

## **Darwen Dashers Running Club AGM**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 20.00

Upstairs Room at The Bank Bar and Kitchen, 8 Church St, Darwen, BB3 2RE

**Committee Members Present:** Chris Cash, Alison Abbott, Gareth Taylor, Gareth Davies, Allan Harle, Alison Abbott, Rick Marsden

**Apologies** Beccy Jepson

**Darwen Dashers Present:** Iain Asher, Paul Conlon, Alex Buckland, Rebecca Simms, Janet Greenhalgh, Simon Smith, Jim Taylor, Mark Taylor, Andrea Hopwood, Debbie Cash (**Minuting**)

**Apologies:** Ian Thomson, Andy Haworth, Jez & Elaine Turner, Andy McAllister, Gary Taylor, Don Kuczer-Clarkson, Linda Coffey, Brian Morris

### **Minutes of the meeting**

**Meeting opened at 20:00**

#### **Introduction, Agenda and Protocol – Chris Cash**

Chris took attendees through the agenda and meeting protocol

#### **Approval of Minutes of last AGM 2022 – Chris Cash/All**

The minutes of last AGM held in 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.

#### **Road Captain's Report - Gareth Taylor**

2022 Had seen 20 races take place in the championship in which 42 dashers had taken part. The championship was won by Gareth Taylor and Sue Corsini. The dashers had taken part in the Northwest Relays with a total of 4 teams. Gareth explained that it would be good to encourage more females to take part in the relays. Cross Country was not well represented but of those who turned up they had enjoyed it. Simon Smith represents England which for a small club is a fantastic achievement so Simon was offered everyone's congratulations. For 2023 there will be 21 races in the championship and again teams will be entered into the North West relays and other relays as well as Cross Country. For 2023 there are 10 Dashers taking part in the London Marathon based on current membership that is nearly 10% of the club. Mark Taylor offered thanks to Gareth for the championship.

#### **Fell Captain's Report - Gareth Davies**

We have seen new members joining the fell group. 2022 Championship was won by Paul Taylor and Janet Harwood-Carr unfortunately there was a shortage of females taking part in the fell championship. : 2 teams represented the Dashers in FRA British relays in Scotland.

Gareth highlighted some points of interest

Claire Davies had completed the Mont Blanc Marathon

Tom Prescott and Michael Wilding had completed the Lakeland 50

This year there will be 2 or 3 Bob Graham attempts

For 2023 there will be mixed relays at Saddleworth. The David Staff Fell race has moved weekend as it clashes with a fell championship. There are 16 races in this year's championship.

Jim Taylor pointed out that the website is not updated to reflect the championship races Iain Asher pointed out that there was an issue with google calendar not syncing to the website. This issue is to be explored.

**Beginners Captain's Report – Rick Marsden** Over the last 12 months there had been 3 groups of beginners and always a good turnout with 3 runners joining the Dashers. Initial interest then there is a reduction in the number of runners each week. Alison to build up a plan and review the current format and homework.

For the current group they will graduate at Preston Parkrun on 1<sup>st</sup> April

Rick thanked Alison, Brian and Jim for their support

## Treasurer's Report - Allan Harle

<u>Treasurer's Account</u>	2021-22 Balance £1,651.39	2022-23 Balance £1,919.13
Current Balance - Treasurer's Account		£1,919.13
Payments Out		£3,499.82
Payments In		£3,632.19
Monies held by Treasurer		£87.00
Outstanding Prize Money		£110.00

Payments Out		Payments In	
Type	Amount	Type	Amount
Community	820.00	Community	510.00
EA Affiliation	342.00	Stripe (membership)	1,420.66
Race Entry	264.00	Xmas Party Tickets	640.00
Room Hire (AGM)	50.00	Race Entry	641.20
Refund (overpayment)	30.00	Cash Payments - other	390.33
Website related	108.00	Overpayment	30.00
Xmas Party	1,200.00		
Prize Money	105.00		
Expenses	580.82		
Grand Total	<u>£3,499.82</u>	Grand Total	<u>£3,632.19</u>

<u>Heritage Account</u>	2021-22 Balance £4,954.94	2022-23 Balance £6,042.39
Balance with interest (22/12/22)	4,957.39	
Race Entries - SIENTRIES LTD	1,080.00	
Interest (22/12/22 to date)	5.01	
Grand Total	<u>£6,042.39</u>	

### Secretary's report – Beccy Jepson (apologies sent)

A slide deck had been prepared but unfortunately the TV had been removed from the room.

