

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 05 May 2025 at 7pm.

Committee Present:

Toby Adkins	TA	Chair
Grace Roberts	GR	Club Secretary
Clare Evans	CE	Membership Secretary
Euan Douglas	ED	Club Treasurer
Honor Baldry	HB	Coaching and Development Lead
Sam Hadfield	SH	Social Media and Communications Lead
Richard Garratt	RG	Ordinary Committee Member
Ed Shakespeare	ES	Ordinary Committee Member
Ellie Williams	EW	Ordinary Committee Member
Bethany Chambers	BC	Ordinary Committee Member
Will Down	WD	Ordinary Committee Member
Lucy Bonnet	LB	Ordinary Committee Member

(for full list of member attendees see appendix)

1 Welcome and Introductions

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

2 Previous AGM Minutes

The minutes of the annual general meeting of the Club held on 06 May 2025 were approved unanimously as circulated (with some formatting corrections) and will be uploaded to the Club's website.

3 Chair's Report

3.1 TA reported on the Club's activities over the last year, highlighting some big races – including many distance/race debuts by many members, lots of PBs and lots of club records broken (many by one particular member!). TA noted it was great to see achievements from a wide range of members across the club.

3.2 After a few years in action: the veteran club records are constantly being updated, with new

records being set, and previous records being broken.

- 3.3 The club has had lots of notable socials – in particular, the quiz from Ed and Hannah to replace bonfire night's session, alongside the club's London marathon places.
- 3.4 TA reminded all that the chair's blog is released each month that highlights all the great stuff going on around the club and member's achievements. With this in mind, please let the committee know what you've been up to so we can include your achievements in the blog and weekly round-up.
- 3.5 Another notable change has been the shift to WhatsApp from Facebook as the main form of communication for the club. So far this has been working well, and TA thanked members for using the WhatsApp group responsibly.
- 3.6 The club has also revamped the Club Championships into the inaugural Summer and Winter League champs. This seems to have worked well, but members were asked to contact the club with any feedback on this new format.
- 3.7 TA and the committee want to thank the regular volunteers who lead and coach sessions. The Club always needs more volunteers to lead sessions. Members are reminded to get in touch with existing leaders or committee to find out more, or simply join the leaders' WhatsApp group.
- 3.8 TA noted that attendance at sessions appears to be dropping. This falls roughly in line to numbers the club would have in pre-covid years. Many reasons may have caused this, but it is also nice to have smaller groups. TA noted that the 'Harrier USP is us' – having friendly people and experience who can support others.
- 3.9 It is the 20th Anniversary of the Club this year. There are lots of activities going on and it is great to see so many getting involved! Looking ahead to future events includes ideas for fundraising for local charitable causes.
- 3.10 TA raised some future directions including looking ahead to other ideas for trips, future socials and another Two-Trees run (it was noted that Rolf's memorial tree in Woodhouse Moor has been damaged and will be replaced and another Two-Trees run will be organised when this occurs).

4 Treasurer's Report – ED

4.1 Club funds:

4.1.1 ED updated that the balance sheet shows a large surplus from the start of the 25-26 financial year and the account is currently at £2,250.

4.1.2 Note that the current balance this includes PECO payments for last year and this year, and doesn't include the payment to Rothwell Harriers for co-hosting this year's event at Middleton. Many thanks to those who volunteer for PECO as it brings in a great bit of income to the club, which will increase in future with agreement to split payment 75:25 with Rothwell (instead of 50:50) going forward on the basis that HPH will be the lead organiser of the Middleton event each year.

4.1.3 Income minus expenditure for the Summer Mile was good this year. It differs from year to year due to changing costs of things such as medic hire, and items

being bought in bulk that last for multiple years (such as medals). It was noted that the Summer Mile goes far beyond the income for the club as it is also great for club publicity and the sizable charity donation it makes each year. Many thanks to the summer mile committee for this.

4.3 ED reminded those in attendance that the club does not exist to make money:

4.3.1 The club is actively looking to fund good ideas / coaching / etc. so please get in touch with any ideas you would like to see funded by the committee.

