**Pensby Runners
Annual General Meeting**Friday 31st January 2025 7:00pm
Heswall Hall – Alexander Room

**Apologies:** Jeff Adams, Susan Maire, Gordon Scholefield, Gary Johnstone, Ian Jones, Dave Easthorpe, Jane Fraser, Victoria Jackson, Mike Evernett, Karen Scott

**Agenda:**

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| 1 | Minutes of 2024 AGM and Matters Arising | Rita Mistry |
| 2 | Chair’s Report | Nigel Crompton |
| 3 | Treasurer’s Report | David Green |
| 4 | Membership Report | Rob Chalmers |
| 5 | Cross Country Report | Rob Chalmers |
| 6 | Fell League Report | Neil Gooding |
| 7 | Seaside Runs Report | Nigel Crompton |
| 8 | Borders League Report | Rita Mistry |
| 9 | Road League Report | Mark Samuels  |
| 10 | Beginners Report | Jo Cook sent in report |
| 11 | Achiever Of The Year | Nigel Crompton |
| 12 | New Constitution | Rita Mistry |
| 13 | Survey Results | Neil Gooding |
| 14 | Club Kit | Nigel Crompton |
| 15 | Election of Officers | Rita Mistry |
| 16 | Motions From Members |  |
|  | Track Update  | Nigel Crompton |
|  | A Memorial For Roy Fisher | Andrew Morley  |
|  | Club to be For Over 18s Only | Susan Maire (Rita to read out) |

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| **1** | **Minutes of 2024 AGM and Matters Arising** | **Rita Mistry** |

(*This actually happened after the Chair’s report, but I’ve put it where it should have gone.)*

Two points brought up by previous minutes – nominations and role descriptions being published.

Hopefully the nominations process has been cleared up by the new constitution. And unfortunately, the role descriptions will have to be carried forward as they’re not complete.

Other than that, it was agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.

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| **2** | **Chair’s Report** | **Nigel Crompton** |

This is my fifth report as Chairman, and I am pleased to see a club that is thriving and continues to be a recognised and significant part of the local running community. We watch, as we so often have, other local clubs split up and re-form for various reasons. Since 1986 (39 years) this has never happened to Pensby Runners. We should be proud that we are and remain as we were formed by our founders Fred, Beryl, Jenny and Peter. Next year, 2026 sees our fortieth year as a club with all that that auspicious occasion will bring.

As far as the rest of the committee is concerned it continues to evolve. Dave Green changed his role from Vice Captain to Treasurer, a role in which he has flourished. Rita Mistry similarly changed her role to that of Secretary and keeps us firmly to task with Eddie Roche taking her place as an ordinary member on the committee this last year. Susan Maire was a newcomer to the committee coming in as our principal welfare officer. Susan has done a fantastic job not withstanding some unprecedented challenges. Neil Gooding also became a committee member in 2024 firstly as Vice-Captain taking over from David Green but then stepping into the breach in a newly vacated Captain’s role later in the year, a role that he has taken on with his typical vigour alongside other wider contributions.

Sadly, leaving the committee this year are Colin Lamprey as Club Captain where he did a fantastic job including facilitating our inclusion into the Borders League and managing the teams. Colin has had some injury issues this year and felt that he couldn’t continue to do the role justice as a non-running member. We all sincerely hope that he is only temporarily on the bench, and we are pleased to see that he will be returning to the committee in a different role. You can’t keep a good man down. Jeff Adams also has stepped down as Ordinary Member as his life has become busier and he feels that he is no longer able to commit. We would like to thank Jeff for his service over the last few years as well as Lisa Grantham who sadly stepped down as Vice Chair last year. Lisa brought a tremendous energy to the club especially in her organisation of road races and the Roy Fisher Challenge. And finally, Kate Richardson who served as our Vice Treasurer has decided to call it a day due to other commitments, but all will be pleased to hear that she will continue to badger our coaches and run leaders every week to provide sessions for our members and communicate those sessions to the wider club. Kate has done a fantastic job in this area, and we are pleased she will stay involved.

In terms of members, we continue to thrive as a club with new members appearing every week. We still have almost 200 members registered with us and that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. Certainly pre-pandemic. Rob Chalmers continues to do sterling work and will tell us more about the situation regarding members a little later.

