

These are the minutes of the Quakers Running Club Annual General Meeting, held on 16th March 2018, at The Mowden Pub, Staindrop Road, Darlington.

Attendees (54)

Lisa Alderson	Rob Gillham	Olly Moore
Sarah Bayles	Terri Hankinson	Stephen Moore
Charlie Bogg	Ty Hankinson	Lee Morris
Ian Bond	Anna Hardy	Sue New
Rebecca Bowes	Gillian Harris	Stephen Padgett
Tom Chapman	Ian Hart	Graham Park
Ian Clyde	Lisa Jenkins	Jamie Pratt
Adrian Colbourne	Dave Jones	Philippa Rayner
Mark Colling	Emma Joyeux	Paul Roberts
Wendy Colling	Michael Joyeux	Mark Robinson
Anthony Corbett	Lynsey Lester	Judith Russell
April Corbett	Roy Macdougall	Michael Thompson
Michelle Dale	Jeff Marriott	Louise Trainor
Paul Dalton	Gemma Marshall	Michael Watson
Rob Dent	Brian Martin	Sarah Watson
Clare Dixon	Dave McLachlan	John Whinn
Grainne Duffy	Luke Minall	Julie Whinn
Marc Ellis	Chris Minto	Dave Whittle

Apologies

Hannah Alderson	Dave Hood	Lucia Minto
Nicola Arkley	Dawn Johnston	Peter Rowley
Claire Chapman	Lisa Johnstone	Phil Rutter
Gill Colling	Phill Johnston	Sally Singleton
Michael Doughty	Michael Ladyman	David Stewart
Neal Harper	David Ledgerwood	Darren Wright

The Chairman started the meeting at 7:05pm.

1. Chairman's Address

Graham Park welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He thanked all officers and members of the club for their activities this year, with particular reference to fundraising, coaching, and the support of the social committee. Graham requested that where voting is required, rather than continuing discussion around the room, that votes take place efficiently, allowing business to move on to the next agenda item.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2017 AGM & EGM

A query was raised regarding the option to vote by proxy, which was raised at a previous meeting. Stephen Padgett confirmed no one has come forward with a request for proxy voting, hence this item was not added to the agenda.

Action: *Management Committee to investigate and report on proxy voting*

3. Matters Arising

April Corbett raised the matter of Clubmark Funding. The Management Committee confirmed a Development Officer is required to progress the Club's Clubmark application. It was noted that Emma Joyeux and Philippa Rayner have put themselves forward for the Development Officer role. AGM was reminded of a cost for training club coaches, of around £1000 every 3 years, to complete the Clubmark accreditation. Stephen Padgett had previously suggested Club Members raise money to fund this.

4. Review of 2017/2018 Accounts

Mark Colling presented a summary of 2017-2018 income and expenditure.

- a. The overall financial position has improved through the year, and the club ends the year in a comfortable financial position.
- b. Income is mainly from membership fees, with the majority received online, via PayPal.
- c. Eliminating subsidies for coach trips has reduced outgoings.
- d. The cost for facilities at Abbey Road Playing Field was discussed. Stephen Padgett added clarification – during Clubmark activity, it was discovered that the club had been using Abbey Road Playing Field without paying for it. Costs for Abbey Road facilities had temporarily increased as a result, but the rates have since been renegotiated and reduced. It was also noted that we had received a couple of months free, and the club were not charged for sessions where musical instruments were in the room.
- e. Social Committee events have donated to charity and raised money for the club.
- f. Clothing – the value of stock held has increased from £1500 to £2000
- g. Invoices from council for track use have not been issued for all months of the year.
- h. Coaching – spending on training for coaches has been capped this year, until the longer term financial position became clearer.
- i. Cross Country – The reported loss for the year includes affiliation fees from the previous year, processed during this financial year due to billing delays.
- j. Track and Field – Balanced out over the year.
- k. Miscellaneous – additional items purchased included flowers, software licenses, and stamps.

In summary – the Club is in a much better financial position than previously expected.

Olly Moore questioned whether a budget is in place for the upcoming year. Mark Colling advised there is currently no budget. Charlie Bogg commented that a budget should be in place, rather than relying on ad-hoc decision to approve expenditure, and taking into account membership fees. Anthony Corbett observed that 1-2 years ago it was decided that the club membership fee would be set at £20, plus England Athletics affiliation fees. Olly Moore requested a recommendation from AGM to the Management Committee.

Action: Management Committee to investigate and report on a financial budgeting process

Emma Joyeux raised that fundraising had taken place towards the expected £1000 Clubmark coach training fee, specifically mentioning moneys raised at the Xmas party. She requested that funding of the Clubmark associated fees therefore be approved. An amendment was added; on condition of development officer being in place. This was put to vote.

