

Grantham Running Club

2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Friday 18th October 7.30pm

Apologies

Paul Jepson and Richard Payne.

1. Welcome & Opening of the AGM

Andrew Pask opened the AGM.

2. Minutes from the previous AGM

There were no comments or objections with regards to the recorded minutes of the 2023 AGM. These were therefore accepted as being a true reflection of the 2023 AGM and were 'signed off' accordingly.

3. Business arising from the previous minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

4. Annual Reports of the Club

Chairpersons Report

The Chair spoke largely without script during his report, but this is a summary of things that were discussed.

"We have lots to cover tonight, so I'll use my Chairs Report to just run through some events that have taken place over the past 12 months. I'm not singling out any individual achievements here, just things that have happened as a club over the past 12 months. All this happened because someone made it happen. Without people getting involved this club would be nothing!

Club Training

We have 7 coaches and 18 run leaders that co-ordinate club training, often to the detriment of their own individual training. Our club offers multiple training sessions from Monday-Thursday, more than any club in the area.

Cross Country

The club enter teams in the Lincolnshire Cross-Country league and the North Midlands Cross-Country league. We also entered a record number of teams in the National Cross-Country Relays. Who could forget that memorable day in Mansfield? These were all offered free of charge, and credit went to Sarah High for all her hard work in organising Cross-Country for the club, with support from Sam Jepson.

Christmas Party

Sylv Hull and Kate Marshall sorted a brilliant evening at the Masonic Hall. The room was full, and everyone had a great evening. We're all set to go again this year.

Christmas Lights

Insane turnout this year with over 70 of us trawling through the town centre dressed like idiots.

Christmas Eve

Breakfast run from the Tollie and the usual 10mi cross country run was mentioned.

Christmas Jumpers

The event at the Royal Queen was acknowledged.

Awards Night

This was a huge team event, which most of the committee contributed in some way. We started something in 2023 which is going to be a challenge to live up to with the VIP guest speaker but somehow, we stumbled across a formula that worked really well for 2024. I'd say in 2024 we proved we could put on a brilliant celebration without relying on a VIP! The Chair was open to receive feedback on this during AOB.

Beginners Class

Penny Hodges led the beginners course this year which involves co-ordinating run leaders and support for around 60 beginners, most of which have gone on to join the club. This contribution can't be understated. This culminated in the beginner's graduation which was also led by Penny, but with help from many other club members.

Beer 'n' Bling

This was acknowledged as popular as ever!

Club overseas trip

Plans are afoot for this year's Benidorm Half Marathon and 10k. Around 40 members are set to go.

Club 5K

The club 5K went all proper this year. We met the requirements to gain a UKA Licence, so this was a free race for all of our members.

Lenton/Welby predictor

Led by Paul Jepson at Lenton and then the Whitakers took the idea to Kelby. Snacks were provided and it was generally a well-attended social.

Chip run/Summer Pub runs

Sam Dodwell, Kate Marshall and Sylv have been arranging these through the summer to get us all together out of town.

Summers Solstice 10K

Huge club effort that involved over 50 of us volunteering. Sam Jepson took on the bulk of the stress as Race Director, but he had a proactive team to support him, and he even managed to mentor the next RD! He even had capacity to mentor the next Solstice RD who will be Nicci Whittaker. Nicci will now form a brand-new organising committee so the Solstice can evolve fully under her direction. This event really sells our club in the best possible light and is our way of giving something back to the running community. Andrew Pask thanked Sam Jepson for his years as the Solstice RD.

Handicap Race

Sam Dodwell put all this together at Ropsley with support from the club.

Equinox

A record year for GRC Equinox entries-3 teams of 8 and an unofficial GRC team of 5 (CJ and Ady's team). With the demise of TR24, I can see club involvement of this growing in future!

Crazy Golf

Around 15 of us are taking part in this madness in Peterborough.

Club GP Series

Sam Jepson is the man who leads this with the help of Vicki Ball and a few other advisors. Huge task that contributes directly to our awards night in February.

Comms changes

We've started the WhatsApp community in attempt to improve comms and allow us to move away from the dated Facebook platform. Andrew was happy to talk about this in AOB.

Charity selection

We've selected the Bhive community centre as our chosen charity to support in future events. We've already donated £70 from the Solstice cake sale and what this relationship looks like in the future will be down to the incoming committee.

Big Yellow Clock

We bought a £1,500 race clock for £500. Some might argue it's still a little unnecessary, but it looks really nice, and we could afford it.

Then Andrew went on to reflect on his 4 years as Chair. He explained how it's been an honour and a privilege to lead this club. He went on to thank the committee and offer continued support in the background.

Treasurers Report

Andrew gave thanks to Julia for all her hard work in being Treasurer for the past year.

Julia then provided the Treasurer Report.

Club bank balance figures as of 18th October 2024:

Bank Balance - **£3,561.75**

Reserve Account (instant access) - **£1,015.05**

Liquidity Account (35 days' notice) - **£4,906.91**

Summer Solstice profit moved into the Liquidity Account - **£2,838.97**

Cake Donations, donated to Bhive Community - **£70.12**

Findings from this year's accounts

Summer Solstice profit increased by £1,400 to £2,800 compared to prior year. This year's profit moved to savings.

Kit loss of £500.00. This was a timing issue, as purchased £600 worth of kit in September.

Beginners made a profit £368 due to unexpected savings in t-shirt expenses compared to prior year.

Purchased race clock which we use for Summer Solstice and GRC 5K race, therefore we no longer have to pay to hire this.

Club 5K course route measured which lasts 10 years.

Membership Secretary Report

Andrew gave thanks to Kate for all her hard work in being Membership Secretary for the past year.

