

Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC The Beginnings

There has been at least one athletic club in Blackpool since 1894 when Blackpool Harriers was established. There was also a short-lived club called Blackpool & Fylde Athletic Club from 1894 – 1895 as the area probably was not large enough to support two clubs. Then on 31st January 1929 Blackpool & Fylde Harriers Athletic Club (see photo) was established and continued until November 1955 when two clubs merged to form Blackpool & Fylde Athletic Club (BF AC). Then in 2005 BF AC approached the much younger North Fylde AC with a view to a merger and in 2006 Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC (BWF AC) was born and this is the Club which operates from the Track at Stanley Park today.

February 1929 and Members of the newly formed Blackpool & Fylde Harriers Athletic Club



In early 1929 Harry R. Clarke of Leigh Harriers became one of the founder members of the newly formed Blackpool & Fylde Harriers. Pictured above in February 1929, at the Beach Hotel, South Shore, Blackpool, Lancashire. Only five names are known.
Left to right: J.Helm, J.A.Booth, H.R.Clarke, J.Crewdson and J.Yates M.B.E. Secretary and Treasurer of the club.

The President of the Club in 1929 was Sir A Lindsay Parkinson JP and the Chairman was Councillor Quayle (after whom the Blackpool Sports Council's Awards are named). Club Membership for Under 18s was 2 shillings 6 pence (12 ½p) and for Seniors 4 shillings (20p). Vice-presidents of whom there were 39 had to pay 10 shillings and 6p (55p) for the privilege! The Club's Headquarters were at the Blackpool Gymnasium on Central Drive.