



Dark Peak Fell Runners

The club for Sheffield and North Derbyshire

DPFR Committee Meeting: 19:30, 20 February 2025

Minutes

Venue: The Hallamshire House

In attendance: Tim Tett (TT), Lisa Watson (LW), Helen Elmore (HE), Guy Ward (GW), Tom Saville (TS), Despina Berdeni (DB), Rob Greenwood (RG), Ben Hunter (BH), Richard Hakes (RH)

Apologies: David Arundale, Will Boothman, Cynog Williams, Mark Whitworth

Financial Report

GW read a financial report received from David Arundale, noting an approx £3k surplus and £18k reserves.

The Committee noted that money set aside for the renovation of the Club Hut would not likely be spent soon given the present situation with the Sportsman.

Membership Report

DB provided an update on membership numbers. Numbers are down to approx. 280, down from approx. 380 at the end of last year. It was noted that numbers steadily rose throughout last year.

TS queried whether the 380 number previously counted standing orders in addition to SI memberships. DB stated that she believed that the 380 number was accurate.

A discussion was had on why the numbers may have dropped, and RG noted that late signups last year were given membership for 2025. LW noted that most would have signed up to renew automatically.

DB stated that all members would have received an email, whether automatically renewing or not, and that we can send out a reminder to remind members who haven't paid.

GW noted that David Arundale had provided a list of standing order payments to review, either for refunds in the case of double payment or for SI membership purposes. 15-20 people paid by standing order.

TT asked whether SI can deal with honorary members. DB confirmed that it can, but DB/RG must process such memberships manually.

Sportsman Update

Future of Hut

GW introduced the matter of the Sportsman closure and provided an update. The current landlord informed him that the chef was looking to take on the lease. No further information has been received since.



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TT noted that the pub had closed its doors before the lease was up, so are still the tenants at present. He suggested seeking to register the hut as a community asset and has obtained the forms for doing so.

TS believed that the hut was also a listed building due to it being a WW2 PoW hut, but felt that it was worth seeking to register the hut in any event. The committee agreed that we should seek to do so and TT agreed to look into doing it.

State of Hut

The committee discussed the current state of the hut and renovations, including whether planned renovations should be placed on hold until a long-term landlord is in place.

LW and DB highlighted that the ladies changing section is not usable at present due to the amount of stuff in it and questioned whether we should do something before such a landlord is in place.

GW suggested that a group should go down before the next Sportsman run to tidy the ladies area, moving some items into the larger main space if required. GW will post in the committee chat to arrange.

DB noted that we need to be careful moving stuff and suggested that the club emails the current tenant prior to doing so. GW to arrange.

The committee agreed that having less space that was used well would likely be better for the club than the current situation.

Sportsman Runs

GW provided a suggestion from Will Boothman that we consider moving to two Sportsman and two away runs during the winter, as opposed to the current 3:1 approach, due to the lack of tenant and the Sportsman runs becoming samey.

HE noted that the benefit of the Sportsman was accessibility – it is closer to Sheffield, easier to get to by public transport, and generally easier for younger or newer members to attend.

DB noted that the carshare groups have been working well for runs. LW suggested advertising them more.

The committee agreed to shift to a 2:2 ratio, and to revisit if/when the new tenant is in place.

Juniors

GW provided an update from Mark Whitworth on the current status of the junior sessions.

Restructure

MW asked that the committee approve a restructure of the Junior programme to create three age groups: U10, 10-13, and 14+. A parent of the U10 group or another leader would lead the group for a one hour session, with another parent in support.

The committee approved the restructure proposal and the funding of DBS checks for volunteers where appropriate. DB offered to assist with such and will speak with Simon Rippon.

Wednesday Night Pilot



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MW's update detailed a planned pilot for a juniors run on Wednesday night, led by MW and supported by TS and LW.

The committee discussed the appropriate group size and practicalities of such. A maximum group size of 10 was agreed. TS stated that juniors would need to be invited to sign up first. LW suggested that, following this, others could be asked if they would like to join, to fulfil the purpose of integrating the juniors into the wider club.

TT suggested that the pilot should wait until the second run after the clocks had changed, due to the light. GW noted that March 26 was the last weekend before the clocks changed and that there would be some light – kit requirements would need to be strict.

LW asked whether parental consent forms were required. GW suggested that the process should mirror the usual juniors runs.

The committee also discussed the LiRF for TS and LW. HE explained what it involved. DB will assist TS and LW with EA membership.

The committee agreed that the pilot should take place on 26 March. GW will join in TS' absence.

50th Anniversary

RH raised the club's 50th anniversary in 2026 and that there is a need to plan ahead for it.

TS suggested a 50 at 50 series, resurrecting former club races. He expected a resurgence in races and ROs. TS agreed to put together a list of 50 club races.

The committee discussed how such a series could work, agreeing aiming for a minimum of 25 races to count for the series. Prizes for doing so and for the person who completes the most races were briefly discussed.

GW raised a wider point that there were no female ROs and that this should be encouraged. HE suggested advertising club races more and offering some races with easier navigation.

LW suggested a 'summer bash'. The committee agreed with such, potentially linked to the Bamford camping weekend, however, the exact form was left open.

GW noted that Adam Samuel is resurrecting the newsletter and that we should consider a bumper edition for the anniversary. LW suggested a physical copy and BH proposed an article in the Fellrunner.

RH asked whether there should be 50th anniversary kit, including artwork. A discussion was had on who could assist with such artwork and it was agreed that any ideas for the anniversary, including kit, artwork or summer bash ideas, should be shared in the committee chat.

