# Grantham Running Club

## 2026 Annual General Meeting Minutes

### Friday 23rd October 7.30pm

## 1. Welcome & Opening of the AGM

Sylv Hull opened the AGM.

## 2. Apologies

Andrew Pask, Sarah High and Susan Copping.

## 3. Minutes from the previous AGM

There were no comments or objections with regards to the recorded minutes of the 2025 AGM. These were therefore accepted as being a true reflection of the 2025 AGM and were 'signed off' accordingly.

## 4. Business arising from the previous minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

## 5. Annual Reports of the Club

### Chairpersons Report

"Thank you all for coming tonight. I'd like to look back on the year since our last AGM - and what another great year it's been.

I'll start with the social side - something GRC has always done well. We've had trips to Benidorm and Malta, with a huge turnout for Malta, where Jake brought home a 10K win for the club. Next year's trip to Palma promises to be another success.

Closer to home, last year's Christmas lights and Christmas Eve runs drew a massive turnout. Our new fancy-dress Halloween run was popular too, so it's back again this year. The Christmas jumper do was a roaring success, and I'm sure we'll announce this year's date soon. We've also got a social day out planned for November.

And the Christmas party is returning to the Angel and Royal - so don't forget to sign up!

February's awards night was a sell-out and a fantastic evening. The format seemed to go down well - as did a lot of cheese! The raffle also raised an incredible amount for Grantham Poverty Concern. Planning for the next awards night will probably begin soon with our new committee.

Our charity work didn't stop there. The quiz raised £1,000 for Kesteven Rideability, and we held our first litter-pick run. That proved incredibly popular, so I'm sure it will return.

Beginners

In the spring, we ran our Begin to Run scheme and Russ did a sterling job running along with his band the other volunteers who gave up their time to help the newcomers.

He did a great job of organising the graduation do and we have had a brilliant number of new recruits as a result.

Club 5K

After the beginners' graduation came the GRC 5K, run by Pasky and an army of volunteers. The new location was a big success, and for many of our Begin to Run graduates, it was their first taste of racing.

Solstice

The Summer Solstice was another roaring success. I'll leave the report to Nicci and Zoe, though, so they can have their own moment in the spotlight.

Handicap and Lenton Predictor

The Handicap and Lenton Predictor, run by Sam Dodwell and Paul Jepson, brought some variety to the racing calendar. Both offered a chance to mix things up and level the playing field. And afterwards, of course, there were pub visits and cakes.

Equinox

In the autumn, we returned to Belvoir Castle for Equinox, where the GRC settlement once again occupied a sizeable corner of the camping field. We had another amazing turnout and a fantastic atmosphere in camp, with everyone pulling together. We certainly got noticed - for better or worse! The effort that went into the beer-mile fancy dress was something else. Belvoir Fever did us proud, taking third place in the team event. Hopefully, we can keep making our mark at what remains a fantastic and important event for the club.

GP

Meanwhile, the GP has been running throughout the year, with a huge amount of statistical work and plenty of discussion behind the scenes for the GP team. There are still four events on the calendar and plenty of jokers left to play, so the rankings could change considerably. We'll announce the results at awards night.

Cross Country

Sarah once again did an excellent job organising our cross-country runners, representing the club at the various fixtures around the counties. Looking ahead, we've got a big contingent heading to the National Relays at Berry Hill, which should be a great afternoon.

Club Runs

Of course, at the heart of everything are our club runs, happening week in, week out. Those runs wouldn't happen without our run leaders and coaches. They give up their time to lead runs and training sessions, as well as taking on additional training such as first aid. So, I'd like to say a massive thank you to them all. We've welcomed new run leaders and renewed our ARC membership, but we always need more people to come forward—especially as our numbers grow. If you'd like to qualify as a run leader, please get in touch.

Looking Ahead

There are always things we can improve, and we do listen to feedback. Often, a chat on a club run is the best way to find out what members enjoy and what they'd like to change. Sensible suggestions are always welcome. Suggestions for new club names are not!

The Committee

None of what we have achieved in the last year would be possible without the people who step up and volunteer to make the club work. 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. Some of the stuff the Committee must deal with isn't all that much fun (especially in recent weeks) and I want to thank you all for everything you do.

We have several committee members bowing out this year after making enormous contributions.

Sarah – thank you for all your hard work over many years as ladies captain, organising all the cross-country activities and being a committee stalwart.

Russ – thank you for all your work on Beginners, it's a big commitment and you have done a brilliant job and have earned a rest!

Kate – thank you for wearing so many hats, being Vice Chair, Welfare and Membership as well as the glamourous assistant at Awards night.

Fraser – thank you for all your varied contributions including saving the club on the GDPR breach, being instrumental in our lovely new website and being a voice of reason in the committee.

Thank you."

# Treasurers Report

Cameron provided the Treasurer Report.

Bank balances:

Main current: £3,439.39
Reserve account (instant access): £5,140.77
Liquidity account (35 days' notice): £1,036.70

**Yearly summary:**

Cameron stated that the yearly financial results were documented and presented on the table setup. While the bottom line showed a deficit of £1,719, this is not a true reflection of the club's activities over the last 12 months. The club has used its accumulated funds to invest, and in doing so, has given back to members and the wider community.

Notably, the club paid for some members to complete first aid courses which are a cornerstone to the regular club events that we can all enjoy.

Just over £3k was spent on technical kit (much of which is still held in stock, so the income on this is not yet realised).

The club continues to subsidise cross country events (which is a rising cost) for all members that compete, and a portion of the awards night to celebrate members' achievements.

Finally, the club has also invested in updating aging equipment that is used for the Summer Solstice. These are costs that will benefit the club for years to come. It could be seen that on the face of the profit and loss account that about £1.9k has been spent in one-off costs this year, which include new signage, pacer flags, club banners, and a course measure for the new Ropsley circuit.

The Summer Solstice, despite the exceptional expenses, remained profitable, earning the club £1,265 in 2026.

So, while the bottom line shows a loss, this is not due to poor performance, but rather the club taking opportunities to improve and give back. The Committee feel this is a better use of club funds, as opposed to accumulating cash forever.

# Membership Secretary Report

Kate provided the membership report to the Committee, and in her absence Sylv presented these figures to those present.

There were now 260 members.

Life Members – 4
First Claim Members – 252
Second Claim Members – 4

Most frequent age group of members is U50 (36.2%), followed by U60 (34.2%) and then over 60 (15.4%)

Membership is 50/50 split by sex.

# Summer Solstice Report

Nicci provided the Summer Solstice Report.

Last year, we said that the Summer Solstice 2026 would look very different – and it certainly did! We made the significant decision to move the event from Long Bennington to Ropsley, prioritising the safety of our runners and marshals in response to increasing traffic concerns.

I hope those who attended, whether as a volunteer or a runner, agree that Ropsley proved everything we hoped for: a quiet village with very little traffic, creating a much safer environment for everyone involved.

Using Ropsley Village Hall as our race HQ worked extremely well, and we were delighted by the support we received from local businesses and the community, particularly The Green Man, Franco's Ices and the Village Hall Committee. Their support made a real difference to the event.

Moving the event was no mean feat. In many ways, it was like starting from scratch with an entirely new race. Preparing new risk assessments, an event management plan and a traffic management plan took a considerable amount of time and effort.
We also had the course officially measured and the necessary licence approved before we could finally open entries in late January.

Moving from Long Bennington to Ropsley was a risk and, at times, brought its fair share of challenges, anxiety and stress. However, I genuinely believe we have safeguarded the future of the Summer Solstice in its new location for years to come.
The support we received from the local community was exceptional and, in many ways, greater than we have experienced before.

