

Dark Peak Fell Runners 2023 Annual General Meeting

Location: Norfolk Arms

Time: 20.00

Meeting started: ~ 20.10

Minutes of Meetings

Apologies

Apologies were received from Andy Harmer and Alan Yates. It was noted that some club members had attended the pub but chosen not to join the AGM.

2022 Meeting Minutes

The 2022 minutes were prepared by Lewis Ashton and had been listed on the club website for some time. A request was made for any alterations or omissions with none received. James Lowe proposed to adopt the meeting minutes and Helen Elmore seconded this.

Chairman's report

Tim Tett provided a summary of recent events detailing changes in the club over time and the clubs ongoing success. Tim closed by referring to communication received from a number of historic members. Tim referenced the change in the way information was shared as the Club Newsletter had not run for a number of years. Tim proposed to implement a club yearbook where members could share details about trip reports and experiences. This was welcomed by the membership.

Tim expressed thanks to a number of historic committee members for the contribution to the club. Mementos were presented to Lewis Ashton and David Holmes with further thanks given to Rob Moore and John Dalton who were not at the meeting to accept their memento's.

Break in Meeting

A break was taken for food. This had been provided by the club.

Junior Report

Lewis Ashton provided a summary of the Junior Report. He noted the strong growth in junior membership, issues around attaining coaching qualifications and the objection to the proposed change in the role of the Young Person's Development Officer (which is further outlined below).

Treasurers Report

James Lowe provided a summary of the finance report provided by David Arundale. This report provided a summary for the 2022 year. This was noted in reference to the anomalies between the membership numbers noted in the Chairman's report.

Detail was provided of the increased expenditure made around club courses and kit and of the losses made in regards to the club dinner and hosting of the FRA dinner.

Lewis Ashton proposed to accept the report and Tom Saville Seconded this.

Appointment of Officers and Committee Members

- Chairman - Tim Tett – reelected – Lewis Ashton proposed this and James Lowe seconded.
- Treasurer - David Arundale - standing for re-election – Tom Westgate proposed this and Roy Small seconded.
- Secretary - James Lowe - standing for re-election – Matt Pickering proposed this and Calum Wadsworth seconded.
- Membership Secretary – no person put themselves forward to take on the position and the role will remain vacant.

Simon Rippon's proposal to adopt a new membership system to lighten the workload was discussed and agreed as a route forward. The committee took an action to follow up with prospective individuals

- Mens Captain - Tom Saville – remained in post
- Womens Captain - Lisa Watson - remained in post
- Junior Coordinator – Mark Whitworth stood for the role (and stood up) and was duly elected.
- Diversity - Jess Lishman – remained in post.
- Webmaster – Cynog Williams stood for the role and was duly elected.
- Welfare Office – Helen Elmore – remained in post.
- Calendar - Will Boothman - remained in post.
- Kit Officer - Richard Hakes - remained in post.

Training / Development Resolution – James Lowe proposed to rebrand the Youth Development role to cover both training and development. A discussion was held on this proposal. Lewis Ashton and others expressed concern about this combination of roles given an importance of Youth Development. Matt Pickering (stood up) and noted then when taking on the Youth Development role previously he has not understood some of the context discussed. A vote was taken and this confirmed that a new Training Officer role would be created.

- Training Officer – Matt Pickering stood for the role and was duly elected.
- Youth Development Officer – nobody stood for this role and it remained vacant.

Wednesday Night Coordinator Resolution – James Lowe described the increasing role related to this role and that it had absorbed roles traditionally undertaken by many different parties. He proposed that the role could be managed between the Calendar (for organisation of run locations), general membership (ensuring pre run announcements take place) and the Training Officer (dealing with queries from new members). It was proposed that this role be abolished and this was accepted by the committee.

It was agreed that any positions left vacant could be co-opted by the committee during the year.

Club Directors

Two Directors (David Holmes and Lewis Ashton) stood down from the role. David Holmes provided some context on the reasoning for the club becoming a limited company and the limited nature of the director role. Dom Watts and Will Boothman agreed to take on the role of directors alongside the existing incumbents (Tim Tett, Megan Wilson and Richard Hakes).

The Club President

This role has been taken on by Roger Baumeister since the death of long serving President Eric Mitchell. It was agreed the role should be rotated and the role was passed to Graham Berry, a long serving member of the club who had been a member since it's formation.