Thanks to efforts of Jeff Adams, Joanne Cook and Terrie Maddock our Beginners section continues to grow with a new Couch to 5k group having graduated before Christmas. People taking up running for the first time is always great to see. For me, as always, the key thing is to ensure that they fully integrate into team Pensby and that there are pathways to facilitate this. We are, or should be, one club.

I won’t dwell on areas of competition as there are separate reports to be heard from the league organisers but suffice to say that Mark Samuels has done a sterling job in operating our road race league this year and chivvying people along to do races. Our road section has never looked so good.

Colin Lamprey has done a great job of getting the Borders League off the ground and rallying the troops. Earlier in 2024 we hosted our own Borders League race at Thurstaston which went down extremely well. Our Ladies team especially have done us proud in rising in the divisions. During 2025 it was great to see new Captain Neil Gooding and Club Secretary Rita Mistry rise to the mantle in the organisation of team entries.

In terms of cross-country Rob Chalmers continues to enthuse and corral large numbers of members attending the cross-country races. Rob’s leadership and enthusiasm is a testament to the Pensby spirit.

Similarly in the fells, Neil Gooding continues to encourage people to have a go at fell running and once more Pensby is a main player on the North Wales fellrunning scene even winning the Petzl Cup at the Clwydian Hills once again race again this year for the 4th time in the history of the cup and second consecutive year. This year, beginner sessions and navigation courses were introduced with further plans for more of these in 2025.

After a few years at the Little Fox, we decided to ring the changes, and this year held our Christmas party in Heswall Hall with about 70 attendees. Ian ‘Ant’ Shorrock and Dave ‘Dec’ Green repeated their efforts to determine the winner of the London Marathon place with a game which mainly involved comparing the length of competitors carrots. Only one place this year and that went to the member who displayed the finest carrot on the night (you had to be there) – Rupert Millard. We wish him luck in the forthcoming race. One aspect of feedback we received was that we gave far too little notice for the event and people had organised other things. But the venue choice was popular, and we have already booked it for this year. No excuses. Get the date in your diaries.

In 2025 we undertook a survey of members asking what they wanted from the club. This was efficiently drawn up, administered and collated by Neil Gooding. The highlights of that survey that, generally, there was a high satisfaction with the club and that we were mainly a club of older, proficient runners but that perhaps we needed to encourage more younger, or less experienced runners.

The top reasons for membership were said to be socialising and getting that motivation that being part of a team and community of likeminded individuals brings. People also spoke of improving their running and we recognise there is lots we can do here.

It highlighted that it is worth promoting the club more and improving comms within the club.

Some actions we have started to work on and others we will continue to do so but the key point is that we are a club for our members, and we always appreciate constructive feedback as to what we could do better.

So, that’s almost all from me. This is a great club. I am proud to be its Chair. Whether we run on roads, the fells, cross country or multi terrain or all the above. Whether we run at the back, at the front we are all runners and hopefully we are a club for all people.

Nigel

Club Chair

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| **3** | **Treasurer’s Report** | **David Green** |



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| **4** | **Membership Report** | **Rob Chalmers** |

We currently have 192 Paid-Up Members, 10 of whom are second claim. Overall membership numbers are the same as last year, we get approx. 40 new members a year and that’s the same amount who don’t renew their membership for various reasons.

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| **A pie chart with a number of people  AI-generated content may be incorrect.** |

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|  | **Count** | **Percent** |
| **Female** | 86 | 43% |
| **Male** | 111 | 57% |

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| **5** | **Cross Country Report** | **Rob Chalmers** |

The 2024 season finished last March with Wendy Lee winning the Pensby Women’s shield by a handsome margin. On the Men’s side, second claim member Ollie Chadwick not only picked up the Pensby trophy but also won the overall NW league prize, winning 4 of the 5 races overall in his Pensby vest - a first for us as a club to have such success.

We’re currently close to the end of the 2025 season, which started in September with the rescheduled National champs at Telford. Claudia’s dedication to XC means she has an unassailable lead in this year’s Pensby comp whilst it’s a battle between Ralph and John Hunt in the Men’s with one race remaining. If you fancy giving it a go, join us in Croxteth Park Sunday 9th Feb, it’s just under 5 miles off-road, mainly grass with muddy patches. They’re all free to enter.

There is also a meal planned for the end of February, a chance to socialise in a warmer environment and present the trophies.

