ILKLEY HARRIERS

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 13th January 2025

1 - Attendees: Nick Kealey, Kate Archer, Rob Budding, Neil Chapman, Hilda Coulsey, Jon Denniss, Jane McCarthy, Andrew Overend, Jean Sullivan, Dawn Turner, Jonathan Turner, Becky White and Will Worboys
Apologies: Caroline Tong

2 - Minutes from meeting of 4th November - approved

3 - Matters arising: Jon reported back on relay race costs from previous year, totaling £1,828. Nick said the Christmas relay raised £102.90 for charity.

4 - Membership. Secretary and Treasurer

Petra reported that the club has 491 members, a new record. She explained that the club will need to upgrade to the 1,000 member plan at £175/year (vs current £95/year), and noted that new members will run with the club for free in February and March, with renewals starting April 1st.

Jonathan reported a couple of emails to the secretary address, including the fact that the current club will have its 40 year anniversary on May 1st this year.

Jon reported a yet-to-be-confirmed surplus of approximately £1,100 for 2025. He confirmed we will look to add a clause to the constitution stating "Any surplus income generated by the club activities is to be used to advance the objectives of the club" to clarify the club's non-profit status. And said the current bank balance of £11,962.02.

5 -Membership fees

Jon gave an outline of the club's current financial position and likely outgoings over the rest of this year, which is now the financial year. The potential cost of the new website (up to £5,500) was noted. As was England Athletics' 15% increase on their affiliation fees for 2026 - up from £20 to £23. That means that per member we will pay £25 in affiliation fees (given Northern Athletics is £2). But given the healthy membership numbers and stable financial situation, he recommended we keep the annual fee at £40. The committee agreed and subsequently set second claim membership at £15 and concessions at £25.

6 - AGM prep

Jonathan explained that the AGM must be held by the end of February with three weeks' notice to members. The committee discussed venue options and timing and despite a proposal for Bini Brewery they settled on the tennis club but said we should ask if we could use the bar area given likely numbers.

The date was set for 24th Feb, at 8.15pm after the club runs. It was noted that **Caroline** is stepping down from the committee so we need a new welfare officer, with **Hilda** saying it would be fantastic if we could get someone with similar expertise.

Reports will be written by **Nick**, **Jon** and **Shirley** and emailed to members in advance.

7 - Social media / newsletter discussion

Will noted that Facebook and Instagram accounts are underutilised. He proposed more structured content including race reports, interviews with club captains and run leaders, race route videos, and fun features, and suggested recruiting a small team to help manage social media content. The committee fully supported Will's proposals and he will now develop a structured approach to social media content and recruit others to help.

8 - Race planning

- Neil reported that the trail race cannot be held in May 2026 due to gamekeeper concerns about ground nesting birds. He also said that the 10K race preparations are well underway with entries open on RaceBest. A potential sponsorship offer from BAX Property was mentioned. And he confirmed plans for a new fell relay on July 19th despite personal health challenges.
- **Jonathan** proposed moving the Predictor race to March 31st (after clocks change) to address safety concerns about running in darkness.

- **Conclusion**
  - Trail race will not be held in 2026, considering April 2027 instead.
  - 10K race preparations continuing with 400 places available for now, to be raised to 800.
  - Predictor race scheduled for March 31st, followed by that month’s social.

9 - Awards Night planning

All good but to be kept out of public domain for now. Many thanks to **Becky**, **Jane** and **Kate** for organising.

10 - Website update

Jonathan reported on conversation with Ash about website migration. Estimated costs remain at a ceiling of £5,500, potentially split with the juniors’ section. **Jonathan** explained need to pay for two days of Sam's time to assist with migration including domain names and email addresses. The committee was told **Nick** and **Jonathan** will meet with Ash to finalise requirements. The committee then needs to decide what content to migrate from the old website. The senior site to be completed first, followed by juniors’ site. Target time is mid-summer - in time for the new school year. Rob double checked that both seniors and juniors will be merged into one website, which is the aim.

11 - Incidents

Just one reported and noted.

12 - AOB

LiRF guidelines were briefly discussed. As was minimum age for track sessions. The conclusion was that in principle, 15-year-olds can attend track sessions with parental approval but there is a need to establish process for collecting and managing emergency contact information.

Date of next meetings: Tuesday 24th February (AGM) and Tuesday 3rd March (committee)

Summary of action points:

- **Nick**
    - Circulate proposed list of award recipients for the awards night.
    - Meet with Ash and Jonathan to discuss website migration requirements.
- **Jon**
    - Confirm final surplus figure after checking accounts.
    - Prepare treasurer's report for the AGM.
    - Finalise the proposed constitutional amendment for the AGM.
- **Jonathan**
    - Share previous chair's report format with Nick.
    - Organize the predictor race for March 31st.
- **Will**
    - Develop more structured approach to social media content.
    - Consider recruiting a small team to help with social media.
- **Neil**
    - Email all Harriers about the 10K race entries and mention that fell race entries were low and ask them to promote both races..
    - Continue preparations for the fell relay on July 19th.
    - Establish process for collecting emergency contact information for track sessions.