

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting – MINUTES



Date: 8th September 2026

Time: 7.00pm

Committee Members and Attendance: Quorum achieved (6/7) 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

Ref	Item	Action by
2026.30	Actions/Outstanding Actions from last Meeting – 14th July 2026 See appendix 1.	Committee
2026.31	Committee Member Reports (if any) a. Chair update - I am feeling a little bit more energised and will be back as soon as I can. Feeling ok overall. b. President update – Nothing to report, Marshals will be needed for the David staff race in November. c. Treasurer update – See report attached (appendix 2) d. Welfare update – Nothing to report everyone getting on. e. Secretary update – 2 new members have joined, 1 is coming up to a club night to try, beginners are going to come up to a club night soon and a massive thank you to Ali and Brian. f. Road Captain – Everything good, Good turnouts at races. Results page not updating correctly. Rick to send document to Brad and Mark to sort out on the website. g. Fell Captain – 2 more races of this years championships.	RE, BS & MT
2026.32	Darwen Tough 10K update Really good feedback about the 10k. No problems have been said. There was 56 booked on, 3 no shows and 4 on the day entries. David did fantastic in coming 1 st well done! Setting the male record. Going to make a poster with the male and female record on to promote next year's event. Big thanks to Rick, Lee, Sarah, Brad & Diane for all the organising and to all our brilliant marshals and companies who donated.	BS
2026.33	Interclub update All went well. Results are on the Interclub new Facebook page and also our website. We were low in the ladies teams. Men's team came 3 rd and we have a club trophy. 1 st race were fantastic, after that other clubs seemed to bring their better runners taking away from the friendly atmosphere and making it more competitive again, also maybe add age grade Rick to feed this back to the interclub committee. Should be 6 races next year with each club leading a race.	RM
2026.34	parkrun social & junior parkrun takeover We have reintroduced the parkrun social (monthly at different venues) and junior parkrun takeover (every 3 months at Witton) below is the calendar but subject to change. We will also take a box of chocolates/sweets to juniors to handout. October – Skipton 10 th October	BS & DD

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	November – Pendle December – Alexandra and Witton Park Junior parkrun takeover	
2026.35	Beginners - Beginners Group has now finished and a big Thank you to Ali & Brian for their support in running this - Both have renewed their license and DBS is in progress, completed safeguarding and first aid. Club Secretary to get details.	BS
2026.36	Xmas Do & Presentation Night update Please see 2026.06 in outstanding actions	
2026.37	Club Fundraising Mentioned about Tesco Blue tokens in Darwen, Look into registering for this. There is also other fundraising at Morrisons Community Champions will also help us. Look into Easy Fundraising, we set it up and then when members do shopping, they earn us money as no cost to them.	DD BS
2026.38	Cross Country Thank you to Gareth.T for sorting the cross country. Please see below a message from him Evening all, so the uptake for cross country has been very low this year - only 3 names so far. The portal for entries has now opened so just spamming all Dashers comms channels to see who else is interested. The dates are as follows. You can do as little or as many as you like. All you need is your dashers vest, full EA club membership and some decent footwear. If you can let me know if interested and I can add you to my list. · 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) See how it goes, can we get the numbers? We will review this after this year.	Committee
2026.39	AOB Thank you to Viki for 'Viki's strength sessions' Chair suggested we could change this, so it lines up with the social Tuesday once a month. To hopefully minimise pressure on Viki/ANO to deliver sessions weekly.	

Meeting closed at: 7.58pm

Notes taken by: BS

Next committee meetings:

10th November 2026

12th January 2027

9th March 2027

Next AGM date: Provisional date 25th March 2027

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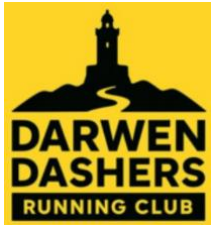
Appendix 1

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting – OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Yellow is now completed

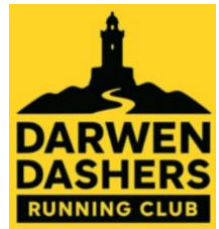
2026.02	AGM – parkrun volunteer vote Secretary to do a poll in Oct/Nov before the champs start as agreed at the AGM.	BS
2026.09	Info for New Darwen Tough 10K – Please see 2026.32 above for feedback	Race committee
2026.06	Xmas Party & Presentation Night 2026 <i>Secretary to send out a poll to all members about the dates for the Xmas party End of November/Beginning of December – Sent out and most popular date is 5th December.</i> <i>We have secured booking at Cherry Tree on Saturday 5th December 7pm till late. It is going to be £10 a ticket and it is member +1 We are hoping to have a quiz, disco, presentation.</i> <i>Going to send out an email with details on and also a form to fill out if members are attending to we can let the venue know numbers.</i> <i>Need to sort and send out nominations form out. This will be sent out no later than 1st October and will be closed on 9th November.</i>	BS Committee BS BS
2026.14	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 chat with BwD Leisure & Alison. I have spoken to Alison and she is going to ask the question. – Used every evening apart from Monday so would have to be a non club night, they would need more info of times to be able to do a group booking. Rick is going to speak with Matt from BRR and see if we could share the track on night and Dashers pay a fee.	BS RM
2026.15	Set of standard operating procedures and policies – to be looked at once more clarity	AH
2026.20	a. Email about London qualifying. - Committee discussed that this is on the club website and it states all the requirements to be entered into the club London ballot. It is the same requirements as last year and any changes would be looked at in the AGM. If any members feel anything is wrong on the requirements, then please email us on the club email. Email about juniors joining club runs – As we are an adult only running club, we are seeking advice from the EA about this, we know it has been mentioned about the adult being responsible for the child, but we need to make sure everything is covered from a club perspective.	RM Committee

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	Also, it was mentioned about children going on the parkrun club championship, again with us being adult only and only paying members are able to go on the championship we can't include them on there, however Ian is happy to include them in the weekly write up, all you need to do is send him a quick message/email with the information on.	
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Appendix 2

Treasurer Update

	9 Sept 2026	12 May 2026	Variance
Community A/C (current)	£2470.10	£2623.07	-£152.97
Commercial A/C	£3155.74	£3151.81	+£3.93
	£5625.84	£5774.88	-£149.04

- Potential to introduce half year membership fees for beginners?
- Paid out £200 for fell relays
- £538 income from Aggies Staircase
- £370 paid for 10k registration and certification

Membership numbers as at 9 September 2026

Full	57
Honorary	1
Social	27
Beginners	15
Second Claim	2
TOTAL	102

Ian Thomson
September 2026