Our Pensby hosted Arrowe Park race in December was once again a huge success, thanks to Gordon for organising the race and to all the volunteers we had out marshalling. I must also thank Nigel Pratten for his continued support, turning up at all the races to cheer us on and manning the clipboard. He even managed to put in an appearance; running with us at Clarke Gardens this year.

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| **6** | **Fell League Report** | **Neil Gooding** |

2024 was a good year for fell and trail. We’ve a thriving community where we welcome and support newer fell runners whilst providing a challenge for those who seek it. If you live in this part of England and want to go fell running, Pensby is the club to join.

**Winter League**, in numbers for brevity:

* 24 runners took part across 10 races
* 76 miles of racing with 20,000 ft ascent
* All 4 seasons of weather experienced, but mainly cold, wet and windy!
* Many pints of ale consumed (strictly for rehydratation, of course)
* 1 Fellrunner article – Alex Royden’s outstanding write up from the Penmaenmawr race was a great advert for running, and gave the club national exposure
* 1 mountain rescue incident to pick up a misplaced runner. Donated £100 to Aberdyfi MRT in thanks
* ***Winners: Alex Royden and Neil Gooding***

**Summer League**

* 35 runners competed across 13 races
* 89 miles of racing with 27,000 ft ascent… almost as high as Everest!
* 5 midweek local races, great for newer fell runners. A 6th fixture, Nant Gain, has been added for 2025
* 5 trips to Snowdonia
* ***Winners: Wendy Lee and Mark Samuels***

**Other**

* 4 of us made the trip to the Lakes for Joss Naylor’s funeral, running across the fells to Wasdale Head to join hundreds of other runners in the guard of honour.
* Developed a navigation training course which we intend to offer regularly
* Regular introductory and social runs
* Just for fun events, like The Horse and Dash in the Dark
* Congratulations to everyone who challenged themselves in endurance events in 2024, including the Tour de Helvelyn (Ian, Shorrock, David Green & Peter Hampshire), Firelighter Ultra and Mozart 100 (David and Ian), Snowdonia Sea2Sky (Katie Brown), Race to the Stones (Rita Mistry), 3 Peaks (Will Platts) and many others; please let us know if you completed any trail challenges in 2025 and we’ll add it for the record.

**Outlook**

* Winter league going really well – 24 participants already, retained Petzl Trophy
* Trail weekend at the Grasmere Gallop, 31st May
* Incredible 24 signed up for Cader Idris, 17th May
* 7 signed up for the Yorkshire 3 Peaks race, 26th April

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| **7** | **Seaside Runs Report** | **Nigel Crompton** |

If people didn’t know who Pensby Runners were already they know us from the Seaside Races. These races have been on the Wirral running landscape for over 40 years initiated by Joe Pringle and his wife but then by our former Chair Roy Fisher since 1990 who organised them for 22 years until they were taken over by the club in 2012. The Seaside races bring in revenue to the club enabling us to keep costs to members down and make significant donations to charity each year or purchase vital equipment for the club. In the last year (The 2024 AGM) we decided to use some of these funds to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator for the club for use, heaven forbid that it is needed, a club events and races. We also contributed £500 to The Friends of Leasowe Lighthouse who have accommodated us for the registration this year and whose members have provided us with some magnificent drone footage of the race.

This year, as with many other races on the calendar, we saw a return to pre-pandemic levels of entry. Aside from the outlier month of May 2019 when we had 508 entries (an all-time record) every month in 2024 exceeded the numbers achieved in 2019 with almost 2,000 individual entries over the 6 races.

No course records were broken in 2024 and the first overall fastest man over the series was Jure Casebek from Penny Lane Striders with a fastest time of 17:03 and the fastest lady was Isla Pastor of Warriors Pentathlon and Athletics Club with a fastest time of 17:38. Worthy of mention from Pensby Runners are Ian Chalmers who was 3rd fastest male V70 and Second Claim to Pensby (First claim Wirral AC) Nick Wilson who was 3rd fastest Male V50.

The Seaside races would be nothing were it not for our volunteers and thanks this year go to (in no particular order): Richard, Tony and Andrew Green – the Green family, Ruth Roxburgh, Rita Mistry (the Volunteer Manager), Stella and Pete Elliott, Caroline Newton, Jayne Price, Jim Fedigan, Pat Peers, Joanne Cook and Kate Richardson.

