

## CHAC Senior Endurance Committee

### Draft Minutes of Meeting Dated Tuesday 24 February 2026, held at Sports Pavilion, Abbey Fields, Colchester

In Attendance:

Paul Dellar (Chair)	(PD)
Dan Steptoe-Thompson	(DST)
Joe Noack	(JN)
Fran Norris	(FN)
Heidi Hogan-Steele	(HHS)
Richard Pickering	(RP)
Roanna Vickers	(RV)

Apologies:

Louise Yates	(LY)
Nicola Hilson	(NH)

	The meeting started at 8:10pm, a quorum (at least 4) being present.	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b>	
	<p>These had been circulated and were approved by The Committee. Matters arising had all been actioned aside from the below (to be dealt with under AW5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RP had however advised that he was willing to be Race Director for one more year – but that he would be keen to get some assistance. James Plant had already volunteered, and RP would advertise for further helpers.</li> </ul>	<b>RP</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>2025 Awards Evening Feedback</b>	
	<p>The Awards evening was generally thought to have gone well.</p> <p>The room felt a bit empty when most of the juniors (plus parents) left after their awards – it was felt that leaving the buffet until after all awards had been presented may help ensure attendees stayed for the whole event (may mean speeding the awards up a bit...).</p> <p>Several of the Senior award winners did not attend. Whilst recognising that it was not always possible to encourage award winners to attend without giving the game away they had won an award, consideration would be given next year to a suggestion by JN to release a list of nominees in advance. This would have the added benefit of recognising the achievements of a wider group of athletes.</p> <p>PD to feed above back to main committee (plus whoever organises Senior Endurance Awards next year).</p>	<b>PD</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>XC Season</b>	
	DST and HHS provided a summary of the season, which had finished on the previous Sunday. The club had won both men and women's county relays, were fifth and third respectively in Essex Champs race at Gloucester Park, and both teams finished third in the top division of the Essex XC League. Harriers also won the NESS League. Overall it was agreed that it was a successful season given the lack of availability of several key athletes.	
	Further, the Essex XC League fixture the club co-hosted (with CATS) at Hilly Fields on Saturday 10 January went off very well, with some excellent feedback from the attendees and good support from club members marshalling.	
	PD thanked DST and HHS for their considerable efforts throughout the XC season.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Road Season</b>	
	HHS and DST advised that preparations were underway in terms of encouraging attendance at the key road race events – primarily Essex Champs and Road Relays – with the season kicking off on Sunday 15 March with the Essex 20 at Debden Airfield as both men's and women's teams look to defend the Grand Prix titles they won the previous year.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Men's / Women's WhatsApp Groups</b>	
	<p>DST and HHS explained their proposal to merge the men's and women's WhatsApp groups into one community with the following suggested sub-groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcements (compulsory)</li> <li>• Men only</li> <li>• Women only</li> <li>• Road</li> <li>• XC</li> <li>• Track</li> <li>• Kit and trainers</li> <li>• Ultras</li> <li>• Long runs</li> <li>• Chat and banter</li> </ul> <p>All groups to be voluntary except for Announcements, where key messages on road/XC events would be posted by admins (primarily team captains with non-admins only able to respond to existing messages).</p> <p>DST and HHS advised that this would make things a lot easier for them.</p> <p>The Committee approved the suggestion, with HHS and DST to make the necessary communications and arrangements.</p>	<b>DST/HHS</b>

<b>6</b>	<b>AW 5 Update</b>	
	<p>RP advised that The Army had denied permission for the race to be held at the track and thus he (via Dave Smith) was instead requesting permission to use Abbey Fields. Without this it was difficult to see how the race could proceed. RP was chasing a response.</p> <p>RP had been liaising with the Essex AA and was proposing that the race, if it does go ahead, should be the Essex 5 Mile Champs. He confirmed that this would incur no additional cost for the race and/or the club. It was proposed to increase entries to 450 (aiming for 400 on the day bearing in mind no shows, last year the limit was 300), and he was confident the extra numbers could be accommodated.</p> <p>RP agreed to check whether the Essex AA would require early-bird entry and also confirm there were no other implications for the race being an Essex Champs.</p> <p>RP confirmed he was intending to submit to the main committee for approval to proceed shortly (next Main Committee due to be held on Wednesday 4 March, otherwise via WhatsApp) – with PD’s assistance with the budget/numbers.</p> <p>James Plant had agreed to assist with race organisation / project management and thus should be sufficient in terms of race planning (though obviously as with last year a considerable number of people would be needed on the day of the race).</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p> <p><b>RP</b></p> <p><b>RP</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Summer Training – Hi Vis</b>	
	It was agreed that with daylight hours in mind the requirement for Hi Vis on training nights would be relaxed until further notice as from Tuesday 7 April. PD agreed to remind the committee to notify their groups during the preceding week.	<b>PD</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Colchester Castle Parkrun Takeover</b>	
	<p>George Hayes, a club member and also Run Director at Colchester Castle Parkrun, has asked DST if the club would help out with a club takeover on Saturday 24 April.</p> <p>The Committee agreed this was a good way of supporting the local running scene at the same time as raising the profile of the club locally. DST agreed to co-ordinate within the club.</p>	<b>DST</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Update from Training Groups</b>	
	No major issues to report.	
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	RP advised that the Essex Road Relays would be run on the earlier than usual date of Sunday 22 March this year. He would be advertising soon for help with marshalling on the day.	<b>RP</b>
	PD to advise the date of the next meeting (likely April/May). The meeting closed at 8:45pm.	<b>PD</b>

