

# 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 06 May 2025 at 7pm.

## **Committee Present:**

Toby Adkins	<b>TA</b>	Chair
Grace Roberts	<b>GR</b>	Club Secretary
Clare Evans	<b>CE</b>	Membership Secretary
Katherine Kirkham	<b>KK</b>	Club Treasurer
Honor Baldry	<b>HB</b>	Coaching and Development Lead
Sam Hadfield	<b>SH</b>	Social Media and Communications Lead
Richard Garratt	<b>RG</b>	Committee member
Ed Shakespeare	<b>ES</b>	Committee member
Ellie Williams	<b>EW</b>	Committee member
Bethany Chambers	<b>BC</b>	Committee member

(for full list of member attendees see appendix)

## **Apologies:**

Sharon Nahal	<b>SN</b>	Committee member
Curtis Ledger	<b>CL</b>	Committee member

## **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 07 May 2024 were approved as circulated and will be uploaded to the Club's website.

## **3 Chair's Report**

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. TA noted it was great to see achievements from a wide range of members across the club:

- 3.1 TA noted there were many successes in various relays and asked members to get in touch if they were interested in getting involved in organising relay teams in 2025/26 season.
- 3.2 TA noted that, as always, the 2024 Summer Mile event was a success, with this year promising to deliver again. The committee would like to thank all those who have been on the Summer mile committee in 2024 and 2025 for their efforts in organising the race. TA also reminded members to sign up to volunteer for this year's race.
- 3.3 TA highlighted that PECO again was a great success with the men's team winning the league and the women finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. It was great to see many new faces at PECO, and many returning members.
- 3.4 TA highlighted the success of the 2024 club trip in Lisbon – many thanks to those who organised. The club is unlikely to have an abroad club trip in 2025 due to sustainability commitments, but always welcomes input from members who wish to organise trips and encouraged members to advertise any running trips they are doing to other members, highlighting the success of the smaller club trip to the Lake District in 2024.
- 3.5 TA wanted to thank the social committee, and in particular, Paul Sawyer for continuing to organise many social events for the club, in particular heroic organisational efforts to save the Christmas Party.
- 3.6 Other events TA highlighted were Light Night – thanks to Anne Akers for organising, Postcode postcards – thanks to Naomi Adkins, the Track Day – thanks to GR and HB, and Around the Park Around the Clock was, as ever, wet, but well attended.
- 3.7 TA highlighted the volunteering we have done as a club over the past year including: Leeds marathon/half marathon, the Summer Mile, Vale of York Half Marathon and parkrun. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered and contributed to the local running community
- 3.8 Veterans – this year, the committee introduced the veterans' records on the club website. The committee would like to thank Dan Donnelly for this efforts of going through the data and updating these. And a reminder that anyone over the age of 35 counts as a 'veteran.'
- 3.9 Updates on committee achievements:
  - 3.9.1 Communications - SH has been improving how we communicate in a more forward-facing manner based off member feedback. Thanks to all that participated in the communications survey.
  - 3.9.2 Sessions - HB has been developing plans for various distances and has led on supporting members obtaining LiRF and CiRF qualifications. Many thanks to those who have led sessions for the club over the past year. Particular thanks to Naomi Adkins for leading a C25K for the club.
  - 3.9.3 Championships – the committee have developed a new format for the 2025/26 season of having a separate Summer and Winter champs. The races of the Summer champs are now confirmed and on the website. The Winter league will be published shortly once finalised.
- 3.10 Finally, TA noted that next year, 2026, will be the 20<sup>th</sup> Year of the club and therefore would like to ensure we celebrate suitably. The committee is looking to form a sub-committee to lead and organise the celebrations. Members are very much encouraged to get in touch if they would

like to be a part of this.

#### 4 Treasurer's Report – KK

##### 4.1 Club funds:

4.1.1 KK updated members on the club's balance sheet: currently £550 deficit shown on the sheet for the current financial year, however, this did not account for the £600 payment for hosting PECO which cleared after the end of the financial year.

4.1.2 KK reminded members that the Summer Mile finances fluctuate year to year as some items (e.g. medals) are bought in bulk and have large expenditures every other year, so some years are profit, and some are deficit which balance out in the long run. KK highlighted that member feedback indicated that the summer mile is appreciated for contributing to the community and charity contributions – not necessarily for generating income for the club.