Some key points:

Membership – April 2022 to March 2023

- 97 total members
- 78 Full members
- 17 Family members
- 2 Second claim members
- Various enquiries recently, however I have encouraged to wait for new membership year

Beccy Jepson is stepping down from her role as Secretary due to increased work commitments. The committee thanked Beccy for all her hard work over the last few years that she has been the secretary.

### Chairman's report - Chris Cash

Chris talked about offering consistency and communication. On club nights, he has returned to making the announcements, congratulations and notifications of forthcoming races. Chris also post photos of club runs etc. on Darwen Noticeboard to keep the profile of the club current.

Aggies Staircase Fell race took place in 2022 with all entries online which was very efficient and as there are now no banks at all in Darwen the money was paid straight into the Dashers account. A Presentation took place in the Millstone Pub which seemed to work well.

Chris finished by thanking Iain Thomson for the Parkrun reporting, Ali, Jim & Rick for the beginners group, Brian for his hill reps, Kerry for updating Instagram, and Iain Asher for the website.

### **President's Report – Alison Abbott**

Alison explained that the club standards have needed a lot of working through and thanked Don Clarkson for unpicking the terminology, and all members of the committee for their support.

Simon Smith was thanked for his 15 questions about a Dasher which has been very well received by many.

England Athletics have had a big push for clubs to conform to the Club Standards and the policy & procedures give a good framework to work towards – we've worked on a new Club Constitution and Role Profiles for Club Officers (Committee Members), which have been shared with members before this AGM for consideration.

Below are some key areas that we will be focussing on next:

- Grievance & Disciplinary Policy
- GDPR Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health & Safety Policy)

Alison also shared the results of a recent members survey – 42 responses – some key comments told us that the ethos of our Club is: welcoming, friendly, encouraging and sociable.

Chris Cash proposed that the constitution is agreed and Alison Abbott seconded that and the vote was unanimous.

### **Membership fees/Types**

England Athletics costs are increasing from £16 to £17 stripe fee is 20p per transaction.

It was proposed to increase:

- Full Membership to £31
- Family Membership £26
- Beginners Membership £26
- 2<sup>nd</sup> claim member is £14

Proposed by Chris Cash and seconded by Gareth Davies

Jim Taylor raised a point regarding a member who wishes to be a "Social Member"

Rebecca Simms raised the point that if the club allowed social membership for those who do not run races, the club would possibly diminish and we would lose any London Marathon places as the number of members would fall below the threshold.

A discussion arose and then Jim Taylor proposed:-

- An Over 65 membership (non EA) £14 (non-competitive and therefore not eligible for inclusion in the Club Championships (apart from the parkrun Championship)) this was seconded by Mark Taylor and carried.

### **Election of committee members**

- Secretary – Beccy Jepson standing down. Don Clarkson expressed by email his intention to stand - Alison Abbott proposed, Allan Harle seconded.
- Treasurer: Allan Harle to re-stand – Alison Abbott proposed, Iain Asher seconded
- Chairman: Chris Cash - to re-stand for another 12 months, Gareth Taylor proposed, Gareth Davies seconded
- Fell Captain, - Gareth Davies to re-stand - Alison Abbott proposed, Rick Marsden seconded.
- Road Captain - Andrea Hopwood expressed her intention to stand for the role and Gareth Taylor was prepared to stand again for another year. Chris Cash proposed that Gareth Taylor stay as Road Captain and Andrea Hopwood shadowed him for 12 months with a view to taking over the role. Mark Taylor seconded.
- Beginners' Captain: Rick Marsden to re-stand. Alison Abbott proposed Jim Taylor seconded
- President: Alison Abbott proposed by Chris Cash, seconded by Rebecca Simms.

As part of the Club Standards, it was raised that we would need a Welfare Officer and Mark Taylor expressed his interest in this role.

### **AOB/Questions Arising**

Christmas Do – It was discussed that the current format of the Christmas do needs to be looked and perhaps do something different.

Maybe a quiz night, maybe have it in Jan but needs to be more informal to include the presentation  
Members will be asked to vote on the choices.

Mark Taylor suggested raising the profiles of the club by promoting men's mental health; something that has supported through races that he has done.

Jim Taylor has received an email regarding the adoptive grave and he is happy to carry on maintaining it.

Chris Cash thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 10.00pm

**Debbie Cash 24/3/23**