



Committee Meeting

7.00 pm Wednesday 18 January 2023

39 Robin Ride, Brackley.

MINUTES

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Present</p> <p>Julian Chronicle (JC)[Chair], Louise Follner (LF) [Minutes], Maxine Sutton (MS), Sarah Scott (SS), Kim Fox (KF), Nicola Crookes (NC), Michael Bishop (MB), Suzanne Peel-Yates Bass-Twitchell (SPYBT), Richard McMahon (RM)</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Natasha Berry (NB)</p>	
3.	<p>Accuracy of minutes of meeting 21 September 2022</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p> <p>RM raised a few points and the following was discussed.</p> <p>Charitable donation – RM questioned whether we would be considering this again this year. MS stated that it would leave us very tight due to the reduced entry numbers at the Chicken Run reducing our income significantly.</p> <p>Merchandiser Officer – It was noted that the sale of old Chicken Run tops had now been completed. It was also noted that the previous action point regarding sourcing a new supplier for ICE tags had not been completed. RM agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Welfare Officer – It was noted that Nichola Harman has now got her DBS check through and completed one of the two required courses and is awaiting for new date for the other.</p>	
4.	<p>Committee Officer Updates</p> <p><u>Chairman</u></p> <p>JC thanked KF for her work organising the AGM and Christmas party. He also noted that Christine Bridger’s new weekly parkrun reports are being well received.</p>	

JC noted that there was once again poor turnout at the latest round of xc. LF suggested that all races be put in the club champs calendar, although noted this wouldn't be possible this year. JC said he will look for feedback from the members as to why they are not participating, and potentially look at alternative leagues as distance seems to be a barrier for some.

Treasurer

MS stated that the accounts are approximately £2,000 down compared to the position pre Covid, with £5,389 in the Chicken Run account and £1,756 in the main account. She noted that the monthly storage costs of approximately £50 per month are eating into this balance and suggested we review alternative options for storage. It was also suggested we do an audit of the storage unit as several bits in there may no longer be required.

MS also suggested that we look at alternatives to t-shirts for this year's Chicken Run, with several alternatives being suggesting with a view to reducing costs.

Club Secretary

No report.

Membership Secretary

SPYBT discussed the membership renewal, which will be happening at the end of March. The EA price is once again increasing the £1. As we have not passed on the previous increases to members, it was agreed that renewals for current members would increase from £27 p/y to £30 p/y and the new membership price would increase from £32 p/y to £35 p/y.

Race Secretary

RM noted that there was a disappointing turnout of only 3 members at the first race of the club champs calendar, although is aware that some members were put off by the distance to travel. He noted that the first parkrun on the calendar is this weekend.

He commented that general race attendance is down and suggested this may be down to factors such as injury, illness, the cost of living crisis and the membership profile changing as more members seem to have young families and therefore may have more time constraints.

RM discussed virtual races being on the calendar and said that he hadn't done it this year as they are time consuming for him to set up, but did note that the idea seemed popular amongst members.

Social Secretary

KF first discussed the return of the monthly coffee mornings. She noted that the Lounge Bar were not very receptive to the club returning and the Central Café had not been very popular amongst members. MS suggested we try a pub as we are ideally looking for somewhere with plenty of space

	<p>and ample parking and so KF agreed to contact the Paisley Pear and Chequered Flag.</p> <p>KF noted that the Fire Station café is not big enough to hold socials inside but they are willing to offer a discount for club members if they're wearing kit. Additionally, they would be happy to host socials outside in the summer as they have a large outdoor seating area.</p> <p>KF suggested another curry night in February to celebrate the end of RED January and this was agreed on, with a preliminary date of Wednesday 8 February at Chilli and Pepper, with the same £15 per head banquet deal as last year.</p> <p><u>Webmaster</u></p> <p>NC also suggested a newsletter be sent out, with topics including membership benefits, socials, renewals, races, xc and kit.</p> <p><u>Head Coach</u></p> <p>MB said that he was due to arrange a coach meeting shortly. He noted that the routes on the website need updating and has sent these updates to NC. MB also noted that no further volunteers have come forward for the LiRF course.</p> <p>MB stated his intention to send a questionnaire out to members to get feedback on sessions, with a view to looking at new/alternative sessions, possibly including paced groups on the winter routes sessions.</p> <p>LF said that she has received feedback from a couple of club members that they would prefer club sessions to be slightly earlier, ie. 6.30pm instead of 7pm, due to now working from home more frequently. It was noted that this would not suit everyone but MB said this was something he could include on the questionnaire to gauge the wider views of members.</p> <p>It was also discussed that member enjoyed the informal longer runs at the weekend which had previously happened, and it was suggested that members try to actively post on the club Facebook page to start this off.</p> <p><u>Welfare Officer</u></p> <p>SS reported that no concerns or complaints had been received.</p> <p>SS stated that she has had no feedback on the information they have previously provided in newsletters and wondered if members find it useful. This prompted a discussion regarding reminding members of the importance of lights and hi vis, particularly during the winter months as some members have been spotted around town without it.</p>	
5.	<p>C25K Feedback</p> <p>RM provided detailed feedback on the club's first C25K programme.</p>	

