. **Action point – TA to re-promote**

12.2 TA to check with KJ what the actual anniversary date/month is.

13 Relays

13.1 **Action point – GR to add to next month’s meeting agenda**

14 Welfare

- 14.1 BC reported the new welfare blog was posted to introduce members to welfare officers and their purpose.
- 14.2 CE booked on to EA regional welfare officer forum and will report back to welfare officers ./ wider committee where necessary
- 14.3 Welfare officers discussed previous issue raised. LR has suggested reaching out to a member to check on wellbeing.
- 14.4 BC confirmed that LR now has access to HPH welfare email.

14.4.1 Action point – BC/CE to check whether LR has completed the EA welfare training.

- 14.5 BC, CE and LR to meet soon to discuss welfare. Will form a process of how to deal with anything that comes in.

15 Social Events

- 15.1 Bonfire Night quiz and marathon ballot:

15.1.1 ES to sort Spond event. Suggested to allow people to join as individuals – can form teams in advance or form teams on the night.

15.1.2 ES reported that we can have food upstairs but we need to pre-order. IT was decided to leave food up to individuals.

15.1.3 London Ballott will be done either halfway through the quiz, or at the end. ES reported having access to a projector.

15.1.4 Action point - GR to sort socks for the prizes

- 15.2 Run to Saltaire

15.2.1 TA reported a good turnout - ~15 people ran, with many also joining at the pub.

- 15.3 Light Night

15.3.1 CE reported a smaller group than previous years (~12-15 runners). WD suggested the regular Thurs session could have impacted numbers.

15.3.2 The committee would like to thank Anne Akers for hosting and organising the event which was enjoyed by those who attended.

- 15.4 Christmas party

15.4.1 25 members are confirmed and paid for the Christmas party. Will be promoted over the next month. PS, TA and ED sorting.

- 15.5 Club trip 2026

15.5.1 50+ people already in club trip group

15.5.2 Races open for entry Sat 20th Dec at 9am (unclear whether local or Netherlands time).

15.5.3 GR raised possibility of organises bulk-buying places – TA to ask club trip organising team.

16 Volunteering

16.1 See PECO section for PECO volunteering.

16.2 Woodhouse Moor Takeover TBC January. AR-Y noted that previous years, HPH takeovers have caused large influxes into the Club which in some years has been difficult to manage.

17 Open Committee Meeting Questions

17.1 No questions submitted.

18 Any Other Business

18.1 Campus track – GR

18.1.1 The University have requested coming to a Tues session to promote route ideas.

18.1.2 It was suggested to do a Sunday session to explore campus / create route suggestions.

Action point – GR to go back to uni and suggest Sunday session.

18.2 Fixology collaboration - AR-Y

18.2.1 Fixology have asked for more interaction with the club re: physio/women's health.

18.2.2 BC suggested getting a discount for club & promoting via regular channels.

18.2.3 Action point – AR-Y to sort.

18.3 Journalist request currently in inbox – decided not to pursue due to lack of information provided.

18.4 WD represented the Club on a BBC radio quiz show and won! Well done Will and thanks for representing the Club so well!

19 Future Meetings – GR

19.1 GR to poll in committee WhatsApp group.