4.3.2 The club is has also agreed a budget with the 20th Anniversary Celebrations committee to fund/part-fund many of the events this year

4.3.3 The club has an annual budget to fund coaching courses for members which the club as well as the member can benefit from.

4.4 Membership has increased this year by £3 due to EA increasing their registration costs by £3. The club decided to increase membership fees in line with this as it would be unable to 'absorb' the cost, and the club still only takes £5 of each membership fee (for early bird pricing) which increase to £10 for full price – the same as in previous years, and there are no plans to change this.

4.5 Over two thirds of the members present signed off the club accounts and finance.

5 Membership Report – CE

5.1 CE reported another successful year of membership:

5.1.1 There were 228 members this time last year, with 266 members by close of the 25/26 year.

5.1.2 Membership is currently at 203 –which is in line with pre-covid numbers.

5.1.3 The gender split is 59% male, 41% female. CE pointed out that, interestingly, this is the same split as the PECO league participation.

5.2 CE reminded of rules regarding the club's London Marathon ballot:

5.2.1 Unclear at present what might happen as there are rumours of a 2-day event that may change the number of places each club receives.

5.2.2 If the system is the same as last year, the club is still eligible for 2 places at the London Marathon.

5.2.3 The plan will be to draw a ballot for those rejected from the main London Marathon ballot, likely at the bonfire night quiz as last year.

6 Tri Club Update – Paul Ramsden (PR)

6.1 PR gave an update on the tri club and encouraged all to participate – all levels and abilities welcome.

6.2 PR reminded all about the sessions the Tri club has regularly:

- 6.2.1 Regular Monday social rides for various abilities, with details on Spond.
- 6.2.2 Coached cycling skills organised roughly monthly when the cycle track has availability. All details are communicated on Spond.
- 6.2.3 Swim sessions:
 - a) Pool sessions are currently with TriBB at Bramley Baths as access to the previous pool is no longer available. It was noted that these sessions are also on a Tuesday but are later than run club sessions.
 - b) Sessions at the Blue Lagoon for open water swimming will start again soon and will be communicated on Spond.
- 6.3 PR reminded the meeting of the club champs – the first race was yesterday with good club presence. Other races left in the season have club discount available.
- 6.4 PR reminded of how to get involved with the Tri club:
 - 6.4.1 WhatsApp group
 - 6.4.2 All sessions are advertised on Spond (a different Spond code is needed in addition to the run club's spond)
 - 6.4.3 There is a tri section on the Hyde Park Harriers website
 - 6.4.4 Or email the Tri club direct at triathlon@hydeparkharriers.co.uk

7 England Athletics Club Standards Update – GR

- 7.1 GR informed attendees that the club is currently 7/7 on EA's club standards partly due to the club having all necessary policies in place, and reminded all where to find the club policies on the Club's website.
- 7.2 EA codes of conduct:
 - 7.2.1 GR informed all that every member needs to log into their EA account via the EA portal, where they will be prompted to accept certain codes of conduct:
 - a) All members need to accept the 'adult athlete' code of conduct
 - b) All volunteers (in any capacity) need to accept the 'volunteers' code of conduct
 - c) All members with a LiRF or CiRF (or other EA qualification) need to accept the 'coaches' code of conduct (in addition to the volunteers code of conduct).
 - d) Where applicable to members, also accept the 'licencing' terms and conditions.
 - 7.2.2 It was noted that accepting the codes of conduct does not roll on to future years of membership at present. Therefore, currently, members will need to re-accept the relevant codes of conduct each new year of their membership.

8 Constitutional Amendments – TA

8.1 TA reminded members that proposed constitutional amendments were sent in advance of the AGM to members. Changes in the constitution were voted upon by all present:

8.1.1 Updated references to 'UK Athletics' to 'England Athletics' (due to restructuring of the governing bodies)

8.1.2 Update to include the definition of 'President' (previously undefined)

8.1.3 Update to how presidents are elected (previously undefined)

8.2 Unanimous approval was given from those in attendance for all changes described as above.

9 Election of New Committee Members

9.1 TA noted and thanked those who are stepping down: GR as secretary, HB as the inaugural training and development lead, RG and EW as ordinary committee members and SH as the inaugural social media and communications lead.

