

MINUTES for Meeting on 12th January 2026

12th January 2026 at 7 pm, Places Leisure, Eastleigh (upstairs)

Attendees

	Name	Club
Chair	Malcolm Price	Lordshill Road R
Vice chair	Sarah-Jayne Low	Fareham RC
Secretary	Sari Giering	Lordshill Road R
Treasurer	Ellis Meades-Woolley	City of Portsmouth AC
Website	Chris Jochem	Lordshill Road R
6	Dan Latham	Chandlers Ford Swifts
7	Michelle Pipet	Chandlers Ford Swifts
8	Fraser Cameron (phone)	City of Portsmouth AC
9	Steven Mitchell	City of Salisbury ARC
10	Peter Costley	County Team Manager
11	Justin Clarke	Farnham RC
12	Stephen Cawte	Gosport Road R
13	Josh Murray	Hamwic Harriers
14	Daniel Parker-Hales	Hardley Runners
15	Tracy Puttock	Hedge End RC
16	Trevor McAlister (online)	Ryde Harriers
17	Claire Lockyer	Netley Abbey Runners
18	Julian Smith	New Forest R
19	Janet Townsend	New Forest R
20	Tracey Middleton	Solent Running Sisters
21	Dot Kennard	Totton RC

16 clubs and the County Team Managers were represented.

Apologies

Helen McMahon (Overton), Jonathan Read (Alresford), Darren Cole (Vectis)

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MINUTES

1. Welcome & introductions

Quick introduction round the table.

2. Review of minutes and actions of last meeting

Club vests: Perceived improvement in wearing club kit, but still several runners still did not wear vests.

League history: Still in the process of writing the history of the League. Specifically looking for any details of the history (how did it form, how did it expand, etc). If you have any details, **please get in touch**.

EA support last meeting - Follow up: Would we be interested in inviting the safeguarding officer to the AGM? – General agreement, and MP will accept the offer.

3. Run directors' WhatsApp group

Suggestion to set up a WhatsApp group by Steven Mitchell, who's been (assistant) race director (RD) for years. He witnessed that several races struggled as RDs did not have sufficient support. It would be great to have a shared space for RDs, and he initiated a WhatsApp group, which has so far 17 members.

The goal is to encourage participation for RDs to share knowledge, feedback, tips, reflections.

If you are a RD or plan to be, this group could offer valuable support. **Please get in touch** if you wish to be added. RDs outside the League are welcome.

4. Feedback on races held since the last meeting, race reports and runners' comments

4.1. Hayling 10 (County champs)

No formal report. We received feedback that they received 100+ additional entries for being county champs.

4.2. Gosport HM

4.2.1. Official report

Race Statistics

Entries	2007 (first time sold out since COVID!)
Starters	1703
Finishers	1698
DNF (Known)	5
Disqualifications	19 (for headphones)
Medical Issues	1
Affiliated Females	278
Unaffiliated Females	482
Affiliated Males	479
Unaffiliated Males	768

Race Summary

The Gosport Half Marathon 2025 took place on 16th November. We couldn't have been more delighted that a full entry decided to join us for our 40th anniversary. That's the first-time post-covid that we closed the entry early. We aim for it not to be the last.

Obviously HRRL and member clubs helped with those numbers. We're very proud our race is on the fixture list, and we very much hope that continues.

The race was won by Jamee Domoney in a time of 1:08:41 (37 seconds slower than 2024). Lesley Locks was the leading lady in 1:22.48.

Melissa Barham was tail-end Charlie in 3:20.43.

Race HQ

We tweaked the layout of Race HQ based on 2024 learnings. It worked better but further adjustments will be made for 2026.

The number collection ran smoothly. It's the first time we've used the 'allocate your number when you collect' method and it was very well received judging by the feedback.

Fun Run

Over 300 took part across the two events which is another excellent result. Local schools have fully engaged with us in encouraging pupils to participate. They are becoming competitive in chasing the £500 awarded to the school with the highest participation. A reminder those funds must be spent on sport related items.

Local Support

Once again local groups supported providing manpower to help cover our requirements. That includes local clubs so thank you. Most groups will receive a donation from race profits which are presented at our charity evening later in the year.

Wash Up

Most of the feedback was very positive. That said there are some areas to focus in on to try to push up our ratings:

- Remove use of plastic water bottles or ensure fully recyclable.
- Improve parking provision.

- Alleviate congestion in first mile of the race.

Our Event Adjudicator was again pleased with how the day went. She and I were again frustrated by the number of runners choosing to ignore the rule regarding headphones. Interesting analysis from the results is that all the disqualifications were unaffiliated runners. This is regularly discussed at the RD webinars but, so far, there is no magic wand to fix.

Another interesting snippet from the stats is that there were almost double the number of unaffiliated entries to affiliated entries. I see that as an opportunity to convert some to club membership rather than a threat.

In Summary

Gosport Road Runners are delighted with the outcome of the 2025 race. I hope the HRRL saw it that way. The race date for 2026 is November 15th.

I look forward to sharing thoughts and information on the new WhatsApp group.

