

Notes from Committee Meeting 30 June 2026

Esk Valley Fell Club

Venue: The Royal Oak, Gt Ayton
Date/Time: Tuesday 30th June 2026, at 8pm
Attendees: Phil Conner, Mike Quinn, Gary Talbot, Clive Thornton, Hilary Allan, Ian Rowan, Phil Baines, Jonathan Rowlands
Apologies: Tim Hill

Agenda:

1. Monday Night Group – discuss J Hall (28/4/26) email, and other recent member inputs
2. Update/ progress on CT Race Series Organiser handover
3. Recent race feedback (Y3P, CWR, Bilsdale, Jnr Fell Champs)
4. Proposed additional Club 2026 Awayday
5. Request for club to host future English Snr & Jnr Fell Champs

Discussion

Item 1: Monday Night Group

- Discussed all of the inputs received to date from Members (4) in addition to the view presented by JH. Committee members active in the Monday Group also provided their viewpoints
- [post meeting note – 2 further emails were received on 30/6/26 too late to feed into the mtg, but have been shared with Committee].

Discussed each point of JH email in turn:

- Age limits. Follow UKA/ FRA guidelines, but these are a little 'grey' for training or social running sessions. Consensus, as previously discussed at 5 May Committee Mtg; minimum age for Monday Group is 16 yrs; minimum age for Tuesday Group is 18 yrs.
- DBS & Safeguarding. The only route to compliance is via Run Leaders with formal LiRF certification which includes the mandatory DBS check. As a Fell Club we will aspire to all of our Run Leaders having both LiRF and the 'Off Road – Leader' module (which includes outdoor First Aid Training). LiRF covers Run Leaders for a minimum age 14 yrs.
- Run Leaders. The Club currently has 9 members who are either LiRF or in active revalidation. These are the individuals who can currently perform as a Run Leader for the Club. Discussion and agreement that the Club should target specific individuals ('Club group regulars') to take on Run Leader training supported/funded by the Club. Agreed there needed to be commitment on both sides (Club & individual) so propose 2 qualifying criteria: (i) Member of EVFC in previous year as well as current year, and (ii) a commitment to be a Run Leader a minimum of once a month. Maximum group size per Run Leader is 10.
- Run Group Ethos. Discussed and agreed that the groups should be characterised in terms of Distance/ Climb/ Pace to set clear expectations in addition to the minimum age requirements for each group. No-one is left behind, and individual responsibility for carrying appropriate kit. Groups characterised below, and Run Leaders communicate if the proposed route is significantly different – and adapt to suit those present if necessary. Discussed and agreed that the Club

would work within a maximum Group size of 20 people, and a maximum Group size per Run Leader of 10 people.

- Monday Slow Group – social run, 7-10km/ climb?/ 90 mins
- Tuesday Fast Group – 14-16km/ 500-600m / 90 minutes
- Tuesday Steady Group – 10-12km/ 300-400m/ 80 minutes
- Kit requirement. Discussion concluded that the individual mandatory kit for the group sessions is not 'FRA Minimum Kit'. We should communicate that the minimum kit to be carried by each individual runner is: hat, gloves, full waterproof body cover, and a whistle. Discussion agreed that these minimum requirements should be very clearly communicated to all runners by the Run Leader and in other relevant communications (eg website). In addition each Run Leader carries a First Aid Kit, map, and compass for their group.
- Club is insured under the UKA policy for affiliated clubs. Refer to UKA website for details.
- Emergency Contact Information. Agreed that recent events had underlined the need for Run Leaders to have access to emergency contact information for their Group. Club needs pragmatic solution that safeguards its GDPR responsibilities. A number of web based applications are available to manage this information in compliance with GDPR. Agreement that the preferred tool to be adopted is the "Run-Together App". This tool will allow the Run-Leader to access the emergency contact info for runners 'signed up' to specific events (eg a specific Monday or Tuesday Group). Also allows the RL to know who is coming each week, and allows the RL to post info on the route expectations and kit requirements. This will replace the current WhatsApp voting functionality we currently use for each Group. Timing and communication for adoption to be agreed/finalised but propose to trial over the coming weeks.
- Accident Book. The urgency to put a formal Accident Reporting Form and Accident Book process in place is acknowledged by the Committee, and required under the newly adopted Club Safety Policy. Propose to adopt the FRA Incident Reporting Form, and Club Secretary to hold the Club Accident Book ('Register') in digital form. Outline process discussed: Run Leader completes IRF / or near-miss form with input and agreement of affected party(ies). Sends completed IRF/NMF to the Club Secretary for recording in the Register. Secretary circulates to the Club Committee (that is also the Safety Committee) for discussion and agreement on actions/ recommendations.
- Maximum size of Groups was discussed and Committee agreed that FRA and UKA guidance shall be followed. The Club will work within a maximum Group size of 20 people, and a maximum Group size per Run Leader of 10 people.