4.1.3 KK stated that the club does not intend to 'hold' money and would like to spend it to benefit members. The club has invested in funding new LiRF and CiRF qualifications for members. Any other ideas of how to spend money to benefit the club and its members are welcome

##### 4.2 Membership:

4.2.1 KK reported that membership has increased in 2025/26 by £1. This is due to England Athletics putting costs up by £1/registration.

4.2.2 KK reminded members that early bird registration is £25, of which the club only receive £5 (for full price membership of £30, the club receives £10). The rest covers the cost of registering athletes with England Athletics.

#### 5 Membership Report – CE

##### 5.1 CE reported another successful year of membership:

5.1.1 Membership now stands at 228 (with 2 more pending) with many members have taken up early bird registration option

5.1.2 Majority of members are renewals with roughly 50 new members each year.

5.1.3 Gender split is currently 57% male, 43% female.

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

5.2.1 With current club numbers, we expect to be given 2 places – though this will not be confirmed until later in the year.

5.2.2 Details of the club's ballot draw will be confirmed later in the year. CE reminded members that our club ballot rules are that you must evidence your unsuccessful entry to the main London Marathon ballot to enter the club ballot

5.2.3 Previous winners of the club ballot have deferred: both winners of the 2025 ballot have deferred due to injury and will run in 2026. CE reminded that costs incurred due to

deferring are the responsibility of the participant.

## 6 Tri Club update – Paul Ramsden (PR)

### 6.1 PR reminded members of Tri club sessions/activities:

6.1.1 PR reiterated that the Tri Club is open to all who wish to participate – not necessarily just for those who want to do triathlon. Anyone is welcome to train (swim/bike) with the Tri Club.

6.1.2 The Tri Club runs social cycling sessions on Mondays

6.1.3 Swim sessions, with coached or social lanes available, are on Wednesdays and cost £5 for members, £7 for non-members.

6.1.4 Ad-hoc coached cycling occurs at the Brownlee centre including transition sessions and brick (cycle/run) sessions – these are advertised on the Tri Club Facebook page and Spond.

6.1.5 Tri club champs consist of 4 local short-form races: Tadcaster Tri was successful in May, with 13 members participating, two of which finished in podium positions. The remaining three races are Sheffield Rother Valley, Ripon and Ilkley which are all beginner-friendly atmospheres.

### 6.2 PR updated members on the recent Tri Club AGM:

6.2.1 New committee members: Naomi Miles has been elected to treasure, and Eliza Taswell-Fryer has been elected as committee member.

6.2.2 Membership is currently at 37 which has been consistent over the past few years.

### 6.3 PR reminded members they can get in touch with the Tri Club via Spond, email or the FaceBook page.

## 7 England Athletics Club standards update – GR

### 7.1 GR reminded members of the club policies we have in place and where to find these policies on the club website.

### 7.2 EA codes of conduct:

7.2.1 GR updated members that it is now an EA requirement that members have to agree to the relevant codes of conduct in their online EA portal.

7.2.2 All members must agree to the “Senior Athletes Code of Conduct”. Anyone who volunteers with the club must agree to the “Volunteer Code of Conduct”, and anyone who coaches (i.e. holds a LiRF or CiRF) must agree to the “Coaches Code of Conduct.”

7.2.3 Agreeing to the codes of conduct must be done manually by individual athletes each year of registration – these do not automatically carry over each year.

### 7.3 Coaching licence (LiRF and CiRF) renewals:

- 7.3.1 GR highlighted that members who hold a LiRF or CiRF with the club need to renew before their licence expires in order to maintain 7/7 on EA club standards.
- 7.3.2 Members with these qualifications should be notified of upcoming expiry of licences via email from EA, and GR will contact members to remind also.
- 7.3.3 Members with these qualifications are reminded that the club will reimburse them for any costs incurred by renewing, and support is available for the renewal process – contact the club via email if you need assistance.