We also made several improvements to support runners on the night. We increased the number of pacers available, strengthened our tail-running team and had more marshals positioned around the course. These additional measures helped us provide greater support, encouragement and reassurance to runners throughout the event.

The 2026 event was a sell-out! Although we experienced a higher-than-expected number of drop-outs on the night, largely due to the heat, the feedback we received from both first-time Solstice runners and those who have supported the event for many years was extremely positive.

Some of our more experienced runners suggested giving the event two to three years to establish itself at Ropsley. As runners become more familiar with the course, they anticipate that times will improve and the event will attract even more participants.

Of course, while the event was a success, there are still lessons to learn and improvements to make. One key area for 2027 is the finish-line arrangement, which needs further planning to better accommodate spectators and improve the flow of runners returning to the Village Hall to collect their medals and finish-line rewards.

The increasing hot conditions of the event and this year also highlighted the importance of keeping runners hydrated. For 2027, we need to consider introducing a second water station on the course to provide additional support.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have such a fantastic Solstice team working alongside me. This wonderful group of volunteers has, somewhat foolishly, agreed to do it all again in 2027! Planning is already underway, and we're looking forward to building on the success of this year's event.

As always, the Summer Solstice relies heavily on the support of our club members, and we simply could not run it without you. One of our priorities for 2027 is to train a couple more club members as Road Traffic Operatives (RTOs). This involves a one-day online course, which the Solstice will fund. If you are interested in taking part, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the course or the role itself, please speak to Peter Jennings.

We will continue to ask club members not to enter the Summer Solstice themselves, unless they have joined the club within the previous 12 months (June 2026–June 2027). Instead, we ask that members get behind the event by volunteering and supporting the runners. More information about volunteering opportunities will be shared early next year.

In the meantime, save the date for the next Summer Solstice: Friday 18th June 2027!

My final thanks must go to my amazing Solstice team: Zoe Wragg, Holly Wragg, Matt Atter, Sylv Hull, Peter Jennings, Julie Gilbert and Russel Whittaker.

Thank you for your time, commitment, patience and support throughout what has been a challenging but incredibly rewarding year. Moving the event to a new location was a huge undertaking, and it couldn't have been done without you.

Here's to building on the success of 2026 and making the Summer Solstice 2027 even better!

# 6. Committee of Management elections

The Committee positions were announced, and there were no objections to those elected.

| **Position** | **Nomination** |
|---|---|
| Chair | Sylv Hull |
| Vice Chair | Nicci Whittaker |
| Secretary | Darren Harley |
| Treasurer | Cameron Hoggan |
| **Committee Members** | |
| Membership Secretary | Holly Wragg |
| Men's Captain | Russel Whittaker |
| Women's Captain | Zoë Wragg |
| Men's Vice Captain | Matthew Atter |
| Women's Vice Captain | Susan Copping |
| Kit Officer | Sam Dodwell |
| Social Officer | Julie Gilbert |
| Social Officer | Ros Sadler |
| Website Officer | Sylv Hull |
| Website Officer | Sam Dodwell |
| Press Officer | Sylv Hull |
| Committee Member (Coaching Co-ordinator) | Rick Dobbs |
| Committee Member | Kathleen Gray |
| Committee Member | Nick Thorpe |
| Committee Member | Sam Jepson |
| Committee Member | Jaimie Lord |

## 7. Appointment of the Club Auditor

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

## 8. Any Other Business – Open Forum

Received Members Questions

There were no questions received from members.

London Marathon Club Draw

The draw for the club places for the 2027 TCS London Marathon was made. The successful recipients for the Saturday race were Andrew Goddard and Richard Payne. The reserve for the Saturday race was Sam Jepson. The successful recipients for the Sunday race were Mark Angeloni and Holly Durham. The reserve for the Sunday race was Russell Maksymiw.

## 9. AGM Closure

Thank you to all that have attended – meeting closed.