



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Darwen Dashers Running Club held on Thursday 18th April 2013 at the Sunnyhurst Pub Darwen.

Attendees:

Alan Garnett	Alex Buckland	Barry Shackleton	Carly Edwards
Carol Butterworth	Cath Fox	Chris Cash	David Moir
Denise Penney	Derek Reilly	Jannine Fallon	Jim Taylor
Joanne Nelson	Jonathan Stubbs	Julia Rushton	Karen Atherton
Keith Dunster	Kevin Smith	Leanda Waddicor	Linda Ahmed
Linda Clarkson	Mark Lomax	Michael Wilding	Nerina Gill
Nige Barnes	Paul Brindle	Pete Murphy	Rebecca Simms
Russ Corsini	Sarah Roberts	Simon Fox	Sue Corsini
Tessa Tracey			

The Meeting commenced at 8.30pm.

Copies of the Agenda, 2012 AGM minutes and AGM attendance sheets were distributed.

Chair person Jonathan Stubbs opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Apologies:

Jonathan Stubbs informed the meeting that apologies had been received from the following members:

Jonathan Bruton, Kevin Doherty, Russell Egan, Ged Johnson, Andrew Raynes, Gary Taylor, George Thompson and Mark Walsh.

Approval of 2012 AGM minutes:

Jonathan asked the members for last years minutes to be taken as read and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Nigel Barnes stated that club funds in the bank were similar to last year with incomings for the year more or less matching outgoings and events such as the Christmas Party had broke even. The five races organized by the Dashers had brought money in and we have a good stock of equipment for races, clothing and a laptop computer.

The current balance in the bank of about £2300 is what we need to cover any large purchases. Nigel concluded by inviting members to come forward with ideas about anything the club should purchase.

Captain's Report:

Pete Murphy reported that the new Witton Park Relays went well this year and next year we will be looking to enter team(s) in the Calderdale Relay, a six leg relay with two runners per leg. Pete said Sarah Roberts and he had started a new Monday night running group from Darwen Leisure Centre for people new to running and they currently have 30 runners registered. He said the group had grown to such an extent that they were looking for two people to lead a new group on Thursday nights. Vikki Livsey has volunteered to be one of them and Pete said it would be good if someone else from the club would join her. The group leaders would have to go on a one day course paid for by others and anyone interested should contact him.

Secretary's Report

Russ Corsini opened saying this would be his last report since he would not be standing for re election this year and thanked all club members and committee members current and past for helping him over the past 5 years.

He said Cath and Nigel were also not standing for re election and there would shortly be elections for new Secretary, Ladies Captain and Treasurer and reminded members that in fact all committee posts are open to any fully paid up member who feel they can contribute to the running of the club. He informed the meeting that membership levels were slightly up from 116 last year to 117 this year. Russ said that England Athletics had raised their affiliation fee by £5 per member this year so later there would be a vote to decide on how to deal with this increase.

Chairman's Report:

Jonathan Stubbs said that in 2012 the five races organized by the club, The Dark Un, Aggies Staircase, Tockholes Gala, Darwen Gala and David Staff Memorial attracted a total of 555 entries and the club Fell, Road and Trail Championship races were completed by an aggregate of 277 Dashers. Both impressive statistics for a small club.

He reminded members about the successful social and other events held throughout the year such as Moonlight walks, Guessathon, Treasure Hunt, Real Ale Wobble and the Santa Run. He also mentioned the next event on the calendar, another Simon Fox production, which would be on the Friday night after the AGM and is a showing of fell running films at the Darwen Academy followed by drinks at the Black Horse where proceeds from the £2.50 entry fee would go to the club and Bolton Mountain Rescue.

Membership Fees

Following England Athletics decision to increase the annual affiliation fee from £5 to £10 per member the committee decided to consult the membership on the best way to deal with the increase.

Jonathan Stubbs suggested two options:

1. A two tier membership system where those wishing to remain affiliated to England Athletics (competitive member) would pay an extra £5 and those not wishing to be affiliated (social member) paying £5 less than in 2012.
2. A £ 5 increase for all members.

Rebecca Simms expressed concerns that a two tier system may create divisions within the club and suggested a third option where the £5 increase would be phased in over two years ie. £3 in 2013 and £2 in 2014.

Mark Lomax asked if the club could absorb the increase and keep the membership fee at the current level. The general opinion was that the club could not afford to absorb the cost and decided to take a vote on whether or not to go for the two tier membership.

A vote was held and no members voted for the two tier membership so option 1 was rejected and therefore membership fees will increase by £5 for all members in 2013.

Election of Committee

Jonathan Stubbs said that the secretary, treasurer and ladies captain were standing down from the committee, he thanked Nigel, Russ and Cath for their time on the committee and invited members to stand for the vacant posts.

Election of Treasurer

Rebecca Simms was proposed by Jim Taylor and seconded by Sarah Roberts. There were no objections or further nominations so Rebecca was elected Treasurer.

Election of Secretary

Chris Cash was proposed by David Moir and seconded by Julia Rushton. There were no objections or further nominations so Chris was elected Treasurer.

Election of Ladies Captain

Julia Rushton was proposed by Denise Penney and seconded by Tessa Tracey.

Carly Edwards was proposed by Linda Clarkson and seconded by Chris Cash.

Jonathan invited Julia and Carly to give a brief outline of why they should be voted ladies captain.

Following a few words from Carly a vote was taken and Carly Edwards was elected Ladies Captain by a narrow margin of just 2 votes.

The following were elected unopposed to remain on the Committee:

Pete Murphy	Mens Captain
Linda Clarkson	President
Jonathan Stubbs	Chairman

Any Other Business

Mark Lomax asked for an explanation of what the new Monday running group was.

Sarah Roberts explained it was a group for people who have not run before and may be put off by joining a "running club". The intention being that the new runners would eventually feed into the Dashers.

Rebecca Simms said that on a few occasions recently she had arrived at the Sunnyhurst at 7:00pm on a Tuesday and there was nobody else there to greet and guide any newcomers.

Pete Murphy said he was helping with the timekeeping for the run section of the Darwen Aquathon on the 12th May and appealed for other members to offer to help out if they can.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm