

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting – MINUTES



Date: **14th July 2026**

Time: **7.05pm**

Committee Members and Attendance: **Quorum achieved (5/7) YES / NO**

Role	Person	Present	Apologies
Chair	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

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by</u>
2026.18	Actions/Outstanding Actions from last Meeting – 12th May 2026 See appendix 1.	
2026.19	Committee Member Reports a. Chair update – Andy thanked everyone for their support. b. President update – Stock is currently in Sarah's shed due to accessibility of the store room at Blacksnape, even though we have a key for the room we don't have the fob for the alarm so need to arrange access. Could we maybe have a fob? Andy is going to ask the question. c. Treasurer update – Aggies race money, Josh to send donation to Bolton Mountain Rescue and then rest of the money come to club, Gareth stated that this is the main 'Darwen Dashers club' race. Ian to sort with Josh d. Welfare update – Nothing to report, and that Andy is doing well. e. Secretary update – Please see appendix 2 f. Road Captain – Championship is going really well, and a lot are attending apart from the 3 races that have been cancelled but I have added new races into the calendar. New Inter Club started off really good, and it is nice for it not to be too serious and nice and fun for all club members. g. Fell Captain – Nothing to report other than fell relay is coming up soon so I will send something out soon.	AH IT & JT
2026.20	Member Feedback and Comments a. A member has asked if the monthly parkrun social is still happening? No this is something we are going to start from September, by having a monthly parkrun meet up that Dashers can attend, we will send out more information on this soon. Members are also welcome to post of social media/ WhatsApp about social events. b. A member has mentioned a monthly sheet with all club dates on other running clubs do this. Club secretary is going to do this monthly going forward and add to social media and email out to members. c. Viki, has asked if she can arrange some hill reps and speed sessions, a few people have mentioned it. She is happy to run these on a club night or a separate night if required. Yes please, if you can organise it and let us know the dates we can help you to promote it and also add it to the monthly calendar so members know.	BS & DD BS VL & BS

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	d. Members comment wanted to stay anonymous Hello Committee Just wanted to say a big thank you and congratulations for doing a tremendous job! It's great to see how you've really brought a new energy to the Club and especially the communications. I know it's a full team effort and although I'm not very present at club events any more, your impact and energy is still really appreciated. Well done and thanks again! We had a couple of other member questions but have not included them due to the nature of the question, but we have responded back to their questions.	BS
2026.21	Darwen Tough 10K All sorted for 6th September 2026 and entries are coming in via bookitzone, if you can help volunteer please email darwendashersrc@gmail.com Going to send out to the Interclub teams. Race committee to meet.	RM & Race committee
2026.22	Website Members only area – Some running clubs have a members only area but we have decided this it not currently needed.	
2026.23	Club Kit Gibsons are looking at our kit and trying to match other running clubs. The only kit requirement for us it the race vest in ebony & gold with our club logo. All other is optional if club members want them.	
2026.24	Junior parkrun Diane mentioned another junior parkrun take over so we are going to look at dates and send them out.	DD & BS
2026.25	Stock See comment from President in 2026.19	
2026.26	Xmas Do See comment in appendix 1 2026.06	
2026.27	Interclub See comment from Road Captain in 2026.19	
2026.28	Beginners Group Big thank you to Ali & Brian for running this again. This group doesn't seem as big, is this due to summer/to warm, world cup, other local running clubs on the same night.	
2026.29	AOB Email from Lancashire Rose Cross Country League – appendix 3	

Meeting closed at: 7.57pm

Notes taken by: BS

Next committee meetings:

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 – OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Yellow is now complete

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by</u>
2026.02	AGM – parkrun volunteer vote Secretary to do a poll in Oct/Nov before the champs start as agreed at the AGM.	BS
2026.04	Race Committee Report for Darwen Half	AH & Race committee
2026.09	Info for New Darwen Tough 10K	
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 – Sent out and most popular date is 5th December.</i> Then we can start to organise it. Rick to sort room out. – Going to ask Darwen Cricket Club (they haven't got back in touch yet) Darwen Football Club (Fully booked) Huddlesden Club Rick also looking into DJ for this.	BS RM
2026.10	<i>Some gels in store, these need to be collected and given out, Sarah and Diane to organise.</i> Gels have now been given out	SM & DD
2026.11	AOB - <i>Diane is going to nominate the club to John Lewis DD has sent form off for this.</i> - <i>Bufs official quotation received, and committee has agreed this for Secretary to order BS</i> Ordered buffs – these have been delivered.	DD BS
2026.13	Secretary update –Going to email the remaining unpaid members	BS
2026.14	- Is there any chance we could get the vest design (the one everyone recognises) on a tshirt? – Secretary going to look into this with Martin at Gibsons. Spoke to Gibsons and they are looking into getting more kit like BRR and also looking at trying to reduce the price, but hard because of the colours. - There was a mention at a club night of maybe hiring Witton running track as a club some nights. - Really good idea and the committee liked it, we will look into it more and have a	BS BS

