

Minutes of Annual General Meeting (2026)

Esk Valley Fell Club

Venue: Upstairs Meeting Room, Royal Oak, Great Ayton

Date/Time: Tuesday 24th March 2026, 8.00pm

Attendees: Mike Quinn, Phil Conner, Tim Hill, Gary Talbot, Ian Rowan, Hilary Allan, Tom Hustwitt, Jonathan Rowland, Jonathan Burt

1. Chairman opens the meeting

2. Apologies

Clive Thornton, Dave Gibson, Phil Baines, Sid Bolland, Ian Robinson

3. Committee Annual Report:

• Chairman's Report

- Recognition of Clive Thornton for his contribution to the Club over the past 10+ years, and his key role in the coordination of the Dave Parry Race Series. Acknowledge Clive's wish to step down from his Race Coordinator role, and intention for his current role to be split into a number of elements that can be distributed amongst several people (see later special topic)
- Club membership at an all time high, and very positive increase in the proportion of female members
- Lots of club members racing
- Some big individual achievements recognised
- Suggestion - more people write a report of their experiences to put on our website to inspire others

• Treasurer's report (see accounts on Page 2)

The following are the key points from the accounts for 2025

- The finances continue to be in a positive situation, with £8040 held in the bank. This is a decrease £319 over the year.
- Membership income is consistent with last year.
- Race venue hire and expenditure is consistent with last year
- Bulk clothing purchase explains the loss but obviously means inventory of kit
- Santander starting to charge account fees, will total £60 per year.
- Suggestion - publicise more clearly to whom/ how much we have donated to charities each year
- Suggestion - investigate sponsorship for races / Dave Parry race series

• Club Captain's Report (Gary Talbot)

- Strong membership (~100) in 2025, with almost 70 members renewed already by direct debit for 2026 membership period commencing 1 April.
- New members attracted 'by osmosis', and through club prominence in Dave Parry fell series
- The Monday Group that has a settled format and is a great entry point to running with the Club, with 8 – 16 people out regularly.
- Club is attracting a wide mix of runners with interest across Fell Running, Trail Running, and Ultra Running.
- The Wednesday Hill Training sessions being led by Sarah Hague are proving highly successful (14+ attending most recent sessions). Providing great collective support and encouragement, and attracting a very wide range of abilities who are all finding the sessions valuable.
- Following the recent successful Lake District 'Away-Day', John Laidler has offered to arrange a similar event later in the year to undertake 2 routes on the Esk Valley Way (28km/ 60km options). More info to follow.
- Upcoming relays/event which the Club is supporting include: Yorkshire 3 Peaks Team, Cleveland Way Relay Team, Hodgson Brothers Relay Team
- Suggestion – discussion around Tuesday Training, and potential options to improve format / attendance; split into 2 groups based on pace, alternative day. Propose to poll members on Tuesday vs Thursday option.

EVFC accounts 2025 (for period 1/1/2025 to 31/12/2025)						
Opening balance						
01/01/2025		8759.25				
Income				Expenditure		
Membership		1169.37		Charity		4274.04
Race entry		10905.6		EA membership		565
Clothing sales		296.83		Clothing/ kit		1689.6
Interest		66.94		Prizes		3559.33
Prize donation		40		Race expenditure		881.8
				Coaching		185
				Race numbers		72.67
				Race venue hire		300
				Stationary		247.67
				Sundries		69.55
				Transfer to other clubs		1200
				Bank fees		4.99
Total		12478.7		Website hosting		148.3
Opening balance		8759.25				13198
Income		12478.7			Current	1888.7
					Savings	6151.4
Expenditure		13198			Total	8040.02
Closing balance		8040.02				
31/12/25						

4. Election / Re-Election of Club Officers due for re-election in 2026 (2-year term)

Role	Current Holder	Nominated/Accepted	Proposed	Seconded
Secretary	Phil Conner	Accepted	MQ	IR

5. Election / Re-Election of Ordinary Committee (Annually)

Role	Current Holder	Nominated/Accepted	Proposed	Seconded
Club Captain	Gary Talbot	Accepted	PC	Tim H
Membership Secretary	Phil Conner	Accepted	MQ	IR
Welfare Officer	Tim Hill	Accepted	PC	IR
Race Coordinator	Clive Thornton/ Bob Lillie	Stepping Down – see Special Topic		
Training Coordinator	Ian Rowan	Accepted	Tim H	GT
Webmaster	Flavius Stroe	Accepted	MQ	GT
Statistician	Phil Baines	Accepted	Tim H	MQ
FRA Club Ambassador	Phil Baines	Accepted	Tim H	MQ
Junior Coordinator	Ian Rowan	Accepted	PC	MQ
Social Media Rep	Gary Talbot	Accepted	MQ	Tim H
Member Rep 1	Hilary Allan	Accepted	PC	MQ
Member Rep 2	Jonathan Rowland	Accepted	MQ	PC
Health & Safety Coordinator	NEW	Committee Collective Responsibility	n/a	n/a

6. 2026 Club Membership fees – for Information

- The following small increases have been agreed by the Committee:
 - i. Senior membership £12 (from £11.20)
 - ii. Junior and Associate membership £1.50 (from £1.20)
 - iii. Optional competitive athlete EA affiliation fee increases to £23 (from £20).
 - iv. For info: the Club EA Affiliation Fee has increased to £210
 - v. Membership/affiliation period commences 1st April 2026 and lasts 12 months.

7. Special Topic 1 - Club Constitution – Minor Amendments

- A number of minor amendments have been made to the Club Constitution (V10) to reflect the typical attendance at Club AGM and Committee Meetings, the multiple roles taken by individuals on the Committee, and greater flexibility on timing for the AGM. **The updated Club Constitution (V10) is posted on the Club Website and has been shared with EA.**

8. Special Topic 2 – England Athletics Standard 7 – mandatory for Club EA Affiliation from 1 April

- Health & Safety Policy – **First Issue shared and endorsed at the AGM.** This document is a mandatory requirement for compliance with EA Std 7.
- Health & Safety Coordinator – proposed new Committee role to take point accountability within the Club. No individual volunteer at this time. **Agreed to retain collective responsibility with the Committee for now, which does have some advantages in ensuring collective engagement.**
- Risk Assessment for Training Sessions – First Issue has been developed over the past couple of months and used for a number of Monday Training sessions. **First Issue of the Risk Assessment shared and endorsed at the AGM. Both documents have been posted on the Club Website, in prominent position on the Training page. Both docs will be reviewed and reissued/ updated on 12 month frequency.**

9. Special Topic 3 – Race Coordinator Role (vacancy, as Clive Thornton steps down))

- Explain elements of the role – Clive has shared a description of the role he currently performs with the Club Secretary. This was shared and discussed at the AGM. **It was agreed that the preference is to split the role/ accountabilities across several people to make it more sustainable going forwards and reduce the burden on any one individual.**
- There was a lengthy discussion around the role of ‘Dave Parry Race Series Coordinator’ that Clive has fulfilled since Dave Parry’s death almost 10 years ago. Since Dave Parry was a key figure in the formation of EVFC the Race Series is seen externally as synonymous with EVFC – although in practice we (via Clive) coordinate the Race Series calendar with the individual Race Organisers & Clubs. The Series is publicised on the EVFC website and social media channels. **There is a strong desire to retain this linkage and role within the Club. The EVFC Committee agreed to take on the responsibility for coordinating the Dave Parry Race Series going forwards. Discussion that this is a good opportunity to ‘rebrand’ the Dave Parry Series – taker forward as action item for Committee/ Media.**
- The following elements of the role were discussed and volunteers/ options proposed:
 - DP Race Series Results - checking and quality assuring the draft results from each race in the series, ‘cleaning the data’ prior to publication of the Race Series results. PB has indicated an interest and willingness to take on this element of the role.
 - Presentation of DP Race Series winners and trophies (including ordering) – logically would sit with the Club Committee to delegate one of the Committee to attend as part of the ‘Race Series Coordinator’ role
 - GT offered to take on the ownership of the Club kit/ merchandise with the intent to move it all onto the ‘Sprinter Model’ to reduce or eliminate the need for the club to hold stock, and make easier for individuals to order kit ‘as & when’ required, and reduce the Club’s administrative burden.
 - The Race Organiser role for G’boro Woods Race was discussed briefly, and acknowledged that Clive was willing to organise the 2026 Race although preference would be to hand over if possible. More discussion required, take to the next Committee mtg.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 10pm.