



Burnham Harriers Club Committee Meeting - 22 April 2025

7:30pm - Main Hall, BAY Club

1. **Attendees:** Matt P (Chair), Steve D (Secretary), Steve W (Club Secretary), Mark B (Treasurer), Phil H (Vice-Chair), Katrina B, Ian W, Georgina H, Annette M (Welfare Officer), Reg H, Anna T, Julie L, Alex H (Captain).

Apologies: Todd J (Social Secretary)

2. **Minutes/Actions from last committee meeting (10 December 2024):** Minutes agreed as accurate and actions considered completed. New actions created at the February AGM.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- a. **Social Membership - run leaders/races:** Discussions centred around the social membership status, and their ability to lead club runs and enter races and associated liabilities. Social membership was originally created for non-participating colleagues who regularly volunteer and support the club. Following a review and understanding of the social membership, the committee agreed to remove social membership because of the confusion concerning their ability to run at races and club runs and what cover they are eligible for. The constitution will be checked to identify any rules surrounding the removal of membership types and requirements to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) where a membership change is proposed **(Action - Anna T, Matt P, Steve D). (Afternote - Decision made that an EGM wasn't necessary to remove the Social membership because of the reasons above and current very low take-up - members will be notified accordingly to the membership changes e.g. Harriers Facebook).**

Social members and liability cover was further discussed following a recent incident where one Harriers tripped at the end of a club run at the Bay Centre. The cause was a pothole on the main drive, causing some nasty injuries and bruising to the runner. The incident has led to a civil claim, prompting a solicitors letter to the club and Bay Centre, although the claim will lie with the council who are responsible for the drive.

(Action - SD to outline a suitable internal accident reporting process for members to report accidents/incidents).

Social members are logged with England Athletics, but do not receive the benefits seen with full members. Social members will be upgraded to full members so that everyone is insured by UK athletics when participating at Burnham Harriers club runs, and races. A notice will be published on the Harriers Facebook to outline the updates

(Action - Matt P).

The committee also agreed to limit the number of runners to 12-per group on a club run providing effective supervision for run leaders (group numbers can increase where multiple run leaders are part of a group. A message will be posted on Harriers Facebook, limits applied to Spond run events and the club run risk assessment will be updated **(Action - Matt P, Steve D, run leaders)**.

- b. Running/walking with the Harriers:** The committee agreed through discussions that the Thursday evening social run won't come under Burnham Harriers running sessions and club runs won't allow dogs following concerns over the hazards of running with dogs as well as guidance provided by Marsh Sports, UK Athletics insurers who cover UK affiliated running clubs with liability cover.

The committee agreed that the weekly club walk will come under the Harriers organised events and should be led by a run leader. No pressure on Georgina H to deliver this activity every week.

- c. Couch-2-5km:** The latest Couch-2-5km class commenced their first session this evening. 25 signed-up to the new cohort, and 21 attended on a successful opening

evening. The 2025 application asks participants to confirm that they are comfortable to have pictures taken for upload to Harriers Social Media, and that they understand their own medical conditions and follow medical advice when participating.

- d. **Yoga:** The club has been approached by Abi Milburn on the possibility of hosting Yoga sessions, possibly on a Wednesday as an additional/alternative core fitness session, or when Nigel/Ian are unavailable. IW happy to canvas opinion via a members poll to gauge interest.
- e. **Central Somerset Physio:** Steve D has been in contact with Liz Gardner from Central Somerset Physio (CSP) to see if the Harriers could collaborate with CSP as several Harriers have received physio, sports massage etc via this provider. Some appointments (e.g. sports massage, but not physio sessions) could be organised at discount for Harriers members, and the committee widely supported further links with CSP.

4. Actions from AGM

Actions table discussed including

- A. **Club run risk assessment** was updated and remains dynamic to include any other updates noted by run leaders and members.
- B. **Visual Impaired runners:** Issue raised by one member who is now classed as visually impaired. Following contact with England Athletics, VI runners are covered, however, EA guidance recommends that VI runners run with a qualified guide. Whilst the club has members who have completed the VI training, training has expired and new VI guides or re-training is requested.
- C. **First Aid Training:** Recent tragic passing of a runner at The Big Cheese has highlighted the need for run leaders and members to undertake basic first aid training (e.g. CPR, use of a defibrillator). Enquiries with providers (Apex 1st aid?) to be made on the availability of a short first aid training session for willing members (**Action - AH happy to enquire**).

- D. Pictures for website:** Ongoing requests for pictures to keep the website up to date. Pictures can be sent to the Harriers mailbox.
- E. Apply a website hit counter:** Counter now visible on the homepage of the website.
- F. Liabilities and arrangements for non-members attending club runs:** See matters arising (a).
- G. Hardship fund:** Matter discussed and the committee agreed that the Welfare Officer would be best placed to assess applications. Consideration given to the definition of a hardship fund and what criteria would be required to qualify (examples given include provision of kit, trainers, running tops etc). Applications would rely on honesty of those in need, and materials could be donated at events such as the AGM. Annette M will write a short descriptor for the website **(Action - AM)**.

5. Officer/Captain/Run leader/Coach updates:

- Request made for run leaders to organise Thursday evening club runs to increase days and run type.
- Request made for guidance to runners to post their In Case of Emergency details (ICE) on Spond so run leaders have a point of contact should a runner have an accident.
- Reg H highlighted his availability to link with runners to provide coaching tips, guidance and support to improve performance etc. Coaching is currently under-used in the club.

6. Brean Banger update:

Alex H highlighted parking issues for the race. Runners with National Trust membership can park at the National Trust Car park; non-members will be required to use the Avalon overflow car park. A recce of the route is planned, there is a need also to clear overgrown vegetation along the England Coast Path section of the course. 172 entries received to date, and 1 marshal is required.

7. Half marathon update:

145 entries received to date. Race packs organised. Road closure application complete and will be submitted alongside other road closure applications for Burnham on Sea.

Medals are due to arrive during the week of the 28th April.

8. Brent Knoll update:

49 entries to date.

9. Any other business:

- Membership renewals continue and reminders to be sent to prompt members who have not yet renewed. Cut off for renewals is the beginning of June.
- Reg H raised the ongoing debate surrounding having a recognised base for the running club. BASC and King Alfred's considered but discussions over the viability, location and accessibility of these venues continue with no firm or immediate resolution.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

Date of next committee meeting - tbc