

Gala Harriers AGM 28th Nov 2025

Attendees:

Gerry Moss, Julie Decoteau, Eileen Nicol, Shelagh King, Elaine Henderson, Heather Rankine, Fraser Rankine, Kirsty Rankine, Holly Craig, Shenagh Simons, Anne Purves, Bob Johnson, Paul Williams, Gary Trewartha, Molly Trewartha, Gillian Lunn, Tony Lunn, Poppy Lunn, Charlotte Hendry, Lisa Dalgeish, Ross Dalgeish, Archie Dalgeish, Charlie Dalgeish, Katie Rourke, Dave Nightingale, Keira Richardson, Ava Richardson, Graeme Murdoch, Joleen Murdoch, Neil Renton, Iris Dennison, Jessica Smith, Sam Robertson, Gregor Adamson, Pamela Baillie, Angus McCarthy, Paul Richardson, Darrell Hastie, Julie Johnston, Billy McCulloch, Neil Christie

Apologies:

Amelia Hope-Jones, Frankie, James Dennison, Sara Green

Minutes of AGM 2024

Accepted by Billy McCulloch, seconded Charlotte Hendry

Chairman's report:

Gala Harriers AGM 2025 – Chairs Report

2025 has been a tremendous year for Gala Harriers. Our club membership numbers have continued to increase and we now have a record number of junior members.

We have had a busy program of events throughout the year which commenced on January 2nd with the 10-mile Lauder to Melrose run along the Southern Upland Way helping to shift a few festive calories.

In February, the club hosted the Gala leg of the Border Cross-Country Series with this challenging series of races continuing to attract large numbers of entrants across all age groups.

We then held the club Hollybush 10k Handicap in April. This was closely followed by the Kaeside 5k in May which must be one of the toughest 5k road races in the country.

In June, the club hosted the Eildon 3 Hills Race and the Junior Hill Races with the senior race acting as the East District Championships and the junior race being part of the Junior Hill Running League. Many thanks to Tim, Lisa and all the other volunteers without whom these races would not happen.

The popular and unique Henderson race was held in September with the one-mile track race followed by the 2.5 mile off-road loop along the banks of the Tweed.

Throughout the year, we have hosted events at the Tweedbank track including the Team Borders trials, open-graded meetings and the well-attended annual junior club championships and senior 800m in September.

Tomorrow morning will see the Club XC championship and Neil Potts handicap race with the route being from Boleside to Hollybush this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help organise and marshal at these events throughout the year.

2025 has been a phenomenal year of individual and team success for our junior and senior athletes. They have continued to excel across a wide range of events including cross-country, road races, hill running, ultra events and indoor and outdoor track and field. Our athletes have been selected to represent East of Scotland, Scotland, Scottish Schools, Scotland Masters, and Great Britain. Much more on this to follow later this evening.

This year, 48 of the club's junior athletes formed a significant majority of Team Borders at the 3 East District Cross Country League races and at the 3 Forth Valley League meetings where they helped Team Borders come 2nd in Division 1.

Charlotte, Ann, and their Jog Leaders continue to provide fantastic support to the Joggers group and it has been great to see some of them entering the club races throughout the year.

A new sprint group has been established this year with some of this group already winning national medals - more on this to come later.

The adaptive athletic development group sessions held at Tweedbank continue to offer support and coaching for this group of athletes. Thank you to Gerry and Gillian Todd for running these sessions.

Another significant development this year has been the establishment of a new session for junior athletes at Berwickshire High School in Duns. Special thanks go to Gerry for all his efforts in setting this up group to provide training and development opportunities to young athletes from outside the central Borders area.

On the social front, we had a very well-attended Christmas party at Lilliardsedge last December and we will be back there in 3 weeks time – yes, it is that close to Christmas.

Tempest Brewery continue to support our races and this year we have held a couple of post-race socials at the new brewery taproom.

In June, the club hosted a talk by Renee McGregor, a leading sports dietitian, which was supported by the Chris Smith Memorial Fund. This talk was well attended and hopefully of significant benefit to our athletes.

The efforts of our athletes, coaches and other volunteers are receiving both local and national recognition.

