

Darwen Dashers Committee Meeting

Date: 13th January 2026 8.30pm



Attendees: Andy Howarth (Chairman), Diane Dudgeon (Welfare Officer), Ian Thomson (Treasurer), Rick Marsden (Road Captain), Gareth Davies (Fell Captain)

Apologies: Sarah Marsden (President), Heather Turner (Secretary)

1. Current outstanding actions

- *Social Park Run* - started again, first one of 2026 to be held at Morecambe 17/01/26. If possible, can members have a little more notice for these events? **Elaine, Jez, or IT to action**

- *Junior parkrun takeover date* – **Sunday 8th February**. Members need to be notified and added as volunteers when confirmed – all welcome to come down to Witton Park junior parkrun. **DD to action**

2. Storage Update

- *Storage solution* – no problems so far. The timer is broken though, **AH is sorting this out.**

3. BwD Refresh

- *Darwen Dashers onto the Refresh website?* - we are not sure who or what needs doing at this point. **AH to speak to Ali**

4. Xmas Presentation

- *Any points from the evening?* - feedback has been good, great turn out by the members on the night. Only a few took part in the pre-run organised by **GD**, so this needs to either be planned better or reverted back to a normal club run IF the future Christmas presentations are being held on a Thursday night. Some reservations made by members about a Thursday night (due to work the next day, etc) so the Christmas Presentation night/Christmas Social will be put on the **AGM agenda** for members to put forward their suggestions.

5. Membership Update

- *Outstanding membership requests* – the one outstanding request has to be sorted asap. **HT/SM/DD to action**

6. Red Rose XC Presentation Evening

- *Presentation night 27th February 2026* – this is being held at Mill Hill Working Men's Club again from 7.00pm. Members who took part in the events are welcome to attend, but numbers for tickets are required so please request through the committee. **SM/DD/HT to action if required**

7. Treasurer Update

IT was thanked for the update, and the year on year comparison.

8. AOB

- *Race sub-committee* - meeting this weekend (w/e 18/01/26) to discuss Darwen Half Marathon and Darwen Tough 10K.

- *All Races confirmed on Road and Fell Championships* - information has been sent to **Mark**. Sharing links for the website need to be sorted. **RM/GD/MT to action**

- *Changes to parkrun Championship* – there has been deliberation due to member comments on whether the parkrun Championship should have changes made to how the championship is run and how winners are awarded. It has been decided that no changes will be made this year as the championship has already started. The parkrun Championship is enjoyed by everyone and is considered to be an important part of Darwen Dashers. **IT** does a great job every week reporting outcomes to members.

Parkrun volunteering is important part of parkrun but again, as the Championship has already started, it has been decided that volunteering a set amount of times will be added next year as a stipulation. In preparation for this, **ALL** members are encouraged to volunteer at Saturday parkruns and Sunday junior parkruns this year. If members are unsure of how to do this or what roles can be done, **DD and Ruth** can advise.

If any volunteering is done, photographs are always welcome on the Darwen Dashers Facebook page, as are any of the club members' news or achievements.

-*Member communication* – it is confusing as to which platform members are being sent club information: WhatsApp, Facebook (2 pages), Instagram. We would like to keep them all populated but one needs to be set as primary. **AH to speak to Mark for suggestions.**

-*Beginners Group* – another fantastic start thanks to **Ali and Jim**. **AH** has approved the purchase of 25 Hi Vis running vests for the new runners. Issues have arisen due to the changes in our Facebook platforms due to the fact that the beginners cannot access the members-only page and cannot access any information. Suggestion that beginners can join the members page, but if they do not sign up to join Darwen Dashers, they will be removed – this would have to be communicated to the beginners.

-*Stock at Gibsons* - needs to be checked, **Mark is sorting this.**

Going forward, it was agreed that future committee meetings will be held at the earlier time of 7.30pm.

Chair closed the meeting at 9.38pm.

Notes taken by DD.

Next committee meeting Tuesday 10th February 7.30pm.

AGM provisional date Thursday 26th March – members will be notified of details in advance.