We anticipate another bumper year for seaside races in 2025. A bastion of the Wirral Running scene.

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| **8** | **Borders League Report** | **Rita Mistry** |

It seems like just yesterday that Colin’s efforts finally got Pensby into the Borders League, yet we are already in our third season of competition.

In the 23/24 season, we had a terrific overall turnout with forty-two men, and twenty-four women taking part in the races. Our men remained in the mix of Division Two, but our women put on a terrific show to gain promotion to Division One with a second-place finish overall.

That was the season that also saw Pensby host one of the races for the first time. Colin had created a great route that, in the words of the Borders League report, contained ‘*the most challenging hill climb seen in the League for quite some time’*. It was really well marshalled and over 400 runners took part and seemed to enjoy themselves immensely, especially on that final downhill.

**Some stats:**

Sarah Smith and Francesca Byron finished just inside the top ten for the women overall, with Evie knocking at the door. But there were lots of great performances within the age groups.

Sarah Smith 1st Women’s U20

Evie Smith 2nd Women’s U20

Francesca Byron 6th Senior Women’s

Kate Richardson 9th Women’s V40

Rita Mistry 10th Women’s V50

Julie Dala 3rd Women’s V55

Colin Lamprey 10th Men’s V60

Cath Lancaster 5th Women’s V60

Sue Schofield 6th Women’s V60

Ian Chalmers 3rd Men’s V75

Intra Club Winners: Women: Francesca Byron

 Men: Liam Woolley

When Colin needed to step down for this season, a team of us got together to keep things going. With myself, there were Rob C, Neil, Eddie, and Kev. Between us, we’ve pulled together full teams (although it was a close call with this last race), we’ve managed the barcode information and drawn up the occasional lovely spreadsheets (thanks Kev). It’s been interesting to me just how much work is sometimes involved in the organising of these teams, and impressive that Colin did it all by himself the last two years.

We’ve had three races this season so far as Anglesey was re-arranged. The last one at Connah’s Quay was touch and go for a while with some concerning icy patches but it was eventually a go, and an enjoyable run was had in the final race with our old club vests. It was also touch and go as to whether we would have enough women running as our promotion has meant that we now need at least six runners to go towards the overall count. We just scraped by this time.

Here's hoping that there are lots of Pensby women, and men, sporting the new vests at Anglesey on the 23rd of February.

*(Intra Club trophies awarded)*

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| **9** | **Road League Report** | **Mark Samuels**  |

Having been in charge of the Road Race League for the past year my main aim was to get more people involved. I was becoming a little fed up going to previous Road Races by myself!

As a keen runner I looked at what I would like to see in a RRL and addressed these issues. Firstly, I thought about tweaking the races to appeal to a wider audience. I did this by introducing any marathon, brought in some flexibility such as the fastest seaside run and included a parkrun which has a wide appeal to many runners.

In order to reward ability, instead of quantity, I brought in the top 8 scores out of 15 races. This also allows runners who ran more than the minimum requirement to improve their scores.

Finally, I aimed to post results as quickly as possible and produce spreadsheets that are easy on the eye to follow.

Last year we had 105 different runners engage in the League although a sizeable number only ran 1 or 2 races. Hopefully, we will see more runners become involved in the coming months.

The well-deserved winner of the Ladies League was Francesca Byron who has been amazing. She managed 7 first positions and a second to take the title. She achieved several PB’s and finished in many of the races as one of the highest female runners.

For the men, the League was a much closer affair with several contenders in contention for the trophy. Ultimately, Liam Woolley came up trumps. He managed several first positions and also achieved some PBs.

*(Trophies awarded)*

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| **10** | **Beginners Report** | **Rita Mistry** |

The new students for the club autumn Couch to 5K class began training in October, and in December, Nicola, Tania, Kate and Victoria completed their course after 11 weeks of dedicated training. They were trained and encouraged along the way by Jeff, Terrie and Jo. I went out with one of their later evening sessions, and I was really impressed with how their stamina had developed. Since then, they’ve been consolidating their training, and I’ve seen at least two of them on club nights, and they’ve progressed well to getting to at least ten kilometres. If you see them at the club or at parkrun/races, please say hi.

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| **11** | **Achiever Of The Year** | **Nigel Crompton** |

**Ben Darby – Male Achiever of the Year**

The achiever of the year award within the club is an award voted on by the committee for the person that they feel has accomplished the most in their running in the previous year.