Vote: Passed (majority)

Stephen Padgett thanked Anthony Corbett for auditing the accounts.

5. Coaching Development Plan – Update on Key Aims

Paul Dalton updated members with a summary of work towards the Coaching key aims.

- a. Structured programme for beginners: Two Beginner's Groups operated with successful outcomes, with participants achieving parkrun at end. A third Beginner's Group is currently nearing completion. Retention rate of beginners upgrading to full members is good. Paul thanked coaches Roy Macdougall, Emma Joyeux, Lee Morris and others, for their work with the Beginner's Groups.
- b. Annual review of training schedule: an increased range of sessions has been made available, with additional advice and context on the training schedule. Some training sessions have been replaced, using routes with fewer risks from road crossings and high pedestrian traffic. Dedicated cross country sessions were introduced, with thanks to Anthony Corbett, Marc Ellis, Graham Park and others involved. Additional track sessions have been made available, with thanks to Mic Doughty for Friday and Saturday sessions.
- c. Train new coaches and develop existing coaches: New coaches trained this year were Lisa Johnstone, Gemma Marshall and Lee Morris, with Phill Johnston self-funding. Lucia Minto joined the team, with her existing coaching qualification and Mic Doughty re-joined as a coach.
- d. Introduced mentor scheme for new coaches: Paul acknowledged there remains progress to be made to a coach mentoring scheme, and praised the resilience of this year's new coaches.
- e. Develop a pool of volunteers: on some occasions, non-qualified volunteers have assisted coaches, and consideration is being given to the introduction a formal register of those willing to help. Paul and Roy Macdougall acknowledged the volunteers who have helped with the Beginner's Groups.

Paul thanked all coaches on behalf of David Ledgerwood and himself.

Michael Joyeux asked if there is a coaching development plan for 2018/2019. Paul confirmed the coaching development plan is a 3 year plan, which will be reviewed annually.

Extensive discussion took place around Track Sessions.

Jeff Marriott suggested that the Club stop the Monday night track session and merge with Mic's Saturday morning. Paul advised that Mic will be stopping the track sessions at end of April.

Jeff suggested adding an extra (individual funded) track session in addition to the subsidised monthly track session. Dave McLachlan suggested the track sessions are held on a weekend.

Lee Morris remarked that Monday track sessions are good fun and are great when you have the time to get there, and suggested additional communication is needed to embed that the sessions are not just for fast runners. Gillian Harris recommended promoting the ethos that people can run at their own speed

Julie Whinn remarked that track sessions aren't just about running, there is focus on technique.

Michael Joyeux informed all of the benefits of technical training, drills, strengthening and conditioning, and stretching.

Paul Dalton agreed to continue to publicise and promote the track sessions, to monitor the number of members attending track sessions over the next 3 months, and to include in the ongoing coaching review.

Tom Chapman remarked he wasn't aware that the Club use volunteers to assist coaches. Paul gave examples of sessions where volunteer marshalling support would be particularly effective.

6. Club Officer Election

Chairman	Graham Park re-elected	
Secretary	Olly Moore elected	Stephen Padgett stepped down
Assistant Secretary	Dawn Richardson stepped down	
Treasurer	Mark Colling re-elected	
Membership Secretary	Olly Moore re-elected	
Web Administrator	Luke Minall elected	Olly Moore stepped down
Press Secretary	Rob Dent re-elected	
Development Officer	Emma Joyeux elected Philippa Rayner elected	
Welfare Officer	Wendy Colling re-elected Mark Colling re-elected	
Lead Coach	Paul Dalton re-elected David Ledgerwood re-elected	
Team Captains - Road	Emma Joyeux re-elected Michael Joyeux re-elected	
Team Captains - Track & Field	Lindsey Lester re-elected Paul Roberts re-elected	
Team Captains - Cross Country	Sue New elected Marc Ellis re-elected	Louise Trainor stepped down
Team Captains - Trail & Fell	Abbie Hull re-elected	Andrew Lambe stepped down
Club Kit Co-ordinator	Rob Gillham re-elected	
Club Statistician	April Corbett re-elected	
Club Championship Administrator	Gemma Marshall re-elected	
10k Leagues Administrator	Rob Dent re-elected	

Race Development Committee	Anthony Corbett re-elected April Corbett re-elected Roy Macdougall re-elected Richard Payne re-elected	Ian Bond stepped down
Social Committee	Wendy Colling re-elected April Corbett re-elected Anna Hardy re-elected Linda Harrington re-elected Emma Joyeux re-elected Sue New re-elected Julie Whinn re-elected	

7. Charity Update

Julie Whinn updated members with summary of the charitable activity in 2017-18.