## 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 References to “nomination” for roles on the Club’s Committee have been amended to “applications” Any application which does not require an election (i.e. because the role is uncontested) must still be supported by at least two members – voted upon and passed unanimously.
  - 8.1.2 Amendments to clarify the time periods for applications to be submitted and circulated to the membership: the period will be at least 10 days (as per historic versions of the Constitution) but will commence at least three weeks prior to the date of the AGM and shall close no later than one week and one day prior to the AGM. Applications will be circulated no later than one week prior to the AGM – voted upon and passed unanimously.
  - 8.1.3 An amendment to include the open committee meeting within the minimum of eight meetings to be held by the Committee each year – voted upon and passed unanimously.
  - 8.1.4 An amendment to reflect that the Hyde Park Harriers Triathlon Club is invited to send a representative to the Committee’s meetings. As the relevant representative is not elected by the non-triathlon Club membership, such representative is not entitled to vote on the business of the Committee – voted upon and passed unanimously.
  - 8.1.5 A clarification to the Club’s disciplinary procedure to confirm that the Club may request that a member or participant does not attend events organised by or specifically for the Club where it is considered to be in the best interests of the Club (for example, where an investigation into conduct or behaviour is on-going) – voted upon and passed unanimously.
  - 8.1.6 Minor changes to capitalisation – with terms which are formally defined in the Constitution are capitalised as defined terms – voted upon and passed unanimously.

## 9 Election of New committee members

- 9.1 It was noted that KK (as treasurer), CE (membership secretary) and CL (as Committee Members) had reached the end of their existing terms.
- 9.2 KK and CL intended to step down from their roles on the Committee, leaving the positions of Treasurer and Ordinary Committee member vacant. The committee would like to thank both KK and CL for their time and efforts on the committee.
  - 9.2.1 TA noted that, due to CL previously being the lead Welfare Officer for the club, member

Lucy Rider (LR) will take over this role (a non-elected and non-committee role) with support from committee members CE and BC acting as additional welfare officers.

9.3 CE intended to re-standing for membership secretary:

9.3.1 CE's re-election to the role of Membership Secretary was nominated by Kay Jeffries, seconded by Lucy Rider, and passed unanimously.

9.4 For the vacant position of Treasurer:

9.4.1 Euan Douglas (ED) was nominated as Treasurer by Will Dow, seconded by Paul Ramsden and passed unanimously.

9.5 It was noted that, as the two year terms of the various committee roles had become unbalanced (with only three becoming due for renewal this year, but nine due for renewal in 2026), there was an opportunity to redress the balance by allowing an additional ordinary committee member to be elected (with one of the ordinary committee member roles simply lapsing in 2026, rather than being replaced):

9.5.1 Will Dow (WD) was elected as a committee member by Ed Shakespeare, seconded by Richard Cartwright and passed unanimously.

9.5.2 Lucy Bonnet (LB) was elected as committee member by Jonathan Spain, seconded by Micheal Godsall and passed unanimously.

10 Q&A with members – All

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

10.2 Q – “7:30 Track - Can we move to 7:00 to align with other sessions? There are usually other groups on the track both at 7:00 and 7:30 anyway.”

10.2.1 HB reported that the 7:30 slot is dictated by Beckett and that when track allocations are renewed in July we will attempt to move the slot back to 7pm.

10.3 Q – “Is 12 groups too many? - Some groups feel very empty/stretched thin, so you don't get to meet as many people, especially as strength and speed isn't as collaborative these days”.

10.3.1 TA responded that there are many factors which may explain differences in attendance e.g. many new run clubs popping up in Leeds, participation varying at different times of the year etc. as well as many members currently having other commitments. As the 12 group system was trialled successfully and addressed many issues caused by previous group structure, we do not plan to change this.

10.3.2 HB stated that people tend to populate groups with leaders and not sign up to those without so encouraged leaders to sign up earlier rather than later. CE pointed out that the same groups are not affected each week so there are no clear issues with specific groups.

10.3.3 TA also raised that even though participation is down, we still have similar numbers of leaders each week.

10.3.4KJ noted that the previous spreadsheet system to arrange leaders worked well and we should try to use this again going forward. TA will promote using the rota.

10.3.5 Many people pointed out the accommodations and support available for first time leaders e.g. reducing group sizes on Spond, having support in your group from an existing leader, trying backmarking first etc. Please get in touch with the committee if you want support/accommodations to get into leading.

10.4 Q – “Would "volunteer of the month" be nice in addition to harrier of the month?”

10.4.1 TA clarified that the current awards system includes volunteers – Harrier of The Month (HoTM) nominations can be for any reason, and the President's award is for club contributions which includes volunteering.