This year’s Achiever of the year goes to somebody who, quite frankly, it is surprising has not won before. A long-time member of the club, this is somebody that everybody who is a runner on Wirral seems to know.

Achiever really sums up this runner not only because, first and foremost he is an excellent athlete who trains hard, enters lots of races, does remarkably well but always has a smile on his face. No, it’s not me.

He is also an achiever because of what he has to overcome. In 2024 alone he lost much of the first 2 months of the year to debilitating headaches and related problems, culminating in his having a Subtemporal Decompression in hospital, which has eased many of his headache problems. This is after years of issues and a multitude of hospital stays over the years.

In 2024 on Gordons Chart, he ran 2068.1 miles which equates to a fraction under 40 miles a week on average and the only person on that target pathway to beat 2024 miles. He has signed up again for 2025 miles in 2025. He achieved this despite 2 operations and losing around 6 weeks to headaches and related problems.

He is nothing but indomitable. In fact, he defines the term. After the aforementioned Subtemporal Decompression operation (*we are talking surgery where they remove part of the temporal bone in the skull*) he ran 2.18.56 in the Liverpool Half Marathon just a mere 8 days later.

In the Tour of Merseyside (a seven-day running event), he finished 45th in a time of 7.13.04.

As a blind runner Ben generally needs a guide runner to run alongside him. If he can find someone fast enough. I had the opportunity to guide Ben myself on a fell race in North Wales a few years ago. Some of you think fell running is at the extreme end of our sport – but doing it blind?

Incredibly, though, he does not always take a guide along. He achieved a best of 20.41 in the Wirral Seaside races this last year, running unguided. He ran 41.34 in the UTS Foundation Hoylake 10k finishing 21st of 221, the top 10%, also unguided. Then ran The Oulton Park marathon again unguided in November finishing in 3h.35m.07 and placing 23rd of 118.

Your Male Achiever of the year 2024, Ben Darby.

**Julie Dala –Female Achiever of the Year**

*(Julie’s prize was presented on the Tuesday after the AGM)*

This runner has been a consistently good athlete and triathlete for many years and Pensby Runners are proud to call her one of their own.

In 2024 alone:

* She was an age Cat winner in the Llangollen 17 miler trail race
* Category runner up in the Borders League series of races and a consistently high achiever for the ladies’ team
* Category runner up in the Clywdian Hills Fell Race - contributing to Pensby Runners lifting the team prize again in 2024
* Also, 1st in her category at Thurstaston Multi Terrain race in May.

But it is the longer distance of Half marathon that she has shown her mettle. She started the year running 101.34 for the 4 Villages Half Marathon in January (5th in her category) but then wearing the England masters vest representing her country for the 1/2 marathon distance achieved 96.05 in the AJ Bell Half Marathon in May (4th in her category) taking her to a ranking of 57th in her age category in the country.

Your Female Achiever of the Year 2024, Julie Dala

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| **12** | **New Constitution** | **Rita Mistry** |

After the problem of late nominations in last year’s meeting, it was decided to take a fresh look at the club Constitution. Instead of building from our original document, we took the England Athletics template, which is a comprehensive rule book for good club practice. A sub-group was formed to read and revise this document so that it was all relevant to the club. I have sent out the copy of the new constitution to all and hope you have all read and digested it. Ian Chalmers had one question with regards to the number of the signatories for the club bank. David Green reassured him that this would be enough as no cheques are ever issued now, and most of the movement of money can be done online and from anywhere.

The Constitution was then ratified.

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| **13** | **Survey Results** | **Neil Gooding** |

In the summer we carried out a membership survey, which has been a great help with setting our future priorities. Many thanks to everyone who contributed; 76 responses is excellent for the size of club.

Overall, respondents reported a very high level of satisfaction and engagement with the club, which is clearly greatly valued by its members. Our primary demographic is older, proficient runners; there may therefore be an opportunity to broaden the appeal of the club to less experienced or young runners, who were less represented in the survey responses.

The top reasons people gave for being members of the club are: to socialise with other runners; for motivation; and to be part of a team or community. Satisfaction is very high against these. Also important however was “to improve my running”, which had a slightly lower satisfaction level. Top three activities people do / would value were hill / interval training, strength and conditioning, and >10k faster runs. It’s worth noting that all of the club’s activities are valued by members; some, such as Sunday social run, could be better promoted. One limiting factor to what we can offer is availability of run leaders and coaches; we’d encourage anybody who’s interested to consider that pathway.