9.2 TA - re-standing as chair – Kay Jeffries (KJ) nominated, Lizzy Coombs (LC) seconded.

9.3 Anne Akers (AA) – standing as social media and communications lead, Julie Robson (JR) nominated, PR seconded.

9.4 Cat McGuire (CMG) – standing as training and development lead, Lucy Rider (LR) nominated, Andy Judd (AJ) seconded.

9.5 ES – re-standing as ordinary member, RG nominated, George Fidczuk (GF) seconded.

9.6 BC – re-standing as ordinary member, Ben Hartley (BH) nominated, KJ seconded.

9.7 Ciaran Tracy (CT) – standing as ordinary member, AA nominated, Jonny Spain (JS) seconded

9.8 Phil Lindsay (PL) – standing as ordinary member, elected in contravention to the constitution (due to late application to become a committee member) by unanimous approval of those present.

9.9 Amaia Imaz Blanco (AIB) – standing as secretary (volunteering to fill the role at the meeting) – elected in contravention to the constitution (due absence of notice to become a committee member) by unanimous approval of those present.

10 Welfare

LR updated on Welfare – what the welfare provisions are in the club and what falls out of the club's remit.

10.1 Members were reminded that the club welfare officers cover matters relating to club activities and sessions that contravene the Club's code of conduct. This may relate to anyone present: a member, a coach or an official.

10.2 All matters are dealt with confidentially via welfare@hydeparkharriers.co.uk of which only the welfare officers have access to. This account is separate from other committee matters.

- 10.3 Welfare officers attempt to form a mutually agreed resolution within a month. Matters that are not resolved within the club may be escalated to England Athletics.
- 10.4 This does not include non-club related, or emergency incidents. However welfare officers can signpost to services: but they are not mental health professionals.
- 10.5 LR reminded members that, if in doubt, still report to welfare officers, but then the welfare officers will decide whether it falls under the club remit, or not (but may still be able to signpost to appropriate services).

11 Q&A with members – All

A Q&A session was held by members submitting questions anonymously via an online system, which were read out by GR and discussed by the committee and members present.

- 11.1 Q – *“I’m seeing lots of “social” clubs spring up in the city centre, they are loud (with speakers!) and not EA compliant or very safe or nice to other road/pavement users! Should we consider an occasional “social” run session in amongst the sessions like we did previously for “first Tuesday social runs” when we did hills, strength and speed and #RunAndTalk maybe alternating every other month with progression sessions?”*

11.1.1 ES raised what is the difference between Tuesday sessions and a ‘social’ session?

11.1.2 LR stated that she meant like in previous years where the 1st Tuesday had 3 options; one of which was a #runandtalk / social session with no set pace or distance.

11.1.3 TA suggested we have a mix of runners with different aims and motivations. In addition, hills and interval sessions allow ‘mixing’ among different paces.

11.1.4 Ricard Cartright (RC) raised that this felt like what North Bar runs used to achieve, but these are no longer occurring.

11.1.5 AIB raised the long-run Sunday sessions could be more social.

11.1.6 LR stated that Tuesdays seem to be a popular evening for people to be available, and could funnel into the main group

11.1.7 JR reported that she got into the club via Sunday run-days each week. And suggested whether they need to be ‘formally organised.’

11.1.8 TA stated that we can do these sorts of sessions if people want to attend and if we get enough leaders.

11.1.9 **Action point – committee to discuss social runs / Sunday runs at future meeting.**

- 11.2 Q – *“Do we have an idea of what exactly is attracting more people to these social / pub running clubs instead of us? Can we aim to copy that?”*

11.2.1 BH reported attending one of these groups: they attract a diverse range of runners and give discounts for their bar.

