



## RFRC Committee Meeting Minutes

4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 – The Kings Arms

**Chair:** Geoff Eggleston (GE)

**Present:** Phil Wilson (PW), Sandra Williams (SW), Peter Hall (PH), Dave Loader (DL), Ron Foord (RF), Chris Reah (CR), Toni Vernelli (TV), John Scanlon (JS)

**Apologies:** Graham Strang (GS), Kate Mackenzie (KM), Liz Williams (LW), Mike Nicholls (MN)

### 1. Humdinger Report by JS

Everything is going according to plan – specifically:

- A sponsor has paid for the race numbers
- T-shirts are on order. This year's colour is white which is the cheapest
- Hestercombe are increasing the price per entrant to £2.00. Next year they want to increase this further to a single charge for the race of £1000. Based on the average entry of 350 this roughly equals £2.85 per entrant.
- It was suggested that an alternative venue could be looked at with a possible option under consideration. It was also suggested that the race could be turned into a half marathon running from the new venue.
- We will start to recruit volunteers for the race in early January.

### 2. Taunton AC and the Possible Poaching of club members.

A member has approached PW because three club members have apparently been persuaded to join Taunton AC. These are among the fastest members of the club and it was felt that this would affect the club's standing when competing in local races. The three members have had an assurance from Taunton AC that they would still be able to represent the club but this is doubtful.

PW has investigated this on the UKA website and the situation is clear.

- We cannot prevent any club member from transferring their first claim status to another club unless the member has financial liabilities (i.e. owes the club money or holds club equipment or trophies).
- Any club has a legal right to insist that any member entering a race must represent their first claim club.
- It is possible for a member to have two first claim clubs where one club offers representation and training in a particular discipline that the other club doesn't. So for instance a member can be a first claim member of one club as a cross country runner and another as a road runner.

### **3. Clubhouse**

There are proposals and planning permission (either in place or an application) for a large facility to be built in French Weir Park, where the current toilet block is. The building will have changing rooms, showers and possibly a social area (bar?) and it is envisaged that it will provide a base for many of the local sports clubs. Funding is to be provided from a number of grant bodies including SASP, Lottery Funding and Taunton Deane.

There is a possibility that the building could be used as a clubhouse for the club. At this stage we only need to give an indication that we are interested and there is no commitment. We may be asked to make a financial contribution in the form of rental though as this stage the amount is unknown.

It was agreed that potentially this would be good for the club and would provide a useful base.

### **4. Membership**

It was agreed that membership rates would remain the same for 2014/15.

Membership will close from 1<sup>st</sup> March until 31<sup>st</sup> March. A notice will be put on the website and on the club Facebook page giving notice. The main reason for people joining the club at this time is to get affiliated entry into the Taunton Half/Marathon.

DL is away in Australia for most of April. He is happy to process the online memberships while away but cannot deal with postal applications. It was agreed that PW would put a notice on the club website to explain the postal application delay. Members will be able to choose between online or postal depending on how quickly they need their membership processed.

### **5. AOB**

- i. GE thanked SW for organising a very successful Christmas party. SW said that the party was underwritten by the club by £83.
- ii. Social events planned are 29/12/2013 – monthly club social at the Cosy Club and 24/1/2014 – Quiz Night at the Reform Club
- iii. Beginners' Group. PW confirmed that for various reasons there will be on beginners' group for the Taunton Half. It was felt that there was demand for a training group within the club but that this can be easily coped with by forming an ad-hoc training group on Sundays. PW has completed the Leadership in Running Fitness course and has his licence. He will run a new beginners' group in the spring, called "Introduction to Running" and aimed at complete beginners to bring them up to a suitable distance for running with one of the regular running groups.

The next Committee Meeting is booked for 5<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Post Committee Note:**

PW and TV have agreed that it will be more convenient to book and pay for the room at the King's Arms as a block for the entire membership year rather than after each committee

meeting. This is to be confirmed with Bev but assuming she agrees PW will pay and book the room for the next two meetings (up to the AGM).