

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting – MINUTES



Date: **14th April 2026**

Time: **7pm**

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

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by</u>
2026.01	Actions/Outstanding Actions from last Meeting - 10th March 2026 EA Training email - A member had asked about running leader training via the EA, if they send an email to the club email address stating the course and what they want it for we will bring it to the next meeting.	
2026.02	Actions/Outstanding Actions from AGM -26th March 2026 - parkrun championship volunteering vote - as this is for 2027 championships a vote will be sent out to members around October/November 2026. - Club social night once a month - social events can be organised by any member of Darwen Dashers; but Niall mentioned this at the AGM so BS stated he will speak with Niall about this and look at getting it set up. - Club race marshal points on website to volunteer – we are going to get a list from each race organisers to be able to put them all onto our website and then members can fill a form out to volunteer for club races if they are able to.	BS BS & NB BS & Race organisers
2026.03	Committee Member Reports - Treasurer update – please see appendix 1. - Welfare update – Nothing to report, Dianne can now access the welfare email. - Secretary update – please see appendix 2. - Road Captain – All going well on road races with good attendance at them so far. <i>All committee members were thanked for their reports.</i>	
2026.04	Race Committee Report - Darwen Half update from this year - everything is still being finalised so will be reported once finished. - Planning for next year + titled sponsor e.g. East Lancs Hospice or Derian House - this was noted as a good idea by all the committee present and that this is to be added to the next race committee meeting. It was also noted that East Lancs already do a race in January so they might not do another one, but we can still explore this. - Map of Darwen 10k has been sent to the measuring company so waiting for this to be complete and will be brought to the race committee.	AH & SM Race committee RM
2026.05	Club Affiliation 2026/27 Affiliation has been paid and the constitution needs to be signed by Chair & Secretary.	AH & BS

📍 Based in Darwen, Lancashire

🌐 Website: dashers.org.uk

✉ Email: darwendashersrc@gmail.com

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

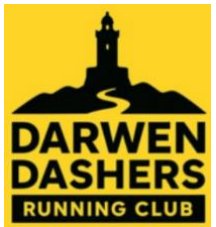
📷 Instagram: @darwendashers_

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	All EA Policy have been updated to the most recent ones and approved, so these will be added to the EA portal and our club website.	BS
2026.06	Xmas Party / Presentation Night 2026 - After the discussion at the AGM it was voted that we will go back to the 2024 structure of having a Christmas party. - Get dates that are available from function rooms. - Once we have dates back, we will send out a members survey to see which of the dates are best.	RM RM & BS
2026.07	Committee Meeting frequency - We are going to move our committee meeting to bi-monthly as some of the minutes for some months are the same. Our next meeting will be May then after this it will be July and bi-monthly going forward. - If something urgent came up in between, then we would hold an extraordinary committee meeting. - We are keeping the time at the same time as it is currently (7.30pm).	
2026.08	Communication - All official information from the club will go to members via EA/Club Email. - WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram are for publicity and members to post pictures and information about events. The Public Facebook page (current one for beginners) is to be closed as we are using the public Facebook group. - We are going to cross reference the EA portal and WhatsApp to make sure only paid-up members are on and if members are not on we will send an email to see if they want to be added.	BS BS
2026.09	Member Feedback No member feedback, apart from feedback from the Darwen Half which will be given in the race committee reports.	Race committee
2026.10	Storage at Blacksnap - All kit is back in the store at present. - Equipment can be borrowed but must be returned within one week of the event. - Sarah is the key holder for the store, if you need to borrow anything, please liaise with her in plenty of time so she can arrange with Blacksnap for opening.	
2026.11	AOB - Donations for Darwen 10k or other races, John Lewis - every 3 months each shop selects 3 community groups or charities to help: https://www.johnlewis.com/our-services/helping-our-community?search-term=Helping%20Our%20Community&suggestion=true - Bufs – Where are these ordered from? Rick said Chris was maybe the last person to order them. - Secretary to make sure everything has been handed over from the previous post holder. - Niall is going to take over David Staff race (thank you Niall). - Simon has started the Dasher of the Month again (thank you Simon).	DD BS BS