As a result of winning team gold at the junior national road races, our U17 girls won Team of the Year at the recent Club Sport Ettrick and Lauderdale annual awards evening – a superb achievement I am sure you will agree.

The awards season is now in full flight, and Gala Harriers have a very busy day tomorrow. As well as the club cross-country championships, the club will be very well represented at the Scottish Athletics Awards dinner tomorrow evening in Glasgow.

Neil Renton will be made an Honorary Life Member for his fantastic contribution to athletics development in Scotland over a number of years.

One of only 4 nominees for U20 Athlete of the Year is our very own Isla Paterson which is an amazing achievement as this award is across all athletic disciplines. Good luck to Isla for tomorrow.

Finally, Gala Harriers have been nominated as Community Impact Club of the Year in recognition of all the fantastic work we do to support athletics and, more broadly, participation in sport throughout the Borders. This is something we can all be tremendously proud of and thank you to everyone who has worked hard to contribute to this nomination.

As you all know, the club only works with the support and regular efforts of a number of people throughout the year.

Coaches, parent helpers, and junior athlete helpers – It is a tough job in Scotland but I know that our athletes really do appreciate your commitment and support.

Race co-ordinators, race marshals, and Tweedbank event helpers – Without you there are no races or track events.

Committee – Thank you for your ongoing work and support. The club would not exist without you.

Many thanks to you all.

Treasurer's report

Accounts have been audited & approved

Club registered as a charity to take advantage of gift aid.

Summary of accounts tabled

Financially the club is very stable – allowing us to take advantage of opportunities for club development

Club together officers report

Senior members 106

Junior members 246

Total membership 352

Major part of role is to get juniors involved in competition. Gala Harriers juniors dominate local competitions which has resulted in other juniors joining GH from other clubs.

Involved with athletic initiatives at local schools – Gala, Selkirk, Kelso, Earlston

Election of Trustees, office bearers & committee members.

Lisa to stand down as press officer-Iris Dennison to take on this role

Chairperson-Neil Christie to remain in role – proposed by Charlotte; seconded by Gillian Lunn

Vice chairperson Lisa Dalglish – proposed by Neil Christie; seconded by Billy McCulloch

Treasurer- Tony to remain in role – proposed by Charlotte; seconded by Bob Johnson

Secretary- Eileen to remain in role- proposed by Neil Christie; seconded by Billy McCulloch

Welfare officer-Gillian Lunn to remain in role- proposed by Billy McCulloch; seconded by Joleen

Coach coordinator-Gary Trewartha to remain in role-proposed by Tony; seconded by Gillian Lunn

Men's captain – James Dennison to remain in role – proposed by Neil Christie; seconded by Bob Johnson

Ladies' captain- Katie Rouke to remain in role-proposed by Gillian Lunn; seconded by Charlotte

Trustees: Tony, Graeme Murdoch, Tommy Knox, Neil Christie, Charlotte, Lisa, Billy McCulloch & Eileen

Frankie, Gill Paterson stepping down from committee. Gill also stepping down as a trustee.

Ordinary committee members: Julie Decoteau, Anne Purves, Gerry, Heather, Billy McCulloch to remain – proposed Tony, seconded by Gerry

New committee members: Bob Johnson – proposed by Gillian Lunn; seconded by Poppy, Elaine Henderon – proposed by Charlotte; seconded by Gillian Lunn

Fees

Some debate regarding the level of fees at the meeting

Conclusion:

Fees to remain the same as last year:

Senior member -£50

Junior member - £35

Family membership- £110

Session fees - £1 off track, £2 track

GH committee to investigate how GH fees align with other similar organisation

There will be an early bird discount of 10% for the month of April 2026.

Change to constitution

GH Joggers:

Participants need to be registered to meet the requirements for JogScotland & safeguarding guidance.

Unless jogger members are also full members of GH they will not have voting rights or be able to members of GH committee.

Change voted on - unanimously carried

AOB

Neil Renton proposed that honorary membership of the club be awarded to Isla Patterson due to her athletic achievements – representing local, regional, Scottish & GB – only club member to achieved this.

This was agreed by majority vote