Other points raised are that members are willing to volunteer to help with events, and are mostly happy with squash club facilities

As for next steps, here’s some of what the committee are focussing on:

* Improve my running:
	+ Restart track nights and prioritise weekly hill or interval sessions
	+ Recruit more run leaders - so far 4 members will be gaining their LiRF qualification this year
	+ Figure out a response to demand for strength and conditioning
* Attract younger / less experienced runners:
	+ Review the club’s offering for less experienced runners, beyond couch to 5k
	+ Actively promote the club more, especially via social media
	+ Improve new members greeting
* Other:
	+ Improve comms - further bulletins to follow this one

We will share updates as the year progresses via committee minutes and comms bulletins.

Nigel added that Track Nights would go forward with an external coach for the time being, until we get more internal qualified coaches trained up.

Rob Chalmers also thanked Neil Gooding for producing and collating the results of the survey. Getting useful feedback from the club really helps the committee on how best to steer the club.

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| **14** | **Club Kit** | **Nigel Crompton** |

Dave Longford has designed the new logo, which is more personal to the club, and put the Pensby Runners name in a clean, modern font (no more Comic Sans!). The three hills in the background, represent the Roy Fisher challenge. Trail Running, Road Running and Fell Running are all represented in the terrain of the foreground.

The new vest is twenty pounds but if you pass in your old vest, at least until the end of February, the club will give you twenty-five percent off, making it fifteen pounds. We are keen to see all our Pensby racers in the new vest, and we want to make sure the old vest is then recycled ethically.

The vest design has been passed to the company Soar, so if people wish to buy from there, they will need to purchase at least twenty vests at a time for a group of men and fifteen vests for a group of women, and this will not be handled by the club. They are about eighty pounds per vest.

Now that the logo and the vests are up and running, the committee will progress with sourcing the additional clothing items such as hats and hoodies that people have been requesting.

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| **15** | **Election of Officers** | **Rita Mistry** |

For the Incumbent Committee members below, Colin Lamprey was the proposer, and Kate Richardson seconded the proposal:

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| **Chair** | Nigel Crompton |
| **Secretary** | Rita Mistry |
| **Treasurer** | David Green |
| **Membership Secretary** | Rob Chalmers |
| **Welfare Officer** | Susan Maire |
| **Captain** | Neil Gooding |
| **Ordinary Member** | Eddie Roche |

The following committee members stood down:

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| **Vice Treasurer** | Kate Richardson |
| **Ordinary Member** | Jeff Adams |

We welcome to the committee the new members below:

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| **Position** | **Name** | **Proposed**  | **Seconded** |
| **Vice Chair** | Colin Lamprey | Ian Chalmers | John Nolan |
| **Ordinary Member** | Elizabeth (Ruth) Roxburgh | Kate Richardson | Colin Lamprey |

On top of the positions filled, we would still welcome people to come forward because we have a deficit of skills – namely communications and social.

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| **16** | **Motions From Members** |  |
|  | **Track Update**  | **Mike Green/Nigel Crompton** |
|  | **A Memorial For Roy Fisher** | **Andrew Morley**  |
|  | **Club to be For Over 18s Only** | **Susan Maire (Rita to read out)** |

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|  | **Track Update**  | **Nigel Crompton** |

Mike Green sends his apologies for being unable to attend the AGM tonight as he is away on a family break. He has furnished me with this update:

**Progress to Date**

* We have tabled two 'draft' options for a 200m synthetic running track with 60m sprint Lane and have calculated estimated forecasted costs
* The squash club have seen these approvals and are in support of our plans
* The Squash Club have submitted a planning application for the paddle courts and await the outcome. Although this does not directly affect our track it will give an indication of whether we have a chance of a successful application without the cost and time of submitting an application to be declined.
* Nigel is reaching out to Andrew Hodson (Heswall Councillor and representative in the planning committee member) to gauge his support for the scheme in advance of any planning submittal and approach to WMBC over use of the land.

**Design and Costs**

Many thanks to Trevor Fisher for assisting with the production of the drawings and cost advice.

