

## Middleton Harriers AGM Minutes, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Middleton Arena

**Present:** Peter Gilligan (Chairman), Ruth Hare, Ge Kirk (President), Cathie Murphy (Ladies Teams), Steve Bassam (Finance), Craig Sutherland (Sec), Rob Bishop, Roger Colson and nn Members.

**Apologies:** See list

**Minutes:** Agreed.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**Correspondence:** None

**Chairman's Report:** Welcome to this, our Club AGM. We have again been through a strange period of time with Covid disrupting everything. However the club have managed to carry on with races and events throughout the past year.

We put on Eddie's revenge fell race in June. This was a great success and for the first time we used Chip Timing and this coupled with the results and presentation at the finish instead of in the Church made for a most successful evening.

In August we had the Hopwood Trot which again provided an excellent race for the competitors. We also had the Club Handicap at Bowlee Playing Fields. The Boxing Day Run allowed members to burn off the the Christmas Day excess.

Our Presentation Evening was held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> January and it was a very enjoyable evening.

The Club has joined with East Cheshire , Oldham and Horwich to stage the cross country races for the South East Lancs League in Heaton Park in Heaton Park and this has proved to be a success.

Thanks must be given to members who turned out in force to marshal the course when the club had the responsibility of staging the first race of the season. Thanks to Ruth Hare for doing a great job for many years on the most difficult crossing point on the XC Course. I would also like to thank Graham and Janine Jordan who have been taking care of our new tent and flag at the various cross country races. We require volunteers to take over their role for the next race at Heaton Park, this coming Saturday when Janine and Graham are unable to get to the race.

So, despite the disjointed year the Club has managed to provide events for all members to enjoy.

Finally, I must give thanks for all the work carried out throughout the year by the Committee Members.

**Treasurers Report:** Steve gave thanks to Derek Bury for auditing the accounts for 2020 and 2020 and for all his contributions in previous years. Derek has now been replaced by Cathie Murphy and the audited accounts for 2022 will be sent out in a future e-mail.

There was a small cash loss in 2020 of only £354.09 but surprisingly the club made money in 2021. With over £8000 in the bank and stock (kit) we had a book value of £10345.

In 2020 with club activities curtailed we agreed to reduce membership to £10 , our finances absorbed this and with Club races we made £526.14 profit, we are therefore keeping membership at £10 for the current year. In all, we the club made £729 from Club races. All the money from Eddie's Revenge Fell race was donated to our three nominated

charities – Oldham Deafblind, OMRT, St Saviours Church. No money was raised for the club as there was no Club catering facility at the Church.

There was expenditure of £629.80 on XC, Relays, and EA and ARC affiliation fees with additional fees of £250 for Monday coaching and £496 for Friday evening track hire. We had no presentation but expended £406.36 for the 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration (this was offset by £135 income.) In conclusion Steve confirmed that the Club finances were very strong.

**Membership:** Ge reported that the figures for 2020 were: Men 54, Ladies 65 giving a total of 119. which was well down on 2019 (153 members) .

The figures for 2021 were as follows: Men 64, Ladies 60 giving a total of 124

We did attract 15 new members but quite a few older members for whatever reason did not rejoin but did transfer over to Social membership.. But we do have 4 new members this year, so things are on the up.

There had been correspondence from EAA – the affiliation fee has been increased this year from £100 to 150 (which the club pays) and after taking in concerns from Running Clubs up and down the country the EAA has decided to increase the membership fee to £16 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 (this is a £1 increase from previous years).

Ge emphasized the rule that if people had not paid the 2022 subs will not be counted in any Club Road Championship Races.

**Election Of Officers:** Peter pointed out that the all current members had agreed to stay in post. There was a brief discussion on the roles and number of Committee members and Jen Laptew volunteered for the role of Social Media Officer (proposed by Ruth Hare and seconded by Cathie Murphy). The revised Committee was then put to the meeting (proposed by Christine Brooks, seconded by Fiona Bolton) who agreed unanimously. The new Committee was: Peter Gilligan (Chairman), Craig Sutherland (Sec), Ge Kirk (Membership), Cathie Murphy (Relays, XC and Club Kit), Ruth Hare, Rob Bishop (Calderdale & Welfare), Jen Laptew (Social Media) and Bryan O'Neill.

**Road/Trail Championship Report:** This was a short season short season due to Covid restrictions at the start of the year but 11 races were selected for the Championship with the best 4 to count.

It was difficult to maintain the original selection list, with some being quickly filled and some being cancelled and there were a number of changes needed changes at short notice. Thanks to everyone on the Race Committee who put together the season and scoured obscure web sites in search of suitable replacement races.