11.2.2 There were many concerns / reports raised by members over dangerous practice (e.g. high numbers of runners, no hi-vis), being considered nuisances (e.g. use of loud music)

and that many of these social clubs have a strong social media presence. Potentially attracting more members (with some having dedicated social media staff, and some having paid adverts on social media).

- 11.2.3 Many members stated that it is the people that made the club and word of mouth is how most members found out about the club. Most were in agreement that the club should focus on what we do well and not to try and replicate other 'social' clubs.
 - 11.2.4 LC suggested showcasing the diversity of over members via photo-based social media campaign to encourage people to get active (similar to campaigns such as This Girl Can). SH agreed – and asked members to share their photos. **Action point – committee to discuss at future meeting.**
 - 11.2.5 ES said that other groups don't offer coached sessions, that aim to improve people's running. LB also noted that being in the club opens up access to more races.
 - 11.2.6 KJ suggested to not worry about lower numbers as more numbers does not mean a better club. Hyde Park Harriers started with 40 members, and numbers naturally ebb and flow due to people moving in and out of the area.
- 11.3 Q – *“Do we know if other Leeds running clubs are seeing a fall/reduction in weekly attendance?”*
- 11.3.1 TA and CE reported that other clubs are having similarly reduced numbers on club nights, presumably for similar reasons discussed previously.
- 11.4 Q – *“Is a bring-your-own intervals Thursday an option,, instead of following someone else's plan?”*
- 11.4.1 TA answered to say 'go for it'
 - 11.4.2 RG further raised whether someone volunteering to lead Thursday could lead any session they like – all were in agreement this was the case.
 - 11.4.3 It was suggested to change the name of the session on Spond to encourage wider participation e.g. “Try the track”. **Action point – committee to discuss in future meeting.**
- 11.5 Q – *“Relays - Put some of the excess towards relay expenses? Calderdale way, LCW, etc. paid entry, petrol money and social?”*
- 11.5.1 ED suggested it is something we can do as a committee.
 - 11.5.2 TA raised that we had discussed this in previous meetings, but no firm decisions had been made as to who would be funded, what races, what is being paid for and why.
 - 11.5.3 **Action point – to discuss club financially contributing to relays in future meeting.**
- 11.6 Q – *“Club competitions – Would we look at non running related competitions as part of social activities? E.g. Escape rooms or laser quest things like that?”*
- 11.6.1 TA reported lots of things this year are 20th anniversary related, but there are many social events every year

11.6.2 Previous events include escape rooms, ten-pin bowling, pantomime, etc. Members were reminded that if anyone would like to organise things, please get in touch and the committee will support them.

11.7 Q – *“Communications - Create a Q&A channel on WhatsApp”*

11.7.1 GR reported this working well in Northern Pacing Volunteers WhatsApp community, though accepted it was a smaller group with regular new members needing answers to questions.

11.7.2 TA said it can be useful for asking/answering questions in the main group channel so that others can see questions and answers. TA also stated that we need to be using platforms that people are already using. Currently the committee is trying to get the balance right of how many chats we have and how best to use them.

11.7.3 RC raised the fact that Facebook had more functionality – e.g. 1 post had conversation on the post and new members could scroll back into older posts, organise lift shares etc. ES added to this – mostly in agreement but WhatsApp works best for what we need at present.

11.7.4 **Action point – discuss communication platform and interactivity in future meetings**

11.8 Q – *“Communications - Whilst I agree with FB becoming quite toxic... could some of the drop off in sessions and a move into WhatsApp mean we risk (in future) not recruiting new members that aren't friends or contacts with existing members?”*

11.8.1 TA raised that Spond has now expanded so people can come to Spond and stay. Also raises that word of mouth is the most effective way to communicate about the club.

11.8.2 AIB stated that WhatsApp is less ‘discoverable’ – could there be a link on the website?

a) TA stated not wanting it on the website to avoid random people joining and instead posts the WhatsApp group in the Spond group.

b) CE reported sending key communication channels, such as the WhatsApp group in the welcome email to new members.

11.8.3 SH raised that the WhatsApp channel wasn't trying to replace the Facebook group, it organically happened that we have migrated over to the platform.