Trevor’s day job within estates at Chester University has proved a very helpful source of information with previous projects completed

 **Design**

 The design has been drawn as a 200m 4 lane track with sprint lane for the following reasons

* Costs are based on a m2 rate, so we have balanced affordability against usage
* It fits neatly on the piece of land in front of the club and a foot path has been incorporated.
* The location will allow it to be used for Pensby Runners to meet and warm up on at club nights which is safer than currently meeting on the car park
* A 200m track will allow it to be used by the local schools and community free of charge
* We did consider other options such as a longer footpath around the field, but this was ruled out due to cost and issues surrounding light in winter months.
* The existing lighting from the squash club provides a surprising amount of light across the field and whilst not up to floodlight standard, certainly provides background lighting.

**Costs**

 Using the England Athletics Portal as a guide:

* A 200m, 2-Lane Mini Track synthetic surface loop - 2 lanes is £13,681, plus extra 2 lane 60m sprint = £17,634
* A 200m, 4 lane Mini Track = £28,372, plus 2 lane 60m sprint = £32,325.

 **What are the next Steps?**

1. Approval from the committee to continue with the investigation
2. Commence with the forming of a fundraising team and a project delivery team from within the club initially
3. Fund Raising Committee - Produce a feasibility exercise of how the funds would be raised and how long it would take.
4. Project delivery team - Put together firm costs for planning application and seek approval from the council on support before any application is made. Produce a project delivery timetable.

**Points raised from the floor:**

* Will require fencing and security so need to include that into the costs.
* Drainage requirements need to be looked at given that there is the pond -
* A two-hundred metre outdoor track, whether banked or not, is very hard to race on because of the bends, so it should not be used as an official racing venue – *Nigel replied that it would only be used for training and warming up.*
* Is this the only space explored to build a track?
* Is this the optimum size of track for the space allowed here, - for example why not go for a three-hundred metre track to reduce the bends?
* If the plans are realised and it is feasible to make it available to all, it would add to our social value as a community-minded club.
* The benefits to the local community could be significant given the lack of similar facilities in West Wirral.

Going forward, an in-club team will be gathered to make initial feasibility

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|  | **A Memorial For Roy Fisher** | **Andrew Morley (was not there but it was discussed)**  |

Andrew Morley suggested a memorial plaque for Roy Fisher – either at the club, or on a bench.

**Suggestions made were:**

* In the Foyer of the Squash Club – having a board on the wall holding our club vest, and possibly having a plaque for Roy with it – it could also be a bulletin board for our activities?
* If the Track goes ahead, then having a bench there.
* Having a bench at the end of the Roy Fisher Challenge route.
* Doing something on a mountain.
* A slightly off-tac suggestion was to have club training tops and a merch shop – and a Parkrun takeover, ideally just before the Seaside Runs.

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|  | **Club to be For Over 18s Only** | **Susan Maire (Rita to read out)** |

Given that Fletcher, our youngest current member was about to turn eighteen, a couple of days after the AGM date, Susan Maire proposed a motion to make the club only take members who are eighteen and above after that point.

The reasons were that

* for the Welfare Officer, the extra training for younger members doubles up what needs to occur for just adults.
* The actual welfare the officer might be providing is more complicated for younger members.
* Our club does not instigate any specific training for younger members, and nor can it, at the moment, given our lack of coaches.

**Issues Raised:**

* Young people need places to go – it’s a vulnerable time, so it feels hard to block young people from coming.
* We should not be excluding them just because we can’t complete some bureaucracy.
* But, we don’t currently have that coaching infrastructure to be able to look after them. It may be a better way to protect the club, given that that capacity isn’t there currently.
* If we say we are over eighteen only, Colin suggests we should stipulate then when younger people come, they come with an official parent not just an adult relation/friend (this needs to be looked at to see how stringent this needs to be).
* The paperwork is important but not the only reason. Having the capacity to offer the Welfare to children as well as adults if something should arise, is an important consideration.
* As the club needs to make a decision on this point before March, in order to adhere to the new Welfare rules they have in place, we need to choose now.

Vote carried that it should now be a club for over eighteens.

**John Nolan – After-word**

When Lucy and I were finishing the Four Villages Half Marathon, we passed a pair of marshals, and we got a chant from them of ‘*Come On Pensby’*. One marshal turned to the other saying, there were so many Pensbies here (because we had about 41 run the race). She also said that ‘*they are such a friendly club’*. And that made me feel really proud, to be known as ‘such a friendly club’.