In the Men's Championship 27 (30) men took part in at least one race with 9 (18). The Mens Championship was won by Jordan Burke from Leon Wint in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tony Campbell in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In The Ladies Championship 19 (22) entered at least one race and 10 (10) completed the Championship. Sharon Goldrick won the Ladies Championship from Karen Hallett in second and Fiona Bolton in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Throughout the season there were many great results, with category wins, Pbs and some top 3 places. Well done all!

The smaller local races often offer better opportunities to do well, often have better facilities at the finish for a hot or cold drink with a chance for everyone to catch up, and they are cheaper to enter and involve less travelling. For the 2022 Season the race selection Committee have selected as many local races as possible and hopefully we will see good participation in the coming season.

**Relays:** Last season we were able to field teams in the MMU Relays and the Cross keys relays and are looking to expand on this in the forthcoming season. For 2022 we will endeavour to enter teams in the Northern 6 & 12 Stage (March), Calderdale relays (May),

BMAF Road Relays (May), Cross Keys (September), North West Road Relays (10<sup>th</sup> September). We will provide whatever support is needed for people to enter and run these events but it is vital for club members to put their names up to run. Without a team we cannot enter the event!

**Fell Season Report:** The 2021 Fell Championship season was a short season due to Covid Restrictions and consisted of only 7 Races in the Club Championship with best 4 to count. A total of 9 men and 8 Ladies competed in at least one race and 6 men and 6 ladies completed the series. The Winner of the Men's Club Championship was Jordan Burk and the Winner of the Ladies was Martha Urwin.

As a club we take part in the run The Moors Fell Grand Prix which is an inter club event. This was the Club's most successful Year with top 3 Finishes for all team members who completed and both the men and the ladies taking the Team Trophies. The ladies had a particularly successful season with 6 top 10 finishes in the Overall Standings!

This is a great achievement and it showed a great level of commitment from everyone who took part, competing in some very challenging races in terms of endurance and "technical difficulty" (long, hard and scary.) As we were a relatively small team it also required us to run more races than other (numerically larger) teams and it says a lot for everyone's commitment and endurance that we succeeded. Well done!

The 2022 season is back to the original format of 5 best result from 11 – with the first race of the season at Hoppit's Hill. Bring it on!

**Cross Country Report:** Craig reported on the 2021-22 season which was still ongoing with 2 races left to run.

We've had a full complement of races this season with 5 MACC Races and 4 SELCC races. 21 men and 17 ladies have participated in at least one race. 8 ladies have already qualified for the series with 2 likely to finish the required number of races. 9 Men have completed the championship with about 4 who are in a position to qualify. Participation has been consistent throughout the series.

This year we have also been represented in the Northern Cross Country Championship and we are also sending 3 runners to the Nationals. This is the first time we've participated in the Nationals for many years and we wish Jordan Burke, Sharon Goldrick and Jo Adamson good luck.

**Socials:** Ge reported that 2021 saw the club celebrate it's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was pleased to celebrate this landmark at the Middleton Cricket Club in August with our special guest Roger Colson and so many older members who helped make Middleton Harriers the Club we have today. We did expect a good turn out, but Oh my word, it was a fantastic night and I think everyone had a good time and did a lot of catching up with old mates. Here's to the 45<sup>th</sup>!

The Club Presentation Night is a good night out to celebrate your achievement. I personally think we need to re-structure the Presentation as something a little less formal. Firstly to help keep the price down for tickets and also to get more members to attend. There was a discussion – Ruth Hare agreed that the numbers attending were declining each year and that a better venue might be the Cricket Club. Kyrinda Carter agreed that the Cricket Club might be better and pie and peas rather than a buffet. There was discussion on the date – Feb might be better a better date. Chris Brooks pointed that that Boarshaw WMC had been used as a venue in the past and was cheaper. Fiona Bolton suggested subsidizing the evening to reduce the cost. Peter proposed reviewing the feedback.

Cross Country – general discussion on using the Cricket Club as the venue – Gen agreement.

**Club Kit:** Cathie reported that there were regular sales and that the hoodies with a full zip were no longer available but that she would order a different design. There was a question on the suppliers of Club Kit – Cathie replied that all the kit came from the same supplier.

**AOB:** Fiona raised the Boxing Day Run and that there deemed no focal point at the end? This was due to a temporary manager being in the Hopwood who was not prepared to open the bar. A number of people had gone to the Ship Inn as an alternative. We would review for next year.

Ge thanked Rob for organising the C25K during the pandemic.

Ge reported that Alan Garvey had not been well and that he thanked the Club for it's support and well wishes.

Rob said that C25K was restarting and that as part of a qualification he was doing he would like the Clubs permission to include a study on the mental and physical effects of participation. There was a discussion on whether the club should charge for the course as it had previously and it was agreed that a one-off £10 charge would make participants more committed.

**Date of Next Meeting:** TBA