

Grantham Running Club

2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Friday 24th October 7.30pm

Apologies

Paul Jepson and Andrew Pask.

1. Welcome & Opening of the AGM

Sylv Hull opened the AGM.

2. Minutes from the previous AGM

There were no comments or objections with regards to the recorded minutes of the 2024 AGM. These were therefore accepted as being a true reflection of the 2024 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

This is a summary of the things that were discussed by the Chair, in her prepared speech.

Benidorm/Foreign Trips

So soon after last year's AGM, the new tradition of away trips continued with a big contingent going to Benidorm which was so much fun that another big group is going again this November. We've also got the Malta trip next March and I'm sure that promises to be another fantastic trip judging by the numbers of people booked on the chat group.

Halloween/Christmas Runs

The winter months saw us running our usual Christmas lights and Christmas Eve runs last year which attracted a massive turnout. We also added the fancy dress Halloween run which was really popular so that is happening again this year, and it just shows our members

love a get together and dressing up like idiots. The Christmas jumper do was a roaring success, and is on again this year at the Royal Queen.

Christmas Party

The Christmas party was another fun night at the Masonic and we're all set to go again, at the Angel and Royal this year (so don't forget to sign up).

Awards Night

The awards night in February was a sell out and a fantastic evening. People seemed to enjoy the format, and the raffle raised an incredible amount for the BHive charity. We've got some plans afoot to make it even better and keep it interesting for members.

Pub/Social Runs

Sam Dodwell has kept us entertained with social runs which have taken to us new areas and pubs. These are always popular and are a great way for members who don't necessarily run in the same pace groups to get together. We've also done social activities like go-karting that don't involve running at all (but do include drinking).

Beginners

In the spring, we ran our Begin to Run scheme and Russ did a sterling job taking over this, along with Dale, and the other volunteers who gave up their time to help the newcomers. He then took on organising the graduation do which was fab and we have had a brilliant number of new sign-ups so he must have done a grand job selling running and the club.

Club 5K

Following the beginners graduating was the GRC 5K, run by Pasky and an army of volunteers. This had an absolutely stonking turnout, including the Beginners for whom it was their very first race experience.

Solstice

The Summer Solstice was an absolute roaring success, but I will leave that to Nicci/Zoe to report on that as they should get their own moment in the spotlight.

Handicap and Lenton Predictor

The Handicap and Lenton Predictor, run by Sam Dodwell and Paul Jepson added some variety to the racing calendar with runs designed to mix it up a bit and level the playing field. These were followed by the pub and cakes, obviously.

Equinox

In the autumn we went back to Belvoir Castle to Equinox and took up about an acre of the camp field with the GRC settlement. Once again, we had an amazing turnout and the atmosphere in the camp was fantastic with everyone pulling together. Everyone noticed us (for better or worse) and the effort that went into the fancy dress on the beer mile was supreme. The added bonus were places on the podium for the 10K and team event and hopefully we can keep on dominating what is a fantastic and important event for the club.

GP

The GP has been running all year with huge amounts of statistical work from Sam Jepson going on and much discussion in the background. We've still got 4 events left on the calendar and plenty of jokers left to be played so everything could change in the rankings, and the results will be announced at the awards night. The GP is all about age grades so it's potentially wide open so everyone can get involved.

Cross Country

Sarah does a fantastic job marshalling our cross-country runners representing the club at the various fixtures around the counties. We have a big contingent going to the National Relays at Berry Hill on the 1st which should be pure comedy. We just pray conditions are favourable.

Overarching Themes

So overall, as well as the individual events and activities that go on, there is also the everyday stuff that happens week in, week out. Rick very kindly did some research into what other clubs offer, and it turns out our training offering is actually pretty awesome with more sessions (and variety) per week than other clubs (at a bargain price).

This doesn't happen without our run leaders who give up their time to come and lead as well as take on additional training so I would just like to thank them, they're at the heart of the club. We've gained new run leaders on the roster and renewed our ARC membership so run leaders have more support as club run numbers increase.

Something I've also noticed over the year is how willing people are to volunteer to help with events, we are never short of people coming forward which shows how enthusiastic our members are. Our membership continues to grow with new people finding us and joining the fun, but I will let Kate give you the proper figures.

Going Forward

There are always things we want to improve, and we do listen to feedback. You tend to find chatting to members on club runs is often the best way to learn about people's likes and dislikes.

We always need new run leaders to come on board, especially for the faster paced groups. We have irons in the fire with this but if anyone would like to step up, we would love you forever.

We're conscious of making sure our communication is across the board so nobody misses anything or gets left out and we would like to make better use of the website which is a fantastic resource. We also want to better communicate what the club offers in terms of training sessions and coaching to members as it sometimes gets forgotten.