10.4.2 Members reported that the nomination form was long and confusing in places, perhaps putting off nominations.

10.4.3 **Action points for committee:**

- a) Change working of awards nomination form, and section on the website, to make it clear that volunteers are included in the President's award category.
- b) Make the HoTM nomination form simpler
- c) Discuss at a future meeting whether the current voting system should be changed so that separate votes are had for President's and Chair's award for HoTM.

10.5 Q – “Can we do some 'take overs' for Instagram?, A member gets to share their training/life as a harrier for the week - it would be nice to see more "now" or interactive content rather than just race summaries.”

10.5.1 SH reported that this was something the Club is already considering. The communications of the Club will be moving towards member-led content. Social media communication is next on the list to address, and ideally we are looking to have a group of members who would like to generate and publish content for the club.

10.6 Q – “Can we do a beer mile at "track" day?”

10.6.1 GR reported that ‘track day’ will look different this year – due to high costs and poor booking systems, we won't be using Beckett Track this year.

10.6.2 TA encouraged members that if they have ideas for events, such as this, please come and discuss with the committee – we will support you to make things happen.

10.7 Q – “For HPH 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations: Could consideration be given to allocate a small budget to support /subsidise celebrations events in 2026?”

10.7.1 The committee were all in favour of setting a budget to support anniversary events, and have previously stated that the plan is to form a sub-committee to plan and organise the celebrations.

10.7.2 KJ suggested also raising money through the anniversary celebration events for local charities to give something back and suggested St Georges' Crypt or Meanwood Valley

Farm.

**10.7.3 Action point for committee** – discuss organisation, budget and charity partners for the anniversary events. Start process of forming a sub-committee to organise.

10.8 Q – “Leeds Country Way (LCW) participation is down - have you considered the club pays entry, as it’s not that expensive but it might encourage participation?”

10.8.1 A discussion was had raising points that it is likely that the race cost was not the main barrier to participation: it is more likely to be the commitment of organisation, recces, driving etc. and that the main interests of the club have shifted over time, making relays less popular.

10.8.2 Most attendees agreed that the club should not fund this particular race, and that participants should arrange entry, petrol money etc. between themselves.

10.8.3 It was raised that in 2025, LCW clashes with VoY (where the Club sends many volunteers to support financing the Summer Mile) and therefore it may not be beneficial to do this.

**10.8.4 Action point** – Committee to discuss in future meeting potential use of Club funds to support members attending events/races.

10.9 Q – “Ken’s parkrun blogs: Can this list be updated for members rather than ex-members who forget to update their parkrun profile?”

10.9.1 TA reported that Ken’s python code captures all runners who have the club on their parkrun profile and relies on individuals updating their profile. The Club would like to thank Ken, as always, for doing this blog for the Club.

10.9.2 KJ stated that, historically, the Club used to contact parkrun to remove the Club from ex-members’ profiles. However, due to the size of both parkrun and the Club, this is no longer feasible.

10.9.3 CE raised that the Club Champs and Club Records are organised differently, where only current members of the Club are included – these are done manually and checked with the current membership list.

11 AOB (none)

12 Close of AGM

12.1 With no other business, the meeting was called to a close 21:15

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](mailto:hello@hydeparkharriers.co.uk) if they have any further comments or questions;

12.2.2 Or via [chair@hydeparkharriers.co.uk](mailto:chair@hydeparkharriers.co.uk) to contact Club chair TA directly.

**Appendix – Register of Attendees (41 present)**

Alice Houldcroft	Jonathan Spain
Ben Mepham	Katherine Kirkham
Bethany Chambers	Kay Jeffries
Caite Burke	Louise Gardham
Charlotte Victoria Eva	Lucy Bonnett
Clare Evans	Lucy Jobson-Wood
Dan Donnelly	Lucy Rider
Ed Shakespeare	Michael Godsall
Eleanor Mitchell	Naomi Adkins
Eliza Taswell-Fryer	Paul Ramsden
Ellie Shipp	Phil Lindsay
Ellie Williams	Richard Cartwright
Euan Douglas	Richard Garratt
George Anderson	Rosalie Dang
Gordon Crawford	Samuel Hadfield
Grace Roberts	Sarah Jewers
Helen Spain	Stephen Prust
Honor Baldry	Tobias Adkins
Jane Prust	Trevor Raddings
Jennifer Carter	Will Dow
Joe Lawley	