

Minutes Of Committee Meeting 23rd April 2025

Present: Eileen Wood (EW), Iain Jordan (IJ), Graeme Gatherer (GrGa), Gail Greenwood (GaGr), Bruce Gibb (BG) Nancy Davidson (ND), Donna Wilson (DW), Aimee Stark (AS) Lindsay McMahon (LM)

Apologies: Jim Hunter (JH),

Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome by GaGr to St Marks and introduces Lindsay McMahon from Scottish Athletics. BG shares apologies.

GaGr set the agenda for the meeting and spoke through concerns on lack of meetings, AGM and overall communication. BG highlighted why the Nov AGM date didn't happen. The club is now two and half years past its last AGM but agreement from the committee that it was no one persons fault and that it needed addressed to move on.

Group discussed options on how best to work within the club constitution and get back into cycle. ND explained why the AGM has always been September – clubs first ever committee meeting was in an October so the AGM came in period shortly before the annualisation.

LMc recommended holding Asap to avoid summer holidays and competition season. And then set another for September, as per constitution, to propose general club business such as memberships, fees.

Structure of the AGM meeting was discussed. LM asked if there was time to get all points in place. BG suggested this shouldn't be an issue as it was in place for the November date.

Committee agreed on a date of 21st May 7pm venue tbc, to be held as a rearrangement of Nov and one to be organised in Sept, to get it back in line with the cycle of constitution and general club business, and committee positions. BG referenced the previous athlete idea from EW that we should have 2 athlete committee members 1 track and 1 field, which we will look to fill at the AGM.

Finance Update:

DW gave a brief finance update with track fees from PKC still not billed. Group discussed how these are best shared for AGM. Membership fees and track fees were discussed and suggestion was to leave all as is, and review for September AGM.

Meetings:

Meeting structure. When do we have them? BG recommended more than 1 per quarter. Discussion on frequency was had but no firm agreement was made. AS, ND, and DW spoke through previous meeting cycle, school and committee holidays. Next meeting date was set for 4 week post AGM (18th or 25th of June).

GaGr asked should coaches be attending committee meetings. LMc suggested no, that coaches should have a rep and feed through them and points to raise. Either 6 or 7pm rep.

Reps will be asked to update before meetings, as per previous meeting.

GrGa asked if a constitution had a tenure and could Scottish Athletics review the constitution. LM happy to look at. And gave some advice on how to shape the committee roles and constitution.

Club Championships:

GrGa discussed his involvement and how he felt the event went. He voiced concerned about lack of involvement from some within the club and could've been better if everyone was involved. All committee members responded with their thoughts and feelings of what happened on the nights. There was some group discussion on how this could have been handled better.

IJ shared his thoughts as the athletes rep and his overall sadness that the event was being overshadowed by the ongoing frustration amongst the committee.

Group then moved to discuss how the 2025 championships should look and from the learnings of 2024 a date was set for Saturday 13th September (subject to booking)

LM spoke on wider points about how the club shapes its vision for the future, how to create this and share it. How do we gather member views? How do we get them to support the actions created?

Communication:

GaGr asked How do we share more? Coaches whatsapp group is there but not used to its maximum and there was a suggestion of a Coaches meeting? How to bring 6pm & 7 groups together? There was discussion from the committee coaches around what had happened over the summer between the groups.

Agreement from all that all communication to be sent positively.

BG highlighted there was an action from the last meeting for a coaches meeting to sort handover, that hasn't happen. EW raised that the numbers going up to each group aren't balanced and some groups already have excessive number in coach to athlete ratio.

LMc offers that integrating by moving the athletes up and back in a staggered phase. Eg week 1 move from 6pm to 7pm, then move back for a few weeks. Then move back up for a week. This allows the athlete to get used to the coach, the other athletes etc. Also suggested an exit contact for any leavers. Making contact with any runner who doesn't come back, to find out why, show the club wants the athlete to be here but to also support with where any transitions don't work. GaGr/GrGa agreed for 6pm visits over the summer

Coaching Numbers:

LM offered to support GaGr with documents to help draw out the structure to map how many athletes each coach has and this was followed by group discussion on how to grow more coaching helpers. The majority of the group were supportive of utilising where we can and trying to drive volunteers.

BG pointed out that this was an action from the last meeting and that his belief is that the focus should be on more parent coaches/helpers and to avoid utilising young athlete helpers. Action to discuss at first meeting after the AGM.

AOCB:

A competition whatsapp group has been set up to better communicate competitions to all. BCC on emails has not worked 100% so GaGr sought permission from parents to be added and is now using to comms out competitions.

GaGr running in the London Marathon at the weekend and total raised for the club was looking to be around £1500. Committee acknowledged this amazing result and BG to the group that we needed suggestions on how this should be spent. Action for coaches to think up a wish list of what the club needs.

LM talked through affiliations and documentation that is required and would provide guidance on what updates would be required to existing club documents.

BG highlighted that there were outstanding actions from last meeting. GaGr asked for everyone to revisit the minutes and look at actions and respond within 2 weeks.

Kinnoull Hill Race. Dave Knight standing down after this year. Committee to think through who and how the race can be run from next year and so it's not a 1 person job but a collective effort.