



RFRC Committee Meeting Minutes

2nd April 2014 – The Kings Arms

Chair: Geoff Eggleston (GE)

Present: Phil Wilson (PW), Sandra Williams (SW), (DL), Kate Mackenzie (KM), Liz Williams (LW), John Scanlon (JS), Mike Nicholls (MN), Ron Foord (RF)

Apologies: Chris Reah (CR), Peter Hall (PH), Dave Loader, Graham Strang (GS), Toni Vernelli (TV),

1. Previous minutes

The minutes were approved.

2. Humdinger

- JS gave a brief post-race report. All invoices are now paid with the exception of Taunton Deane (road closure) and a few other small invoices. JS is still waiting for Taunton Deane's invoice.
- Because the race accounts have not been finalised JS does not know what the profit on the race is.
- JS has decided to step down as Race Director because of other work commitments. He is happy to assist with the race still.
- Because of a strained relationship with Hestercombe and their decision to take a greater cut from the race JS has continued to negotiate with Wellsprings Leisure Centre about holding the there. They will charge £1 per runner which is considerably less than Hestercombe. Wellsprings has good facilities and we can incorporate the playing field both at the start, to thin out the runners and at the end. PW has roughed out possible routes for the 3 mile and 9.5 mile races. We could increase the 9.5 mile race to a full half marathon which is likely to attract more runners.
- One potential problem with Wellsprings is that we might be faced with a second road closure on Cheddon Road/Lyngford Lane. MN commented that because this is a major road we may be faced with the additional cost of advertising the road closure in the local newspaper.

3. Discounts

- PW is putting together a list of discounts for members.
- Val Perigo has offered to speak with local shops to see if they will be happy to offer a discount to members.

4. AGM

- We need to appoint an auditor at the AGM. The auditor needs to be someone independent of the committee and it was felt, also should not be a member of the club.

SW suggested that we could pay for a professional to do this. PW has agreed to ask his accountant if he is willing to take on the role.

Post meeting addenda. I have asked TV if she has arranged for an auditor already – she hasn't.

- Following a Facebook appeal we have a few more votes for the George Hudson award. At the time of compiling these minutes we have had 17 votes, which is still not exactly overwhelming but an improvement.
- PW has agreed to deal with the food at the AGM. The committee agreed a budget of £50 based on an attendance of about 30-40 members.
- The constitution revisions have been available online for some time now. PW said he was not intending to read these out but copies of the revisions with notes will be available at the AGM. We will vote the changes through in block rather than individually.

5. Membership

- We finished the year with 200 members.
- DL is now away until May and while he has agreed to deal with online memberships he cannot deal with postal memberships until his return. It was felt that it is unreasonable that cheques for membership are not cashed for up to two months and MN has agreed to both check the PO Box at Taunton sorting office and to bank any cheques received for membership.

6. Groups

- Group 7 has now split into three groups.

The beginners group (now group 7) has been running for several weeks now, led by Amanda Smith with a rota of helpers that have included KM, Jan Burton, LW and CR. Over that time the group has progressed and consistently runs 3 to 4 miles. It has been apparent for a few weeks that the ability range in the group has stretched beyond being manageable for one group. CR offered to take the faster members of the group separately for a few weeks to try and prepare them for moving up a group and he began to do this 2 or 3 weeks ago. In addition, a conversation between CR and Rob Murr revealed that they both knew of people who had not run before that would like to start a new beginners group so they posted on Facebook to set one up (without running it past the committee first). This resulted in group 7 running as 3 separate groups - a, b and c.

Positives:

- Smaller, more manageable groups
- Rob seems to be doing a good job with the beginners

Negatives:

- 7b ended up being quite tiny which was a bit upsetting to Amanda although she didn't make a fuss and is happy to bow out of leading if alternatives are in place.
- 7a was too fast for some. Chris pushes them quite hard
- Neither Chris nor Rob will want to lead beginners forever so we need a plan in place to ensure the continuation of the group.

Some of these issues should be resolved when we co-opt a new committee member to take control of group issues

- Group 4 has been split into two groups
- It was suggested that rather than having an ad-hoc beginners group when required, that we run three beginners groups a year. PW commented that while the traditional time to run the group who aim for the Taunton 10k is July, this is actually not a great time to start a group because the weather is usually at its hottest and people tend to miss training because they are on holiday. MN suggested that rather than aim directly for the Taunton 10k, instead a group could be started in May and aim initially for the Langport 10k which is about a month before Taunton and then run Taunton as the second and primary race.

7. Committee Vacancies

- There have been no applications for any committee posts within the agreed deadline. Malcolm Boon has offered to re-join the committee as Groups Organiser but he cannot now be appointed at the AGM. SW is unopposed as Chair and will take over at the AGM.
- TV and CR have announced their resignations from the committee. TV has agreed to stay on as treasurer but did not want to remain on the committee. Our constitution specifically states that the committee must contain a treasurer so we cannot allow this. TV will however continue to issue cheques etc until a replacement is found. It was agreed that while there needs to be a change of signatories, there is no urgency for this.

8. Complaint

- A complaint has been received about an argument on the club facebook group. Since the posts in question have been removed it was felt that no further action was needed.

9. Herepath Trail

PH has confirmed that the race will go ahead from Thurlbear School again. He has also confirmed that the aim will be to put on the race with minimum costs and has proposed that club members will be able to enter for free as long as they can provide someone to marshal in their place.

10. AOB

- a. KM has set up a club Twitter account and this has been popular with 104 followers.
- b. John Ward is to be removed as an administrator on the club Facebook group as was agreed at the last committee meeting. MN has agreed to do this.

Post Meeting addenda: MN tried to remove John but is unable to do so because John is the creator of the group.

- c. SW requested that the next committee meeting be brought forward a month.
- d. MN proposed a vote of thanks to Geoff for his work as chair. The vote was accepted unanimously.

Next committee meeting is on 7th May 2014