The Committee agreed that there is a need for further reflection and acknowledgement that not everything can be in place immediately – the Club will continue to evolve and put additional processes and safeguards in place at a pace that is realistic and aligns with the pace of communication to members.

Item 2: Update/ progress on CT Race Series Organiser handover

The transition process is progressing well. Focus remains on a managed transition/ handover, and see which ROs step-forward in September at the annual fixture setting meeting.

- Club kit/ clothes – transitioned to Gary
- Race results compilation and error checking – transitioned to Phil B ((with Clive volunteering and still supporting race leaders at most races)
- Series Prizes – transitioned to Hilary

- Race Series Coordination – Clive has issued change communication email to all Ros, Ian Rowan involved in arrangements for the annual fixture list meeting in the Autumn
- Social Media – lagging behind – Clive still heavily involved – probably needs more detailed handover.
- NY Day Race – further discussion required on handover, no progress

Item 3; Recent race feedback (Y3P, CWR, Bilsdale, Jnr Fell Champs)

Minimal discussion time at this meeting – but very positive feedback and participation at all of these events

Item 4: Proposed additional Club 2026 Awayday – ‘Esk Valley Way’

Gary Talbot shared information from John Laidler who has volunteered to organise an ‘Esk Valley Way@ away day concept later in the year (Sat 26 September). All felt this was a great idea on the back of the success of the Lake District Away Day earlier in the year. Proposing a 35km and 60km route option. GT to feedback positively to John.

Item 5: Request for EVFC to host future English Snr & Jnr Fell Champs

Discussion around success and effort required to organise Jnr English Fell Champs. Agreed we would offer to host another JEFC. Ian Rowan to feedback to FRA Race Coordinator.

Not willing to run another Snr English Fell Champs at present as we do not have a suitable course defined at present, and any new course would need to be trialled before we would offer it up as a SEFC course.

Decisions (to be shared with Members)

1. Request volunteers to be additional Run Leaders to support the Monday & Tuesday Group Sessions. Two qualifying criteria for funding the mandatory training of individuals by the Club: (i) Member of EVFC in previous year as well as current year, and (ii) a commitment to be a Run Leader a minimum of once a month.
2. Communicate Monday & Tuesday Group Distance/ Climb/ Pace to set clear expectations in addition to the minimum age requirements for each group, and maximum size of each Group (& per RL). Ethos is no-one is left behind, and individual responsibility for carrying appropriate kit (incl. the defined minimum kit).

The Club will adopt a maximum Group size of 20 people, and a maximum Group size per Run Leader of 10 people.

- Monday Slow Group – social run, 7-10km/ 150-250m/ 90 minutes. Min age 16 yrs.
- Tuesday Fast Group – 14-16km/ 500-600m / 90 minutes. Min age 18 yrs.
- Tuesday Steady Group – 10-12km/ 300-400m/ 80 minutes/ Min age 18 yrs.

The defined minimum kit to be carried by each individual runner at Club Group runs is:

- hat, gloves, full waterproof body cover, and a whistle

3. Communicate intent to adopt the UKA endorsed ‘Run-Together App’ for the coordination of the Monday & Tuesday Run Group attendance, and provide Run Leaders with access to runner’s emergency contact information.

END.

Phil Conner – EVFC Secretary