

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting – MINUTES



Date: **12th May 2026**

Time: **7.05pm**

Committee Members and Attendance: **Quorum achieved (4/7) YES / NO**

Role	Person	Present	Apologies
Chairman	Andy Howarth (AH)		Yes
President	Sarah Marsden (SM)	Yes	
Treasurer	Ian Thomson (IT)	Yes	
Welfare Officer	Diane Dudgeon (DD)	Yes	
Road Captain	Rick Marsden (RM)	Yes	
Fell Captain	Gareth Davies (GD)		Yes
Secretary	Bradley Smith (BS)	Yes	

All apologies were accepted

Ref	Item	Action by
2026.12	Actions/Outstanding Actions from last Meeting - 14th April 2026 a. 2026.02 (AGM Actions) – <i>All actions complete.</i> b. 2026.04 & 2026.09 (Race Committee Report) – <i>Still waiting for this.</i> c. 2026.05 (Club Affiliation) – <i>All actions complete.</i> d. 2026.06 (Xmas Party / Presentation Night 2026) – <i>Secretary to send out a poll to all members about the dates for the Xmas party End of November/Beginning of December, then we can start to organise it.</i> e. 2026.08 (Communication) – <i>All actions complete.</i> - o <i>All queries from members to do to darwendashersrc@gmail.com so then it can be passed to the correct committee member, unless safeguarding/welfare then this should go to the welfare officer Diane – darwendasherswelfare@gmail.com</i> f. 2026.10 – <i>Some gels in store, these need to be collected and given out, Sarah and Diane to organise.</i> g. 2026.11 (AOB) – <i>Diane is going to nominate the club to John Lewis Buffs official quotation received, and committee has agreed this for Secretary to order All other actions complete.</i>	AH & Race committee BS SM & DD DD BS
2026.13	Committee Member Reports a. Treasurer update – please see appendix 1. b. Welfare update – Nothing to report. c. Secretary update – Please see appendix 2 & going to email the remaining unpaid members. d. Road Captain – Really well attended, brilliant turn out at Beaverbrook, really nice to see new faces.	BS
2026.14	Member Feedback and Comments a. A member has asked if there is a concessionary membership? – <i>This will need to be raised at the next AGM.</i> b. Is there any chance we could get the vest design (the one everyone recognises) on a t-shirt? – <i>Secretary going to look into this with Martin at Gibsons.</i>	BS BS

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	c. There was a mention at a club night of maybe hiring Witton running track as a club some nights. - <i>Really good idea and the committee liked it, we will look into it more and have a chat with BwD Leisure & Alison.</i>	
2026.15	Committee Central Area a. Have a central drive for all committee members to save documents. – <i>All club documents are stored within the Darwen Dashers drive, and all documents need to go through the club Secretary.</i> b. Set of standard operating procedures – <i>to be looked at once more clarity</i> c. Set of policy documents (linked to website) – <i>These are all on the website linked to the EA and stored within the drive.</i>	AH
2026.16	Website a. Add Inter-Club Championship info – <i>see below</i> b. Club partnership/community (Mark emailed asking me what we are doing with this page) - <i>Secretary to go through it with Mark and get it updated with correct and current sponsors/partners and information.</i>	BS & MT
2026.17	AOB a. Inter-Club Championship – <i>Rick sent information for the website and Brad to sort with Mark to get it uploaded. Secretary also to send out an email to members with information. Please visit https://www.dashers.org.uk/interclub for more information.</i> b. Beginners Group provisional date for start of next group 1st July (Thank you Ali & Brian). c. Diane said that BRR want to do more parkrun meetups, and we are going to include the date with the Monday parkrun writeup by Ian. d. Red Rose information sent to us via email - Please see appendix 3.	RM, MT & BS DD & IT

Meeting closed at: 8.10pm

Notes taken by: BS

Next committee meetings:

14th July 2026

8th September 2026

10th November 2026

12th January 2027

9th March 2027

Next AGM date: Provisional date 25th March 2027

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Appendix 1

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting 12th May 2026

Treasurer Update

	14 April 2026	12 May 2026	Variance
Community A/C (current)	£2718.04	£2623.07	-£94.97
Commercial A/C	£3150.43	£3151.81	+£1.38
	£5868.47	£5774.88	-£93.59

- Membership fees still coming in (see below)
- Additional costs for DHM since last meeting, largely offset by new membership fees
- I believe that all DHM costs are now in so can do a full reconciliation. Initial views are that it broke even/small loss which does not reflect the hard work that people put in. We do have some (reusable) stock to assist next year but we also need to be aware of costs control and increasing entry income.
- Membership fees still continue to come in, albeit at a slower rate, but perhaps we need to look at a fundraising 'event' for later in the year as this is our peak revenue period?