Kate provided a membership report to those present.

There were now 274 members, an increase from 253 in 2023.

We have 10 nationalities represented amongst our membership.

Membership type	Number of members
1st Claim	263
2nd Claim	6
Life	3
Foreign Athletes	2

Sex	% membership
Male	50.4
Female	49.6

Age	Number of members
60+	33
U60	81
U50	119
U35	38
U23	1
U20	2

Membership for 2025

It is noted that the England Athletics registration fee for athletes will increase to £20 for the April 2025 renewal.

Our Membership fee is currently £28, of which £19 goes to the EA, with the remaining £9 supported the operation of the club.

The AGM is asked to consider the level of membership fee for 2025. It is recommended at a minimum fee of £29 is agreed to maintain the status quo.

5. Committee of Management elections

There was a vote for the positions of Chair and Men's Vice Captain, due to there being 2 nominated candidates for these positions.

As a result of the votes, the following Committee positions were announced. There were no objections to those elected.

Position	Nomination	Nominee	Second
Chair	Sylv Hull	Andrew Pask	Kate Marshall
Vice Chair	Kate Marshall	Julia Hallam	Fraser Marshall
Secretary	Darren Harley	Julia Hallam	Mathew Atter
Treasurer	Julia Hallam	Darren Harley	Matthew Atter
Committee Members			
Membership Secretary	Kate Marshall	Julia Hallam	Fraser Marshall
Men's Captain	Sam Jepson	Matthew Atter	Andrew Pask
Women's Captain	Sarah High	Kate Marshall	Fraser Marshall
Men's Vice Captain	Russel Whittaker	Sam Jepson	Sarah High
Women's Vice Captain	Zoë Wragg	Sylv Hull	Richard Payne
Kit Officer	Sam Dodwell	Sylv Hull	Kate Marshall
Social Officer	Sylv Hull	Belinda Baker	Matthew Atter
Social Officer	Sam Dodwell	Sylv Hull	Matthew Atter
Website Officer	Sylv Hull	Kate Marshall	Darren Harley
Website Officer	Fraser Marshall	Belinda Baker	Kate Marshall
Beginners Officer	Russell Maksymiw	Belinda Baker	Sylv Hull
Committee Member	Matthew Atter	Darren Harley	Julia Hallam
Committee Member	Nicci Whittaker	Zoë Wragg	Fraser Marshall
Committee Member	Richard Payne	Zoë Wragg	Sylv Hull
Committee Member	Paul Jepson	Darren Harley	Kate Marshall
Committee Member	Richard Litchfield	Nicola-Ruston-Litchfield	Sarah High

6. Appointment of the Club Auditor

Ben Mason kindly agreed to be the Club Auditor, and as such was appointed as the Club Auditor.

7. Any Other Business – Open Forum

London Marathon Club Draw

The draw for the 2 club places for the 2025 TCS London Marathon was made. The successful recipients were Kate Marshall and Cameron Hoggan. The 2 reserves were also drawn. The 1st reserve is Jo Grace, and the 2nd reserve is Wayne Baxter.

Club Welfare

Rob McArdle commented that the club website did not currently have a club welfare page, as this was blank. There needed to be content on the page, especially the contacts of the club welfare officers. It also needs making clear that Kate Marshall is the lead welfare officer. Rob also suggested that the club should contact all members to let them know who to contact with any issues, and the reporting process.

Coaching Co-ordinator

The position of a coaching co-ordinator was raised. It was agreed that it was up to the Committee and the club to support the Run Leaders, and to update them on any rule changes, etc. It was agreed that the Committee would liaise with UK Athletics (UKA) for any relevant courses, highlighting the possible pathway for run leaders and coaches. The new rules for off-road training must be relayed, and 1st aid courses must also be kept up to date. If there are no run leaders, then there will be no insurance and no runs through the club. It was agreed by all parties that it is important that the club supports the run leaders.

ARC Membership

It was agreed by those present that the ARC membership is something worth renewing. There is now a demand for faster social and training runs, and ARC membership would certainly help with this. Matthew Kingston-Lee has offered to help with faster-paced training runs, but the club would need to rejoin ARC to facilitate this. Sarah High commented that the run leaders put in a lot of time and effort into providing the current training runs on offer, so the faster runners should also show this commitment if the club is to be able to offer faster training runs. Nicci Whittaker said that it's not that clear how a members can become a run leader, and the run leader courses should be advertised to all members of the club.

Training

Stephan Fahy asked those present if training could return to the pre-Covid format of each training group running the same, from the same start point, but at different start times. This would mean all those taking part in the runs would finish at the same point at similar times. This would mean members could have a chat, etc after the run.

Lincs Cross Country League

Sam Jepson raised the issue of some of the logistics involved in the Lincolnshire Cross Country league. This includes 140-mile round trips for a 5.4K (men) race. It was suggested that the league should consider consulting the race calendar in more detail, offer races closer in location and offer different race distances. Otherwise, there could be a genuine danger that no runners will run the league.

Committee Meetings

A member present asked how the process of the Committee Meetings worked, and whether any member could attend these (online) meetings.

Andrew agreed there was no reason why members could not 'listen in' to any of the online Committee Meetings, and this would be investigated.

Club Constitution

There were a number of issues raised with regards to the subject of the revised Club Constitution. It was agreed that there would be a separate EGM arranged to discuss the matter of the revised Club Constitution. This would be scheduled at an appropriate time in the New Year.

Member involvement

A member raised concerns that there was too much club work being done by the members of the Committee, and the Committee should encourage more club members to help out. It was agreed that the Committee would endeavour to reach out more to the wider club community, in order to help 'muck in'.

8. AGM Closure

Thank you to all that have attended – meeting closed.