- a. Julie advised that response to the charity this year has been amazing.
- b. The chosen charity for for this year was British Heart Foundation, and the total amount raised from fundraising and the Lyke Wake Challenge came to £2,892.61
- c. Last year's nominated charity was due to be St Teresa's hospice – however the chosen charity was changed to BHF, with the approval of the 2017 AGM. Support for St Teresa's Hospice was deferred until 2018-19, and this now becomes the chosen charity to receive Club support in 2018-19.
- d. St Teresa's have offered four places for the Great North Run, with a requirement for each member to pay £55 entrance fee, and raise at least £200 sponsorship (independent of Club fundraising). If more than 4 members would like one of these race entry places, there will be a draw to determine the selected members. The Social Committee will manage this process.
- e. The Social Committee will set up an online donation page to manage donations to St Teresa's Hospice.

8. Member Motions

8.1 Northern Athletics

Stephen Padgett presented the following proposal:

“Proposal for £2 levy from each member, to be paid to Northern Athletics. Non-payment would exclude Quakers members from competing in Northern Athletics events. Deadline for club decision is 1 April 2018. AGM to vote Yes or No.”

Key points raised in discussion:

- a) Michael Joyeux: If we decide not to take part in Northern Athletics events we are making the Club a recreational club. Road captains will take responsibility to promote and get as many members as possible to these events to support running. Stephen Padgett responded: this means asking all members to pay to support the few runners that do attend these events
- b) Olly Moore asked what the levels of participation are. Michael Joyeux responded that 7 male and 3 female Quakers member attended Northern Athletics Cross Country. No Quakers had yet participated in Northern Athletics Road Relays, mainly due to the location of previous races, but we would have the opportunity if we chose to.
- c) Paul Dalton: members aren't simply paying for a minority of members to enter races, but to allow all Quakers the opportunity participate in Northern Athletics events. A “No” vote would remove that opportunity. Noted that the location of events may impact the number of people who will attend.
- d) Julie Whinn: we have over 300 members, a lot of whom wouldn't use this opportunity.
- e) Charlie Bogg: Members shouldn't be forced to subsidise. Suggested that the fees should be recouped from the members that do wish to participate. Jeff Marriott: Northern Athletics are asking for over £600 from our club, people that enter should pay the additional levy on their races entry fees.
- f) Rob Dent: Clarified there is no mention of an opt in scheme for those members that want to participate. Paul Dalton clarified Northern Athletics are not offering the opportunity to pay levy per race – it's a per member fee for all members.
- g) Lee Morris: there is confusion between NA and NYSD events. Rob Gillham sought clarity on which races this affects: 12 stage road relays, 6 stage road relays, Northern Athletics Cross Country (not NYSD Cross Country), and Northern Athletics Track and Field (not NYSD Track & Field)
- h) Louise Trainor: This is a massive opportunity for the club; doing well in Northern Athletics events would attract membership.
- i) Roy Macdougall: Will pay what the club wants to do but does not agree with the Northern Athletics principle. Olly Moore added: the justification of the levy by Northern Athletics is circumstantial: “IF they lose EA funding, and IF they lose a sponsorship deal, then they will need more money.”
- j) Roy Macdougall: Should we as a local running club be supporting Northern Athletics, regardless of our club participation, but should we support it as the right thing to do.
- k) Anthony Corbett: The £2 levy would be passed on directly to members. Club Membership is set as £20 plus fees. Michael Joyeux confirmed that effectively the membership cost would go up by £2

With the key points discussed the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: Yes (20) No (23)
Majority against the Club paying a £2 levy per member to Northern Athletics

8.2 Club Championship / Age Grading

Michael Joyeux presented the following proposal, on how the Club Championship should be structured:

To vote on either;

Option 1. Two Championships: Completely separate the points and tables so that there is a separate table for men and women

Option 2. Go back to having one championship table, using age grading, as a fair way to have all members of the club complete on a level playing field regardless of gender and age

Michael explained that previous changes to the Championship structure may have been made with a misunderstanding of age grading, which is inclusive for age and gender. The 2017 change in effect makes women not equal to men.

Mark Colling added he had been approached by a number of people who had voted in 2017 who apologised for not understanding the principals of age and sex grading.

Olly Moore requested clarification on the Hillary Joyeux trophy criteria. Michael advised it was for the highest place championship contender of alternative gender to the championship winner.