Race Updates

GW provided updates from the ROs of Edale Skyline, Edale and Burbage Skyline.

Edale Skyline

The committee noted the progress on Edale Skyline and discussed potential parking issues. It was agreed that Mark Jones should stress the importance of car sharing in his pre-race



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emails and that competitors can park in the Hope Valley and take the train, listing the train times.

TS noted that FRA committee members had expressed concern about the race webpage not being up to date. GW to raise both points with Mark Jones.

More volunteers are still required, and GW will remind members to volunteer if they can.

Edale

The committee noted Matt Harmon's update and agreed with his proposal that comms to recruit marshals should begin after Edale Skyline to avoid confusion.

Burbage

The committee noted Dom Watts' update and request for a test race. The committee was happy to facilitate a test race on a club night.

TS queried whether a cutoff at Burbage Bridge would work, given that the route back from the bridge was as long as the race route. TT suggested an alternative of a cut off 1/3 of the way around the route. TS noted that this may encourage fast running to make this cutoff then slowing down or fading.

TS noted that vetting could help, but this would be a lot of work.

EA Affiliation

GW provided an update on EA Affiliation – this year, the club must list its coaches and have a welfare officer in place. Next year, it must meet a number of standards including having a disciplinary policy, privacy policy and constitution.

Disciplinary Policy

GW provided an update on the disciplinary policy, circulated before the meeting. The policy had received slight amendments following TT's feedback.

The committee approved the disciplinary policy and agreed that it should be placed on the website, mentioned in the next comms email, and at the AGM.

Skill Sharing

Workshops

LW noted that she was hosting a workshop on 6 March on nutrition and strength. While open for all to attend it was primarily aimed at women. LW has a number of ideas for future workshops such as MM prep, running abroad and race skills.

LW suggested that the workshops could be held year round, on an ad hoc basis.

GW suggested that due to the financial position of the club, it should pay for the venues for the workshops. No objection.

TS asked that a poll be put out for all members, to ensure that we capture the needs and wants of all members rather than just the regular attendees.



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The committee discussed the possibility of a film night at Alpkit, which had been successful in 2024. TS offered to speak to Matt to see if he would be willing to assist and obtain dates, which would be after ShAFF had taken place.

Training Sessions

BH updated the committee on the navigation sessions arranged with Dave Taylor. Feedback has been positive. The committee agreed to reimburse Dave at £150 per day.

BH noted that the Tuesday night sessions have come to an end and have been very well attended.

LW suggested hosting a hill reps session on a Tuesday. GW and HE proposed that they could be posted on social media and have a WhatsApp group, operated informally.

Trophies

LW provided a list of trophies for the club, many of which were missing or never existed.

TS had spoken to Ian Winterburn who was happy to make one out of wood.

LW suggested that the club looks to create a whole new set of trophies covering all categories.

TS agreed to approach Ian Winterburn to gauge his willingness to make some trophies and, if so, how many and at what cost.

The committee discussed Edale Skyline Trophies – TT noted that there are two for one category and TS stated that Mark may not know who has them.

The committee agreed that the club should pay for the British trophies to be brought up to date. TS and LW will obtain a quote.

AGM

GW suggested that the AGM should take place on 14 May if the Norfolk Arms is available. GW will email the pub to check whether the room can be booked.

AOB

The committee agreed that Adam Samuel as lead editor for the newsletter should have a place on the committee.

TT raised the issue of honorary membership for individuals who have been members for at least 40 years. The committee agreed that such an issue should be raised at the AGM and voted on by the members, including criteria.

GW informed the committee that he was creating a dropbox for committee files and documents. TS suggested Google Drive as an alternative. LW additionally suggested that a Google photo album be created to store both old photos and new photos that members wished to submit. TS warned that the costs for storage could be high given the volume.



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GW highlighted that there had recently been cases of runners attending Wednesday night runs without kit and asked committee members to be vigilant and raise the issue with such persons. LW flagged that there is a box of spare kit in the club hut which may be used.

Meeting closed at 21:14. Next meeting to take place late April / early May pre-AGM.

Summary of Decisions Made

- Committee to seek registering the club hut as a community asset.
- Club runs over winter to move to two at Sportsman, two away, until a new tenant is in place at the Sportsman.
- Approved restructure of juniors section and trial of juniors Wednesday night run.
- Approved draft of disciplinary policy.
- Approved payment for venues to host skill-sharing workshops.
- Approved reimbursement to Dave Taylor for navigation courses.
- Agreed that the club should pay for updating British Trophies (subject to quote).
- Approved co-opting Adam Samuel to the committee.
- Honorary Membership and process to appoint to be raised at the AGM.

Summary of Actions

- Despina Berdeni/Rob Greenwood
 - Send out reminder emails to members to encourage renewal.
 - Assist with junior volunteers DBS process.
 - Assist LW and TS with EA Membership.
- Tim Tett
 - Seek to register club hut as a community asset.
- Guy Ward
 - Email pub tenant to discuss making space in the hut.
 - Arrange a group to tidy the hut before the next Sportsman run.
 - Feed back committee points to race ROs.
 - Send comms seeking more volunteers for Edale Skyline.
 - Upload and deal with comms for disciplinary policy.
 - Book Norfolk Arms for AGM.
 - Create Google Drive for the committee.
- Tom Saville
 - Pull together a list of potential 50 @ 50 club races.
 - Speak to Matt regarding possible film night at Alpkit.
 - Speak to Ian Winterburn about trophies.
 - Obtain a quote for British trophies.
- Lisa Watson



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- o Update committee on ideas for skill-sharing workshops.
- All
 - o Share any ideas for the 50th Anniversary in the committee chat.