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Secretary to send a list of paid-up members to Ian, Rick & Gareth so they can update championships with correct members, and Simon for dasher of the month. | BS |
|--|---|----|

Meeting closed at: 7.59pm

Notes taken by: BS

Next committee meeting: 12th May 2026

Next AGM date: March 2027

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Appendix 1

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting 14th April 2026

Treasurer Update

	14 April 2026	25 March 2026 (AGM)	Variance
Community A/C (current)	£2718.04	£1201.68	+£1516.36
Commercial A/C	£3150.43	£3898.87	-£748.44
	£5868.47	£5100.55	+£767.92

Note: £750 transferred from Commercial to Community account to ensure enough cashflow for DHM.

- Membership fees still coming in (see below)
- At the risk of being a archetypal “Grumpy Old Treasurer” some observations from the DHM:
 - The work put in by the event organisers was exceptional and made the day really special. Many congratulations.
 - Every competitor (and spectator) I spoke to was really impressed
 - Some of the costs may need to be reviewed or covered through higher entries
 - St Johns Ambulance seemed over-engineered £1700+. Did we need so many?
 - We doubled up on photography costs
 - Controversial view – did we get value for money from Andy O’S?
 - The prizes for the Junior event were nice but were they cost effective?
- Full reconciliation for the DHM to be completed but overall it was successful and my view is that the marginal costs for more entries will be smaller and could make a real difference next year. The question is how?

Membership numbers as at 13 April 2026

Full	32
Honorary	1
Social	14
Beginners	8
Family	3
TOTAL	58

Ian Thomson
April 2026

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Appendix 2

Secretary's Report April 2026

Membership as of 12/4/2026 we have 123 members on the EA Portal and below is the current break down of the 58 paid members so far:

- 43 Competitive members.
- 15 Social members.
 - Of the above, 2 lapsed in 2025/26 but have rejoined.
 - 7 new members (6 beginners membership, 1 social).
 - 3 transfers from another club to us.
 - 2 changed from competitive to social.
 - 1 changed from social to competitive.

This leaves 65 members not paid so far.

If all the remaining members on the register pay for this year, we will have 89 England Athletics affiliated members which will be enough 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.

We will have 34 Social members in total.

11 new members will have joined us (not including the 3 transfers) 14 total

5 members from 2025/26 have resigned from the club. & 1 member was going to join this year but is waiting until next FY due to just finding out she is pregnant.

5 memberships to process.

So, up until now it has been a good start to the year for memberships. As we left 2025/26 with 117 members 71 of these EA affiliated.

Club Demographics

Age Groups	Sex
U23 – 4 (3.2%)	Female – 52 (41.9%) Male – 72 (58.1%)
U35 – 17 (13.7%)	
U50 – 37 (29.8%)	
U60 – 37 (29.8%)	
O60- 29 (23.4%)	

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Confirmation of the 2026-27 membership fees added to the EA Portal.

As per the AGM the membership fees have been updated on the E.A. Portal for all E.A. memberships by £1 to reflect the increased cost to E.A. (£23 per member) the pro-rata fees that were approved at the 2025 AGM have also been added into the portal. So, the fees are below:

Full Year - 1st April – 31st March

Full E.A. Membership - £35

Family Membership (includes E.A.) - £30

Beginners Membership 1st Year (includes E.A.) - £30

Honorary Member E.A. fee only - £23

Second Claim Membership - £16

Social Membership - £16

Pro Rata - joining from 1st October - 31st March

Full E.A. Membership - £29

Full E.A. Beginners and Family Membership £25

Social and Second Claim Membership £8

Brad Smith, Club Secretary

12/4/2026