With the key points discussed the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: Option 2 (unanimous) in favour of going back to having one championship table

8.3.1 Club Awards: Criteria for determining Senior / Veteran

8.3.2 Club Awards: Revision of Age Categories

Rob Dent presented the following proposal:

“To change the definition of ‘Senior’ and ‘Veteran’ age categories used for club awards, so that there is fairer representation of the member demographic in the awards presented”

Rob suggested that proposals 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 were so similar in purpose, they should be considered together, with a vote taken on the options presented in 8.3.2.

Key points raised in discussion:

- a) Paul Dalton asked if the demographic of the club changes year on year, are we going to have to review the categories each year.
- b) In response to queries about alignment of Senior and Veteran categories with UKA definitions, Mark Colling clarified that these are our club awards, and we can decide our own definitions.
- c) Graham Park expressed concern that every year sees proposals to increase the number awards, and asked if 42 (the number presented this year) is not enough? Anthony Corbett responded to suggest fewer 10k Leagues.
- d) Jeff Marriott gave online obtained indicative costs and commented that there are a lot of members with not a great chance of winning a trophy.

Olly Moore explained the voting options set out in the Appendix and the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: Current (9) Option 1 (1) Option 2 (5) Option 3 (3) Option 4 (24)
Voted in favour of Option 4: Four Trophies, Senior <45, Veteran >=45

8.3.3 Club Awards: New Trophy

Rob Gillham presented the following proposal:

“Proposal for a new Club Award trophy, based on total points accumulated in 10k League and Club Championship”

Rob clarified this award would accumulate all Club Championship and 10k Leagues points gained. He explained he was prepared to pay for the additional trophy, and would withdraw himself from eligibility for this trophy. He pointed out that based on 2017 performances, this trophy would have been awarded to Brian Maclaren.

Paul Dalton questioned whether this would cost restrictive; some people have the cash to enter all 10k and championship. Others can only pick and choose what is affordable. Would this effectively be a trophy for the rich?

Jeff Marriott mentioned that the 10k Leagues were introduced to give everyone a chance to win a trophy

Charlie Bogg pointed out that lots of members compete in races that are not in the 10k Leagues or the Club Championship.

With the key points discussed the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: *Majority against the introduction of this trophy*

8.3.4 Club Awards: New Trophies

Ian Bond presented the following proposal:

“Proposal for new Club Award trophies, for best male and female Track & Field Performances.”

Stephen Padgett requested clarity on what defines best. Ian clarified that the decision would be made by the Track & Field Team Captains, in a similar process to the existing Cross Country trophies.

Charlie Bogg: Not against trophies but why not have trophy for each section to stop this being a rolling agenda item.

Roy Macdougall: Think we should implement this before the season.

Jeff Marriott: Presentation night is an evening to celebrate performance and present trophies, not merely a social event.

With the key points discussed the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: *In Favour (28)* *Against (6)*
Majority in favour of introducing new Track & Field trophies

8.3.5 Club Awards: Revised Voting Procedures

Olly Moore presented the following proposal:

“Proposal that the Management Committee are mandated to review and update the Club Awards management process before the 2018 awards, to ensure clarity and integrity in the purpose and execution of voting and presentation of Club Awards.”

Olly explained that there remains some confusion about who is eligible for nomination for Club Awards, why they should receive an award, how all awards are decided, and even how to vote. He suggested that the options available for managing a club awards process are complex, and not best suited to be discussed in detail and resolved at AGM – rather, a recommendation should be made by the Management Committee, following a review and consultation with members, on how best to conduct the Club Awards management process.

April Corbett indicated member engagement with the nomination / voting process was slightly improved this year, but remains low.

With the key points discussed the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: *Majority in favour of a Management Committee review of Club Awards process*

Action: *Management Committee to conduct review of Club Awards process*

8.4 Roles & Responsibilities Change

April Corbett presented the following proposal:

“Proposal that the Assistant Secretary officer role be absorbed within the duties of the Social Committee”

Lee Morris questioned the role of secretary as chair of this meeting, as it is unusual that a chair person takes a passive role. Stephen Padgett explained that the Club has always operated in this manner.

Olly Moore agreed that the assistant secretary role is not required, and as secretary he is happy to seek administrative support from Social committee as required.

With the key points discussed the proposal was put to vote:

Vote: *Majority in favour of removing the Assistant Secretary officer role, with administrative support provided by Social Committee as required.*

AOB

Graham Park asked Roy Macdougall and Anthony Corbett how much the Lyke Wake Challenge has raised for Charity. Anthony advised that 40 people had volunteered and thanked all. He offered the opportunity to members to take part for the 2018 event. Lyke Wake is non-profit making for the club. This year the event raised £585 for BHF, £1,600 to two Mountain rescue teams, £125 to Ravenscar and £222 to Raynet Communications. Over the last 3 years it has raised £5,600.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.