Membership numbers as at 12 May 2026

Full	51
Honorary	1
Social	24
Beginners	15
Family	7
TOTAL	98

Fantastic to see so many new Members!

Ian Thomson
May 2026



Appendix 2

Secretary's Report May 2026

Membership as of 10/5/2026 we have 131 (up from 123 at last committee meeting) members on the EA Portal and below is the current break down of the 98 (up from 58) paid members so far:

- 73 up from 43 Competitive members.
- 25 up from 15 Social members.
 - Of the above, 2 lapsed in 2025/26 but have rejoined.
 - 17 new members.
 - 4 transfers from another club to us.
 - 2 changed from competitive to social.
 - 2 changed from social to competitive.

This leaves 33 members not paid so far.

As we currently have 73 members, we will be eligible for 1 club place for the London marathon, if the criteria is the same as 2026 'Clubs with between 40-189 members will be allocated one guaranteed entry' for 2027.

2 memberships to process, waiting for them to confirm which membership they want to go for.

So, still a good start to the year for memberships. As we left 2025/26 with 117 members 71 of these EA affiliated.

Club Demographics (Including members, not paid)

Age Groups	Sex
U23 – 4 (3.1%)	Female – 56 (42.7%) Male – 75 (57.3%)
U35 – 18 (13.7%)	
U50 – 42 (32.1%)	
U60 – 37 (28.2%)	
O60- 30 (22.9%)	

Brad Smith,

Club Secretary

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Appendix 3

12 FEES & SUBSCRIPTIONS. 2026.

Club Affiliation

To remain at £60,

Clubs will have to pay club affiliation before they can enter athletes via the entry portal. The clubs will have to pay the portal 5% charge.

Payment has to be made via the club portal once it opens on **August 3rd**, then Team Managers can enter club athletes.

Athlete Registration

This is for the **3** standard races not including the Cross Challenge.

Team Managers and athletes can enter via the portal but payment is required with the entry. List of entries will be visible. The portal will open on **August 25th** and close on **27th September**.

Affiliated clubs athletes pay **£18** for the 3 standard races,

The Cross Challenge will have a separate entry portal later this year. Athletes and team manager can enter but they have to pay the enter fee when they enter. The entry fee for the Cross Challenge in 2025 was **£3**. Only affiliated club athletes who were entered in the league portal will be able to use this vastly reduced cost of entry. Please remember if you think an Athlete has a chance of a podium position they should enter the cross Challenge directly as athletes at our reduced entry fee does not qualify for awards.

Guests who have entered the first two races will be allowed to enter the Cross Challenge via the Portal

Guest entries are at **£12** per race. For the 3 races they can enter.

Replacement number remains at **£5**

Affiliated club athletes after the portal has closed pay **£20** for however many races remain.

RED ROSE FIXTURE DATES AND MEETING DATES FOR 2026.

May.

A.G.M. 1st Proposed amendments to the constitution closing date.

A.G.M.

Wednesday 13th 19.30 Bury Church @ 19.30.

August

25th Entry and Club affiliation Portals opens

September

27th Entry and Club Affiliation Portals closes

30th Meeting 1 at Bury Church. BL9 0LA. @19.30

October

10th Fixture 1 Leigh Sports Village

14th Meeting 2 via Zoom @19.30

24th Fixture 2 Townley Park Burnley TBC.

28th Meeting 3 via Zoom @19.30

November.

14th Fixture 3 Rossendale Marl Pits TBC

18th Meeting via Zoom @ 19.30

28th Fixture 4 Cross Challenge Sefton Park Liverpool

December

2nd Meeting 4 (results)@ Bury Church 19.30

2025 Presentation evening.

Date Friday 26th February 2027. Venue TBC

📍 Based in Darwen, Lancashire

🌐 Website: dashers.org.uk

✉ Email: darwendashersrc@gmail.com

📘 Facebook: facebook.com/share/g/1AdF67R1FQ/?mibextid=wwXlfr

📷 Instagram: @darwendashers_