



## RFRC Committee Meeting Minutes

7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – The Kings Arms

**Chair:** Sandra Williams (SW)

**Present:** Phil Wilson (PW), Dave Loader (DL), Kate Mackenzie (KM), Liz Williams (LW), Ron Foord (RF), Peter Hall (PH), Nadine Prouse (NP), Kris Saint (KS), Malcolm Boon (MB)

**Apologies:** Mike Nicholls (MN), Graham Strang (GS)

### 1. New Committee Members

The following members were co-opted onto the committee with immediate effect

- Malcolm Boon – Groups Co-ordinator
- Nadine Prouse – Treasurer
- Kris Saint – Race Co-ordinator

### 2. Previous minutes

The minutes were approved with one small amendment – The Herepath trail will not be free to club members.

### 3. Chair Report

- The chair welcomed the new committee members.
- A list of committee members was taken with their mobile numbers and preferred method of communication.
- The chair asked if each member of the committee was happy in their role.
- KM queried the value of the newsletter with specific reference to the fact that social media has taken over a lot of what the newsletter set out to achieve. The committee disagreed and felt that it still serves a valuable and relevant role and KM has agreed to continue with it.
- This November is the ten year anniversary of the foundation of the club. Simon Reach formed the Taunton Half training group which was the later to become the club. SW to investigate possible celebrations.
- Club Base. SW listed two options open to us. Taunton AC will be shortly completing their club house and have offered to share this with us. There is also the new centre which is to be built in French Weir Park. SW is strongly for having a permanent base for the club and favours the French Weir development because it will offer not only a space but

showers, a notice board and other facilities. SW will be attending meetings for both organisations and will report back.

- SW will deal with the social side of the club and wants to expand on the current limited offerings of a monthly night to the pub followed by a curry. Some of the options currently in the pipeline are:
  - Barn Dance
  - A regular Quiz Night held on set dates every four months
- SW also suggested that we could source cheap hi-viz vests with the club logo and possibly offer these in the new member pack. This is to be investigated and reported back – SW and RF
- Time Trial. This needs to be reinstated but instead of the current 4.5 mile route SW suggested running it as a 5k. PW has produced a traffic free route starting at Firepool Lock on the canal and finishing in the orchard area just over the Obridge link. Because the route is mostly unlit it would be run in April and October while there is still sufficient daylight. A date of 4<sup>th</sup> June was set for the first time trial.

#### **4. Committee emails and business out of meetings**

- PW suggested that where possible committee members should use the secret Facebook group for discussions about committee matters. This will reduce the number of emails, which can get quite confusing and it makes it easier to follow a conversation.
- PW also suggested that when a committee member has an idea or a problem that they feel needs to be discussed, they should approach either SW, PH or PW first. A decision will then be taken and any facts obtained and the matter will then either be dealt with at the next committee meeting or if it is considered more urgent, via a Facebook discussion. There is no intention to take decisions away from the committee.

#### **5. The George Hudson Award**

- Following a discussion on Facebook PW proposed that rather than the current system of nominations direct from the membership, that the committee adopts a system of nominating members. To try to get a good cross section of nominees over the year we will nominate two people at each committee meeting. The item will be a permanent item on the agenda. Members will still get the chance to nominate others but will need to get a minimum of five backers.

From the nominees a shortlist will be drawn up which will be presented to the members for voting. Post meeting note: We will write a short summary of why each person has been nominated and what they have done for the club.

It was felt that because the committee are drawing up the short list that they should exclude themselves from nominations. It was also felt that committee members should not be nominated for working on the committee. Post Meeting note: we could make exceptions where a committee member has done something for the club outside their committee responsibilities but it does need to be something exceptional.

#### **Club Races**

- PW has agreed to be Race Director for the Hestercombe Humdinger and this was agreed by vote.
- We are looking at a new location for the race which is Wellsprings Leisure Centre. As previously minuted, relationships with Hestercombe have become strained and it was felt that they are now taking too much money from the race. They have already stated

their intention to clear a minimum of £1000 from next year's race excluding the profits made on food and drink sales. Wellspring have agreed a figure of £1 per runner and they will provide a large hall for registrations, showers and a changing room. There is also a food franchise running from the centre who should be able to provide food and drink though this is still to be agreed.

- The new location will mean a new route which will need to be measured and certified. PW proposed taking the main race up to Half Marathon distance, which he felt would be more attractive to runners and should increase the field size. One limiting factor is the car parking which Wellsprings estimate to be around 200 and this together with the fact that the 10 mile distance gives the race a unique appeal made the committee decide in favour of keeping the existing distance. This was passed by majority vote. PW produced a map showing the half marathon route but he also has a route for around 9.5 to 10 miles which uses a large part of the existing route. A new route for the Hurtle will also be needed and has been devised by PW.
- A committee has been formed for the Humdinger which includes SW, PW, MB together with non-committee members Jan Burton and Val Perigo.
- Plans for the Herepath Half are progressing well. PH plans to run the race on a very limited budget.

#### **6. Beginners**

- SW suggested that while the current beginner's groups are good they do need better structure and should be organised from within the committee.
- A separate beginner's night was proposed and accepted. This will probably be Thursday evening. Having beginners meet separately has several advantages. It is less intimidating for new members and in particular people new to running. It also allows those organising the groups to continue with their own running and training.
- While we want to involve as many people as possible to help there needs to be a single leader of the group or groups. This gives consistency and a single point of focus for the new runners.
- The basics will be discussed and decided at the next committee meeting.

#### **7. Membership Cards**

- SW suggested that we should reintroduce membership cards either as bought in plastic cards or self-printed cards that can be laminated.
- PW suggested that rather than distribution of membership lists by email, the spreadsheet should be stored in a Dropbox folder and shared among those on the committee who need access to it.
- DL announced that he intends to stand down as membership secretary after the current membership year.

#### **8. Charitable Donations**

- Following a question from the floor at the AGM it was suggested that the club could make a small donation to a nominated charity. It was decided that this could be seen as controversial and that the club would not make a separate donation this way. PW announced his intention to stop charitable donations from the Humdinger profits. This is partly to enable to race to become financially self-sufficient but also he feels that once this has been achieved, profits should be used to the direct benefit of club members, without which, the race would never be the success it is.

#### **9. Auditor**

- MN has discussed the matter of the club auditor with his daughter who is a professional auditor and it is her opinion that the club does not need an auditor and there is certainly no legal requirement for such. She believes that we could appoint an accounts examiner who will check the accounts for errors and will certify that the accounts are correct. It is useful though not essential that this person be independent of the club. Taylor and Faulkner, a local firm of accountants have been appointed in this role and have agreed to inspect the accounts for an annual fee of £100.
- The club constitution will need to be amended to reflect the change from appointing an auditor to accounts examiner.

#### 10. AOB

- The Longrun Lollop.** PH proposed this following a suggestion from Scott Weech. The event will consist of a single 2km loop in Longrun Meadow. Runners run as many loops as they can from sunrise to sunset and a tally of each runner's loops is kept. Loops can be consecutive or simply accumulated over the day with runners leaving and returning to the course as they want throughout the day. Scott to investigate more and organise this.
- The New Member's Pack.** LW has produced a draft booklet which can be issued to all new members. It is A5 size and contains information on the club, club discounts and a kit order form among other things. LW will distribute copies among the committee for further comment.
- Runner's ID.** NP suggested that group leaders should be familiar with those running in their groups in case of an emergency. SW suggested that runners need to carry some form of identity and this could be supplied to new members as part of their joining pack.

Next committee meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014