11.8.4 LR suggested doing events on Spond or Strava. Could share Spond events within the WhatsApp group. Naomi Adkins (NA) also raised that you can form events on WhatsApp.

11.9 Q – *“Sustainability - How about doing a Leeds Canal (or somewhere ‘green’ in Leeds) litter pick sometime in 2026? For 20th Anniversary?”*

11.9.1 The majority in attendance thought this was a great idea and will be taken forward

11.9.2 **Action point – take the suggestion to committee and 20th Anniversary committee**

11.10 Q – *“Sustainability – Diversity: We say there “ain't no barriers for Hyde Park Harriers” what else could we do to reach people who might not “see” themselves joining our brilliant club?”*

- 11.10.1 A point was raised linking back to LC's photo suggestion.
- 11.10.2 RG raised that previous experience with run clubs being unpleasant to other road users, but was assured that HPH wasn't like that. Can we do better at communicating that we are nice friendly people to others?
- 11.10.3 Faatemah Piperdy (FP) raised that having 12 groups is really attractive and has not come across any other clubs as inclusive (including things like backmarkers etc.).
- 11.10.4 AJ raised that it is the people that make the club – word of mouth helps gravitate people towards the club.
- 11.11 Q – *“Volunteering - Quick suggestion for committee roles - job share? Might attract people unsure of time commitments although not sure if this is against constitutional stuff”*
- 11.11.1 TA stated that club roles are clearly defined and there are procedures in place (e.g. 2 year terms). Beyond that, there are many areas where people can get involved in Harrier related stuff.
- 11.11.2 ES raised being on the committee doesn't necessarily need to be an increase in time commitment and there are many other ways to help out e.g. social committee.
- 11.12 Q – *“Miscellaneous - Could we consider getting soar (or other brand) vests for racing?”*
- 11.12.1 TA reported Soar tends to be higher quality but far more expensive. Previously, the club wanted to avoid creating a visible 'tier' system.
- 11.12.2 NA raised cost per wear is extortionate.
- 11.12.3 ES suggested never getting rid of the 'cheaper' option if other options were available.
- 11.12.4 AJ stated that the tri club had an entry level option among others, and it hasn't been an issue. These were printed to order as per demand.
- 11.12.5 LR raised that we did have crop tops available recently – as long as the cheaper standard option is there it is fair.
- 11.12.6 TA asked all in attendance if there were any worries about having a more expensive option as long as the current option was maintained. No worries were raised.
- 11.12.7 **Action point – committee to look into pricing of premium vests to create the option of purchasing, but maintain the current option which is more accessible.**

12 Close of AGM

- 12.1 With no other business, the meeting was called to a close at 21:12
- 12.2 The committee would like to thank all in attendance for attending and contributing:
- 12.2.1 Members are encouraged to contact the committee via hello@hydeparkharriers.co.uk if they have any further comments or questions; or
- 12.2.2 via chair@hydeparkharriers.co.uk to contact Club chair TA directly.

Appendix – Register of Attendees (48 present)

Alasdair Fellows	Grace Roberts
Alex Bradley	Honor Baldry
Alice Houldcroft	Jack Gordon
Amaia Imaz Blanco	Jennifer Carter
Andrew Judd	Jonathan Spain
Anne Akers	Julie Robson
Ben Hartley	Kay Jefferies
Ben Mepham	Kevin Longmate
Bethany Chambers	Kristan Webb
Caite Burke	Laura Garratt
Callum Starling	Lizzie Coombes
Chris Worfolk	Louise Gardham
Ciaran Tracey	Lucy Bonnett
Clare Evans	Lucy Hannah Rider
Daisy Wales	Naomi Adkins
Ed Shakespeare	Paul Ramsden
Eleanor Mitchell	Phil Lindsay
Ellie Shipp	Richard Cartwright
Ellie Williams	Richard Garratt
Euan Douglas	Sam Hadfield
Faatemah Piperdy	Sarah Roberts
George Anderson	Toby Adkins
George Fidczuk	Trevor Raddings
Gordon Crawford	Will Dow