Race Organiser Reports

- Edale Skyline – James Lowe provided a brief summary.
- Burbage Skyline – Dom Watts provided a summary to the meeting of the intention for the race to be revived in 2024 on a new route to avoid the grazing cattle. Dom stated he intended to run the route as a club race over the summer to test the route.
- Longshaw Sheepdog Trials - James Lowe provided a brief summary.
- Club only races – Tom Westgate provided a summary of the Cakes of Bread and noted some confusion around the start times that led to some participants being out late. He noted he would change arrangements at future events and it was discussed that club race RO's should consider how to relay messaging to members regarding start times to that these are clear and that members should be encouraged to heed this guidance.

Upcoming Club Events

Some upcoming club events were noted:

- First Aid Course - 12th - 13th August – This was again be hosted by Ian Winterburn. Spaces were still available and an action was taken to readvertise these.
- Bamford Weekend - 18th - 20th August – James Lowe has agreed to more widely advertise this. David Hakes has again offered to organise a race on the Saturday morning.
- Club Dinner + Champs - 25th November – Matt Pickering agreed to be RO again. The dinner was proposed to be held at the Burton Street Foundation again. The meeting was canvased regarding the desire for entertainment, it was agreed this would be reviewed further with those intending to attend the dinner.

Membership Communication and Etiquette

James Lowe noted the clubs attempts to communicate more directly with members through the Dates for the Diary and general update sent earlier in the year. Clive Last queried why these communications were not made more regularly. It was noted that the size of the club membership made sending emails complex. Post Meeting Note – the regularity of communications will be reviewed following the completion of the new website to see if this can be made more regular.

Club Spending

James Lowe provided a summary of key items that had been funded in the past 12 months in response to the directive from members at the 2022 AGM.

Of note were proposals to modify the club hut. James Lowe provided a summary of this and the ongoing engagement with the Sportsman Pub and other stakeholders. A request was made that club members help support the proposed works. The AGM was asked to agree this route forward and this was passed.

Club Website

James Lowe provided a summary of the developments undertaken by John Dalton to modernise the club website. This was being developed in Wordpress which would provide the website with more resilience and less maintenance liability.

James thanked John for his extensive work.

Club Coaching

It was noted that Dave Taylor was no longer running the same regular sessions. A survey of club members had been taken and Matt Pickering intends to review this data and propose a route forward.

National Trust Restoration Area

James Lowe provided a summary of the request from the National Trust to avoid an area above the Packhorse Bridge that was being restored. This area was part of 2019 Relays Route. It was requested that those planning club races or runs avoid this area.

Lewis Ashton queried if the National Trust had contacted other organisations. James Lowe stated that this had not been discussed with the National Trust and was unknown.

OMM Support for Races

James Lowe provided a summary of the approach made by the OMM to support club races. This involved provision of a series of prize vouchers for the club to make use of as it saw fit. This could be as prizes for open or club only races. The OMM would require some recognition on the website and some pictures for use on social media in return.

The Club's committee had discussed these proposals and recommended declining it based on the discussion as previous AGM's position of commercial affiliation. James Lowe noted he was raising this at this meeting due to the high levels of change in the membership. Tom Westgate provided a summary of the issues relating to this that were considered during his time as Club Chairman. A vote was taken to maintain the clubs position on commercial affiliation. This position to not affiliate with commercial organisations was maintained.

Visit to the Peak District by an American High School Alumni Group

Tom Saville provided a summary of his interaction with an American High School Alumni group who intended to visit the UK. The group are planning to run at Grindleford Fell Race, attend a club run and socialise with the club. Tom encourage members to get involved and make the runners feel welcome.

Clarion Ramblers Handbooks

Tim Tett provided a summary of the work undertaken by Mike Browell to scan the historic Clarion Ramblers handbooks. Tim detailed how this group undertook many similar runs to Dark Peak back in the early 20th Century. The club had agreed to host the handbooks via an archive section of it's website. Concerns were raised by some members as to the potential volumes of traffic for those who might be interested in the handbooks contents and it was agreed that a clear index for these should be created.

Edale (Country Day) Fell Race

James Lowe noted that Matt Harmon has taken on the organisation of the race and request was made for the club to support this in future years. The race is not going ahead in 2023 due to permissions issues but a three year permit is being applied for to cover future years.

Heason Events

James Lowe summarised the approach by Matt Heason to host a film night for the club. This would be held in Hathersage with specific films chosen to suit members interests and accompanied with a post event curry. The membership expressed interest in this event and the committee took an action to propose a suitable date.

The meeting was adjourned at 21.40.