Best Wishes

Dave Little

Race Director, Gosport Half Marathon

4.2.2. Runners' feedback

Great and popular race. Good weather, cheerful marshals, race registration great and super quick and simple, warm up was awesome, good atmosphere including band, great goody bag snacks as always.

High number of unaffiliated runners: Could there be an incentive for unaffiliated runners to join a club? – It was discussed, but no clear action identified.

Parking: Several suggestions were made how to increase parking space availability, including a bigger gap between the fun run and the HM to allow families to leave and free space and more encouragement by clubs to car share.

Toilets / gent's urinals: If possible, please reposition to allow more privacy.

4.3. Victory 5

4.3.1. Official report

Sunday 7th Dec 2025

Entries	870
Finishers	706
First aid	1 (cut knee)

Profit: £10,847

New course for 2026 will be along the foreshore.

We also have a new sub-committee just for Victory.

4.3.2. Runner's feedback

Popular race. Great parking facilities, friendly marshals, great selection of snacks at the finish.

Lack of pre-race info on the website. Start time a bit late.

Bag drop space needed.

The medal design could do with a refresh as it has been the same design (just different shape) for the last +8years.

More toilets would be good or, at least, a better queuing system.

Runners generally looking forward to a change of the course next year.

4.4. Stubbington

Race was discussed briefly. We hope to see them return to the League race calendar next year.

5. Inter-counties teams

Not intending to send any teams as cannot get sufficient quality on the men's side to do it. Men's standard would be 1:50-1:55 (1:15/1:16 HM).

Brighton: First year with 2 men's teams. One drop-out before the day and one on the day, so we only filed an A team. Several very good times (PB, SB).

3rd place in mixed teams.

6. County champs (short and long) for 2026

We need nominations. Ideally a race organised by a League club, or one of the unsuccessful nominees for the race calendar.

7. Treasurer report

Overall the accounts are in good health with no concerns over being able to support funding requirements for the league, for the next financial year.

The accounts have not seen any significant earnings, with the exception of the savings account accruing interest.

The accounts have seen multiple moderate payments for payment of services such as Hayling 10 prizes and league trophies.

Teams are requested to investigate how many teams they'd like to enter into the 26-27 racing year. Any modification to the existing numbers need to be reported by the clubs as they will be billed accordingly.

Need decision by AGM – otherwise we will assume same as this season.

8. AGM (13th April) selection of races

The AGM will be on the on Mon 13th April at the Pavillion at the Park or Bowles Club – tbc.

In preparation of the AGM, where next year's race calendar will be decided, we will

1. ask for nomination for potential races (can be submitted by any runner):
submission deadline 18th Feb.
2. get confirmation from nominated races whether they want to be considered
3. circulate final ballot paper (one vote per League club):
submission deadline 31st Mar

Criteria for race nominations:

- Races must be organised by a member club, an EA affiliated club or other non-profit organization within Hampshire borders (or close by). Races organised by professional companies are not to be nominated.
- The race must hold an EA licence.
- Multi-terrain races may be considered provided they are suitable for runners to wear road shoes.
- Have a capacity of, ideally, 500+ runners

HRRL will need to check club/charity status of nominated races.

The distance thresholds (5 miles to half marathon) were briefly discussed. 5k was generally considered too short and potentially too congested (but could be an option for the County Champs). Long distance limited to HM to be inclusive.

9. AOB

9.1. Race details

Solent HM: 8th Mar 2026. Will not extend entry numbers; there is an official waiting list.

Alresford 10k: 21st Jun 2026. Entries will open on 15th Feb.

Lordshill 10k: 5th Jul 2026. Entries open now (with early bird rate).

Totton 10k: 30th Aug 2026. Opening and places tbc.

New Forest 10: 25th Oct 2026, 10am start. There will be a 2.5-h cutoff. Entries open 26th April 2026.

Gosport HM: 15th Nov 2026. Opening tbc.

9.2. Races selling out early

Proposal to open entries 7 days early to allow League clubs to enter, which would also promote early entry, which is good for race organisers.

Is there also a way to reserve places for League clubs? For example, sign-up codes per club? – All RDs to look into these options.

9.3. EA license check not always happening during race sign up

Some sign-up sites do not feature an UKA license check.

UKA provides an API that 3rd party signup sites to do the full UKA check. For example, Eventrac performs the full UKA registration check.

9.4. T-shirts & mugs

Sarah JL has offered to arrange this season's mugs. Ellis M-W will arrange the tshirts. Process starts in August, and we're aiming to distribute both to club representatives at the first race.

9.5. Missing 75-year age category

For RDs, please consider extending age categories for your race. This is not about trophies or prizes, but about competition.

Suggestion to put together list of recommendations for RDs of League races, including age categories in 5-year increments.

9.6. Course profiles

It would be great if RDs could share course profiles on their website.

9.7. England Athletics engagement

The EA representative confirmed that a wide range of resources is available and can be tailored as required. They requested information from the League to support engagement and encouraged ongoing contact. This was noted as a positive step forward in EA's engagement with road running.

10. Date of next meeting: AGM

Mon 13th April at 7pm at the Pavillion on the Park.