

## **Darwen Dashers Running Club AGM 2024**

Committee Members Present: Chris Cash, Sarah Marsden, Alan Harle, Gareth Taylor, Gareth Davies, Rick Marsden.

Members Present: Debbie Ashton, Jez Turner, Elaine Turner, Alex Buckland, Ian Asher, Simon Smith, Jim Taylor, Mark Taylor, Ian Thompson, Ady Humphreys, Andy Haworth, Paul Conlon, Beccy Jepson and Sam Dickinson.

Apologies: Gary Taylor, Alison Abbott, Brian Morris, Don Clarkson.

Meeting opened at 20.55

### **Minutes of meeting**

Chris Cash took attendees through agenda and meeting protocol.

Chris Cash explaining as per his Facebook post giving notice of 2024 AGM that the 2023 minutes have been available on DD website prior to AGM . There were no objections to those minutes from attendees.

**Road Captain's Report:** Gareth Taylor reported out of 94 members in 2023, 21 male and 9 females took part in 21 races which is roughly 1/3 of members taking part. Championship winners were Mark Taylor and Sue Corsini.

There are 24 races this year which 11 males and 12 females have taken part. Gareth also reported that Simon Smith will be organising 2 teams for the millennium relays this year. Gareth will be stepping down as Road Captain after 6 years but stated that he will continue to organise the Red Rose Cross Country championship. Chris Cash thanked Gareth for his dedication as Captain over the last 6 years which was met with a round of applause for Gareth from the attendees.

**Fell Captain's Report:** Gareth Davies reported that 24 males and 10 females took part in races in 2023. Championship winners were Paul Taylor and Linda Coffey who also earned her England Masters vest coming second FV70 at Knutsford 10k which qualifies her to represent England at the Birmingham 10k in May. Gareth reported that there were a few new members. There were 12 members in 2 teams representing the club in the Fell relays. Paul Taylor came 1<sup>st</sup> and Ady Humphreys 2<sup>nd</sup> MV50 at Pen-y-Ghent Fell Race. Mick Wilding completed the Bob Graham Round and won Dasher of the year.

**Beginners Captain's Report:** Rick Marsden reported that there were 2 groups around 25-30 beginners of which 7 or 8 have come up to club nights and showed an interest in membership. This 1st group of 2024 have started with 28 people of which 12-13 are still taking part with some even running on club nights and taking part in Brian Morris's Hill reps. Rick confirmed beginners parkrun graduation will take place at Preston Parkrun on 6<sup>th</sup> April and asked for members to come along and support them and run with them. Chris Cash also asked attendees to go and give their support.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Secretary/Chairman's Report:** Chris Cash reporting that Don Clarkson resigned from the Secretary post in December and no minutes have been circulated since. Current membership was 94, 88 of which were full members and 6 V65+

Aggies Staircase race was very successful with 155 runners taking part with the presentation taking place at the Artisan. The race raised £737.00. Once the weather improves Chris will be putting more posters out on the moors. Date change for Aggies will be on 25<sup>th</sup> June due to Chris being on holiday. Dashers of the Year went to Michael Wilding, Most Improved Dasher going to Sarah Marsden and Most Improved New Dasher Sam Dickinson. Chris announced he is stepping down from his position as Chairman but will still continue to organise the Aggies Staircase Race. Chris was thanked for his dedication over the years and was met with a round of applause from the attendees.

**President's Report:** Sarah Marsden reporting that she had only been President for a few months but will do her best to be a voice for members and continue where Alison left off.

**Membership Fees/ Membership Type:** England Athletics insurance has increased from £150.00 to £200 per annum. Membership fees will increase by £2.00 to offset the £50.00 increase and to subsidise the Christmas Party to keep tickets down to £10.00 each. Proposed by Chris Cash, seconded by Allan Harle.

Club membership for 2024 will be as follows:-

Full membership £33.00

Family and second claim £28.00

V65+ and students £16.00

**Election of Officials:** Chris Cash proposing Allan Harle to continue as Treasurer, seconded by Gareth Taylor. Sam Dickinson proposed Gareth Davies to continue as Fell Captain, seconded by Iain Asher. Andy Haworth put himself forward for Chairman, Jim Taylor seconded. Debbie Ashton put herself forward for Secretary, seconded by Beccy Jepson. Rick Marsden put himself forward for Road Captain, seconded by Gareth Taylor. Andy Haworth proposed Jim Taylor for Beginners Captain, seconded by Debbie Ashton. Chris Cash proposed Sarah Marsden for President, seconded by Andy Haworth.

**Constitutional Change Regarding Quorum at Committee Meetings:** Chris Cash advising that there was originally 7 Committee members which went down to 6. One Committee Meeting had 4 attendees and there was an objection received that Quorum should be 2/3rds of Committee Members as per 18.3 of the constitution so therefore the meeting should have been null and void. Chris pointed out that if this was done then the Christmas Party would not have been able to go ahead. Debbie Ashton mentioned that going forward zoom, FaceTime or teams could be utilised for Committee members unable to be physically present. Chris Cash proposed changing 18.3 of the constitution from 2/3rds to 4 officers present for Quorum, Debbie Ashton seconded and the vote was unanimous in favour of the change.

**Christmas Party Arrangements:** Chris Cash advising that the Committee had made the decision to book Darwen Football Club to avoid venues being booked up if left later. Chris asked attendees what they would like for food Rick Marsden suggested maybe ordering pizza and will take a look at cheaper options than a buffet. Chris also asked what members would like as entertainment. A few attendees mentioned that the quiz was popular and Ian Thompson agreed to host a quiz. Rick Marsden offered to organise the Christmas Party.

**Social Activities:** Beccy Jepson asked if social activity could be on the agenda to ask for ideas on Dashers Facebook page. Chris Cash thanked Ian Thompson for doing the parkrun tables to which attendees gave Ian a round of applause.

**England Athletics discussion Point:** Chris Cash starting discussion, Committee looked at different ways of leaving England Athletics but there was no getting away from it. Gareth Taylor pointing out that some races require individuals to be EA affiliated, so if not affiliated then unable to part in the Red Rose Cross Country Series which is in our club championship. Gareth Davies asking how much EA take, Chris Cash advising £19.00. Gareth advising that there is no benefit for FRA fell runners having EA membership but they are still contributing. Beccy Jepson asked

if fewer fully paid up members, will this affect London Marathon places? Chris Cash advised it is possible and changes every year, 50 members for 1 place but not guaranteed. Alex Buckland asked will the lower tier membership affect the club? Gareth Taylor advised this would not. Rick Marsden made the point that Committee Officials must be fully paid up members. Jim asked for students to be added to the price of V65+ Chris Cash proposed to offer EA affiliation or non EA affiliation membership, Seconded by Beccy Jepson, motion carried.

**Parkrun Discussion Parkrun:** Simon Smith suggested a get together to arrange a Parkrun tour once a month with car sharing. Jez and Elaine Turner will organise And post on Dashers Facebook page.

**Any Other Business/Questions Arising:** None

Debbie Ashton 25.03.2024