

27 July 2026 (In person) 7.15 pm

In attendance:

Dan Green, Nikkii Barnett, Paul Williams, Andrea Macqueen (minutes), Christine Inch (Chair), Paul Filler, Hayley Barron, Darren Cordes, Bob Glasgow, Paul Goodhew.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Karen West, Sarah Mills, Laura Graham-Clare and Tim Wright.

2. Minute of previous meetings

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 18 May were approved.

3. Action Points

Outstanding actions from previous meetings were complete, carried forward, or discussed elsewhere on the agenda. Comments to note here:

- No summer social event
- No further comments received on Diversity and Inclusion document
- 40th anniversary celebration for Orion women – no convenient date found
- Dan had done an analysis of Spond access which needs further review. Laura had sent an update suggesting the incorporation of an approach to WhatsApp access and group membership into the overall social media policy. Spond should be covered too.

4. Y/e accounts, new signatory and finance update

Paul G advised that Mark Roberts had completed the 2024-2025 accounts and was now in discussion with the auditor (Andy Lunn). Audit completion was expected imminently.

Once audit of the 2024-2025 accounts is complete Mark will collate accounts for the 2025-2026 year, ready for audit. Audit completion for both sets of accounts is planned in good time for sign off by the committee and presentation at the AGM in October and all parties are aware of the deadlines involved.

The addition of Louise Juby as an additional bank signatory is ongoing.

Paul G took the committee through material bank transactions over the last 2 months.

Paul W stated that £1200 was due to be claimed from the MWL.

Paul G provided details of the current bank balance..

5. Membership update

Dan provided an update on latest membership figures. There are 470 paying members, 362 of whom are first claim. There has been an overall increase of 7 members since the last meeting

Dan highlighted the continuing trend showing a large majority of members do not volunteer to marshal.

6. AGM preparation

Constitution. In principle, the committee agreed that a new, more streamlined and user-friendly constitution should be put forward for members to adopt at the AGM. It was stressed there was no intention for the Club to operate in a materially different way.

Andrea has circulated a first draft to the sub committee appointed at the last meeting and a detailed further review will be undertaken by relevant committee members on Monday 03 August at 18.00 in the Queen Elizabeth.

All committee members will see, and have an opportunity to comment on, the finalised proposal prior to its circulation to members.

Committee members. Committee members were asked to let Andrea/Christine know if they intend to stand for re-election. Any other members who wish to join the committee are encouraged put themselves forward by email to secretary@orionharriers.com by 02 September.

AGM timing. The planned AGM date of 03 October may cause difficulties due to a potential clash with the first Essex League race of the season.

7. Policy Review

Christine has collated a list of policies. This includes past and suggested future review dates and suggestions regarding who should be responsible for each. Additional documents are likely to be required for Membership and Subscriptions, Training, and Competitions and Trophies.

Christine will circulate review proposals for discussion.

8. Awards/Prizes

Nikkii and Karen are working on a review of current awards and trophies which will come to the committee shortly

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next awards event would not be linked to the Christmas party. Alternative options were mentioned but no conclusion reached.

For the 5k on the rides it was felt that series prizes would have wait until awards night. Christine will speak to Helen regarding the best approach Junior 5k on the rides winners.

9. Safety of marshals

Paul W confirmed that an attack on a marshal, whilst cycling in the forest to their position for the Club's midweek league race, had been reported to the police. Ideally, marshals would be in pairs. This was especially important at road crossing points. A note with emergency contact numbers would be sent to marshals prior to each race.

10. Future races

There was a wide-ranging discussion on the nature of the club. Whilst the Orion 15 and the Mercury are and will remain key fixtures, a large majority of members did not run cross country and preferred road races and Park Run. Engaging this cohort more generally is not always easy. For instance, participation in the Essex League can mean that a whole Saturday is effectively taken. This is not always practical for members e.g. those with children.

Nikkii and Bob will emphasise getting runners out for Chingford League fixtures for the coming season – this will be the priority series. Chingford League, Essex League, Mob matches, the Mercury and Southernns will all be included in the Winter GP.

Essex relays – A licence application has been submitted by Paul W and there had been no objections in principle although final feedback is awaited. We intend to proceed on the plains side of the road.

Mercury – It was decided that the Mercury would not be a handicap race. Few were aware of this aspect in any case. It was decided that there would be only one handicap race each year (summer). (8 in favour, 2 abstentions). The 7.5-mile race will not be a handicap.

Ron Stone Cup – The cup was in the clubhouse and had been intended for any junior winning a GB vest. Christine has spoken to Helen and the junior committee will change the criteria so this a more obtainable award – perhaps encompassing volunteering in addition to pure athletic achievement.

11. Transport to away mob matches

The cost of coach hire to away matches is disproportionately high. A vote was taken that no coach transport will be provided in future. Once winter season Mob dates are finalised, alternatives such as public transport, car share etc will be considered.

16. AOB

- Dan raised the necessity for an extreme weather policy – to include heat/humidity, notice periods for cancellation etc. Paul W was aware of a Canadian policy from which we could get ideas. This would consider the Juniors too.
- Darren is helping with the Juniors and considering a coaching course. He could act as liaison with the Juniors.
- Business cards to hand when people enquire about club membership would be a positive addition.
- The impact on club-place numbers and water stations assistance of the extended 2-day London Marathon is not yet known.
- Dan reported that 239 people were signed up for the Forest 5, currently. Hayley R is arranging cake provision.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 07 September 2026 at 7:15pm at the Queen Elizabeth.

Action points

Loading historic Mob Match results onto the website. Ongoing.	c/f Paul F
Speak to COL re lease (hiring clubhouse) and race fee levels. Ongoing when the chance arises	c/f Tim - ongoing
Accounts to 30 June 2025 now finalised and with auditor	c/f Paul G & Mark R – with auditor
Accounts to 30 June 2026 to be completed and audited in time for sign off by committee and presentation to October AGM	Paul G & Mark R
Add Louise Juby as signatory for bank account	Paul G - ongoing
Alternative banking arrangements to facilitate the production of account for future audits to be considered once last year's & current years accounts finalised	c/f Paul G & Mark R
£1200 to be claimed from MWL	Paul G
Criteria/structure for WhatsApp groups – respond to Laura. Laura then to action,	Spond access review by Dan to be added to Laura's review
Risk assessment for night forest runs to be finalised, signed off and circulated to leaders – remind leaders to fill in accident report form properly. RA to be added to website	To be further reviewed and reissued to leaders prior to hour change.- Andrea
Further discussion of revised Constitution latest draft on 03 Aug at 18:00 in the Queen's Head.	Andrea
Committee members to advise Andrea/Christine if they wish to stand for re-election at the AGM	All
AGM date to be reviewed due to EL fixture clash on 03 Oct	Christine/Bob/Andrea
Policy list and proposed responsibility list to be circulated for discussion	Christine - done
Awards list – review and propose any changes needed	Nikkii, Karen W c/f

Speak to Helen re Junior 5k on the rides awards	Christine- DONE
Liaise with Danny F to update honours board	Nikkii and Bob G - c/f
Liaise with Hattie/Jamie G re website – see points above	Sarah c/f
Speak to Helen re criteria for Ron Stone Cup	Christine - DONE
Research software for newsletter	Laura c/f
Identify somebody to do next newsletter – due in Oct straight after AGM	TBC
Celebrate those who marshalled – next newsletter	TBC
Extreme weather policy	TBC