	<p>This was only advertised through the clubs page and this lead to a very able group. Three session leaders were involved, with two leaders at each of the two sessions per week. 12 started the course with one pulling out due to injury and seven completing the course. It was felt that the routes worked well, as did the gentle integration into the club by joining the main session warm ups after a few weeks.</p> <p>A whatsapp group was set up for coaches and participants and this worked well. A question arose from someone wishing to join the group late and it was agreed that this would not be possible.</p> <p>It was commented that the sessions put a strain on the main session leader group and it has been suggested that the course run again but this time with only one trained leader and one experienced club member volunteer per session to alleviate this strain.</p> <p>RM suggested that we could potentially increase the maximum number for the group to 15. MS also suggested sessions run during the day as many individuals have the flexibility to run in the day. This prompted a discussion regarding session leaders and MB said he would put out another plea for volunteers to take the LiRF course.</p>	
6.	<p>Club Champs Rules</p> <p>RM wished for the proposed amendments to the rules to be formally agreed. These were agreed by all present.</p>	
7.	<p>Facebook</p> <p>RM commented that the club Facebook group feels a little flat and suggested we try to inject some enthusiasm. It was discussed that this would be a good place to organise informal group runs, in addition to promoting upcoming races.</p> <p>SS raised the point that people may not be using Facebook. It was discussed whether the club could also run an Instagram page and this is to be reviewed. LF also suggested we review the Facebook page admins.</p>	
8.	<p>HS2</p> <p>RM raised the fact that David Griffiths-Allen had approached the club, in his capacity as an employee for EKFB, who are a contractor for HS2. They are keen to support the club.</p> <p>He had suggested ideas such as providing an additional 50 entrants for the Chicken Run, funding a race for the club, a 100km run along the HS2 route, providing waterproof jackets for club members, offering support for the chicken run and offering support for diversity ie. Encouraging ethnic minorities.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that many club members may be reluctant to accept support from HS2, although it was commented that it is a separate contractor and not HS2 themselves offering the support.</p> <p>It was agreed to review the sponsorship position with Avara before discussing further with David.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Club Trip</p> <p>In NB's absence, LF raised this issue on her behalf. She noted that the Hilly 100 was on 21 May and the Colworth Marathon Challenge was on 23-25 June. Support for the Hilly has waned in recent years, hence why NB had considered Colworth as an alternative.</p> <p>NB raised the issue of whether the club would be willing to offer financial support. MS suggested that we review the event prices and asked that NB contact the organisers of Colworth to discuss if they would be willing to offer a discount for group entries.</p> <p>NB also suggested that the idea of a potential club trip abroad for a race be considered for next year to allow people time to review options/finances.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Chicken Run</p> <p>JC raised this item as we have had no volunteers for the race director role. Frances Edwards is happy to assist but unable to take on the full responsibility this year. A few names were suggested, who JC agreed to contact, in addition to previous key volunteers to ensure they were willing to assist again.</p> <p>It was also discussed whether Serge Daval would be doing the chip timing again due to the increased costs last year. It was agreed to request a quote from Serge, in addition to obtaining some quotes from local firms.</p> <p>It was also discussed whether we wanted to give away t-shirts again this year, with a view to keeping costs down and reducing waste as we still have a large surplus of previous races t-shirts. Several alternatives were suggested, and these are to be reviewed by the Chicken Run committee.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Race to Support</u></p> <p>It was discussed which local race the club would be supporting this year. LF suggested a Buckingham race to encourage members to participate in a local club's event and hope for reciprocal support for the Chicken Run.</p> <p><u>Parkrun takeover</u></p>	

	LF suggested we arrange parkrun takeovers of a couple of local events in the months prior to the Chicken Run to also enable us to use the opportunity to promote the Chicken Run. To be reviewed once CR date finalised.	
12.	Date of Next Meeting TBC	