Awards night is something that is evolving and we are bringing new ideas in to recognise a wider range of achievements and improve the relevance to members.

There is a slight cabinet reshuffle, and I think we're in for another good year.

Basically, our manifesto is maintaining our reputation as a super social, inclusive and fun club that also smashes it with the running. This brings me to the Committee.

None of what we have achieved would be possible without the people who step up and volunteer to make the club work. This committee has been positive, motivated and cohesive and they just want to make things better. They all do their respective jobs within the group but also contribute and drive what happens in the club overall, not only giving up their evenings for meetings but engaging in all the discussions in between, it never ends. They are awesome. Obviously, this takes up a lot of time and brain space, whether it be thinking about the GP at 3am or pondering on the accounts in the shower.

So, I would like to finish by saying a massive thank you to the Committee and especially thank the members who are bowing out this year.

Richard Ruston-Litchfield and Paul Jepson, thank you for your time and valuable input. Julia Hallam for doing such a great job sorting and looking after the club finances. Sam Jepson for his years of contributions. The list is huge, including wearing the captain's hat, running the Solstice so well, all his work on the GP, Member of the Month, presenting duties at awards night, services to moustaches and short shorts and generally being a major cog in the GRC wheel. Thank you.

Treasurers Report

Sylv 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 24th October 2025:

Bank Balance - **£6,237.42**

Reserve Account (instant access) - **£1,027.41**

Liquidity Account (35 days' notice) - **£5,038.42**

Events

Equinox: Loss increased to £60.08 due to purchase of camping equipment and petrol for the van.

Christmas Bash: Accounts include receipts & payments for Dec24 and Dec25 Christmas Party. Dec24 Party loss -£19.75; Dec25 Party current loss -£55.15. Total loss -£74.90 in this year's accounts.

Kit: £329.90 loss for the year. Timing issue as £636.00 worth of kit purchased 22/09/2025.

Summer Solstice: Profit increased by £700 to £3,500 compared to prior year. (£2,800.00 2024).

Beginners: £115.30 spend for the year.

Affiliation: ARC double payment in this year's accounts due to not renewing the membership straight away.

Membership Secretary Report

Sylv 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 264 members.

Membership type	Number of members
1st Claim	257
2nd Claim	3
Life	4
Foreign Athletes	0

5. Committee of Management elections

The committee positions were announced, with no other candidates presented. There were no objections to those elected.

Position	Nomination	Nominee	Seconder
Chair	Sylv Hull	Nicci Whittaker	Kate Marshall
Vice Chair	Kate Marshall	Fraser Marshall	Matthew Atter
Secretary	Darren Harley	Julia Hallam	Sam Jepson
Treasurer	Cameron Hoggan	Julia Hallam	Zoë Wragg
Committee Members			
Membership Secretary	Kate Marshall	Fraser Marshall	Matthew Atter
Men's Captain	Russel Whittaker	Sam Jepson	Richard Litchfield
Women's Captain	Sarah High	Kate Marshall	Fraser Marshall
Men's Vice Captain	Matthew Atter	Sam Dodwell	Russel Whittaker
Women's Vice Captain	Zoë Wragg	Fraser Marshall	Sylv Hull
Kit Officer	Sam Dodwell	Kate Marshall	Sylv Hull
Social Officer	Sam Dodwell	Sylv Hull	Fraser Marshall
Social Officer	Sylv Hull	Sam Dodwell	Darren Harley
Website Officer	Fraser Marshall	Kate Marshall	Darren Harley
Press/Website Officer	Sylv Hull	Darren Harley	Sam Dodwell
Committee Member (Beginners)	Russell Maksymiw	Sylv Hull	Fraser Marshall
Committee Member (Coaching Co-ordinator)	Rick Dobbs	Sylv Hull	Fraser Marshall
Committee Member	Nicci Whittaker	Kate Marshall	Fraser Marshall
Committee Member	Rosalind Sadler	Sylv Hull	Nicci Whittaker
Committee Member	Julie Gilbert	Sylv Hull	Nicci Whittaker

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 2026 TCS London Marathon was made. The successful recipients were James McMullen and Holly Wragg. The 2 reserves were also drawn. The 1st reserve is Penny Hodges, and the 2nd reserve is Simon Allsopp.

First Aid Training

Robert McArdle queried whether all club run leaders and coaches have appropriate first aid training and qualifications. Discussion followed regarding the level of training required for club runs, as there was uncertainty over the interpretation of England Athletics guidance. It was agreed that the matter would be reviewed by the new Club Committee.

8. AGM Closure

Thank you to all that have attended – meeting closed.