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	chat with BwD Leisure & Alison. I have spoken to Alison and she is going to ask the question.	
2026.15	Set of standard operating procedures and policies – to be looked at once more clarity	AH
2026.16	Secretary to go through it with Mark and get it updated with correct and current sponsors/partners and information.	BS & MT
2026.17	AOB - Inter-Club Championship - 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 - 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.	RM, MT & BS DD & IT



Appendix 2

Secretary's Report July 2026

Membership as of 13/7/2026 we have 113 (down from 131 at last committee meeting, due to not renewing their membership after various reminders)

The breakdown on the EA Portal

- 81 up from 73 Competitive members.
- 32 up from 25 Social members.
 - Of the above, 4 lapsed in 2025/26 but have rejoined.
 - 24 new members.
 - 4 transfers from another club to us.
 - 2 members 2nd Claim members.
 - 4 members changed from competitive to social
 - 1 members changed from social to competitive

As we currently have 81 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.

0 memberships to process.

So, overall for this current memberships year. We left 2025/26 with 117 members 71 of these EA affiliated. We are down by 4 members overall but we up by 10 competitive members.

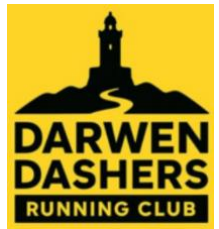
Club Demographics (all members)

Age Groups	Sex
U23 – 3 (2.7%)	Female – 47 (41.6%) Male – 66 (58.4%)
U35 – 14 (12.4%)	
U50 – 37 (32.7%)	
U60 – 32 (28.3%)	
O60- 27 (23.9%)	

Brad Smith,

Club Secretary

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Appendix 3

22/07/2026, 16:09

Gmail - Lancashire Rose Cross Country League 2026 Season Details



Darwen Dashers <darwendashersrc@gmail.com>

Lancashire Rose Cross Country League 2026 Season Details

Victor Walsh <vic_walsh@yahoo.co.uk>

15 July 2026 at 20:58

Dear Cross Country Team Captain

I am writing following the inaugural AGM held on Monday evening for our newly established league. Formed through the merger of the South East Lancs and Red Rose Leagues, these two historic organisations have collectively served the North West of England for more than 150 years. They will now be succeeded by a stronger, unified league designed to deliver more competitiveness and improved racing opportunities across the Lancashire region.

The AGM confirmed the official name of the new league as Lancashire Rose Cross Country League.

Save the Dates – 2026 Season Race Fixtures

- Saturday 10th October 2026 – Leigh Sports Village
- Saturday 17th October 2026 – Heaton Park, Manchester
- Saturday 14th November 2026 – Marl Pitts, Rossendale
- Saturday 28th November 2026 – Sefton Park, Liverpool (Cross Challenge)

Club Affiliation & Athlete Entries Dates & Costs

- Monday 3rd August 2026: Club affiliations open
 - Tuesday 25th August 2026: Athletes Entry Portal opens
 - Sunday 27th September 2026: Club affiliations and Athletes Entry Portal close
- Club affiliation fee: £60
- Individual entry fee: £18 (covers Leigh, Heaton Park & Marl Pitts)
- Cross Challenge (Sefton Park): entry fee TBC

We will be using Nifty Timing for chip timing and affiliation & entry administration this season. This will give us more accurate results and a smoother process for clubs and athletes.

Lancashire Rose Committee 2026 Season

- Secretary: Vic Walsh
- Chair: Steve Duxbury
- Treasurer: Jean Simpson (MBE)
- Officials Secretary: Peter Ramsdale
- Welfare Officer: Collette Wilson

Get Involved

We are still seeking an additional Welfare Officer and a Communications Officer to support our social media and league communications. These roles are vital to the smooth running and future success of Lancashire Rose. If you or someone in your club may be interested, please get in touch.

We have exciting plans for the upcoming season and beyond, and we will share more information with you over the coming months. We look forward to seeing you there, whether you're racing, supporting, or helping the league grow in some other way.

Please share this information with your club members and spread the word. If you are no longer the correct contact for your club, please let me know.

Kind Regards,

Vic Walsh

Secretary, Lancashire Rose Cross Country League