

Roadhoggs Committee Meeting

Cow and Plough

5 July 2011

1. **Present:** Kim Richardson, Dave Swan, Malcolm Blyth, Barry Waterfield, Keith Dakin, Colin Smith, Syd Smith, Mark Chamberlain
2. **Apologies:** Steve Martin
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2011 were agreed.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a. It was noted that a vertical flag has not yet been purchased due concerns about the cost in the context of the club's balance sheet. However, it was confirmed that a flag will be ordered before cross country season.
 - b. It was noted that, in response to the major shortage of race officials in the county, Dave L & Colin have trained as officials – they need experience at four events to be licensed.
 - c. More Leader candidates have been identified (Baz & Trudy)
 - d. There has been no further progress on the development plan due to other demands.
 - e. Kit – there were very few expressions of interest in club crop tops (3) and short sleeve T-shirts (max 6) so these will not be ordered. We have sufficient stocks of long sleeve Ts, hoodies and hats are but need more men's running vests which will be ordered.
 - f. Dave S will follow-up free advertising in Leicester Link (although it was noted that this was no longer a monthly publication).
5. **Leicestershire Athletics Network Update:** John Skevington, Network Co-ordinator, joined the meeting to provide members of the Committee with information about the Network's activities and the benefits of membership.
 - a. Primary Schools' Cross Country Championships – the Network has taken over the running of this event. To date, 45 schools have affiliated for the three date series. For this year, the venue will be Prestwold Hall. However, although there is good provision for courses and more than adequate parking, the venue is not ideal, being too far to one side of the county, so alternative venues are being explored. These must provide options for several courses, parking for 2000 – 3000 cars, accommodate around 2000 participants and their supporters and not be under City Council control.
 - b. West End Runners have been invited to a joint training session, to be hosted by Roadhoggs in the middle of August.
 - c. England Athletics, via the Network, have provided a partial refund (£25) of the fee for Mark's LIRF course.

- d. Members of the Network are being invited to nominate a Coaching Co-ordinator to identify training needs that can't be met by the club (for example, conditioning or nutrition) and forward them to John. The Network will provide £200 for each Coaching Co-ordinator – which could either go into club funds or to the individual. Mark agreed to take on the role for Roadhogs, with the Network payment going into club funds. John undertook to forward the job description to Mark.
- e. John advised that he has been set a target of registering 1500 runners on the Run England database. This is a wholly unrealistic target limited to novice runners, so running clubs are being invited to submit their members' details and receive £1 for each person registered. Although England Athletics have the data already, it cannot be used for the Run England database without specific permission. The Committee was happy to support this initiative but it was agreed that members' should be offered an "opt out" prior to the data being provided in order to comply with data protection requirements.
- f. John reminded the Committee that one of the objectives of England Athletics in establishing the Networks was to get more people running, and one way to do this is through beginners' groups. Roadhogs' recruits tend to be people who have already begun running rather than complete beginners. Although several Roadhogs have been, or are about to be, trained as Leaders in Running Fitness, the club is not currently resourced to run a beginners' group – the lack of a fixed base being one major factor. However, the Committee was prepared to consider offering beginners' sessions, should circumstances change.
- g. John reminded the Committee that the Network is able to provide expert coaches in a range of areas (for example, nutrition, conditioning, rehabilitation, and so on) and remarked that Barrow Runners had used this service extensively. The Committee concluded that, whilst opinion would be canvassed, interest was likely to be at a relatively low level and the lack of a fixed base was problematic. However, one possibility would be to join forces with another Network club (for example, West End) and use their facilities.
- h. John alerted the Committee that England Athletics is expecting a surge in interest in running on the back of the Olympics – with the possibility of an extra 50% in the number of people joining running clubs in 2012. The Committee was content the Roadhogs' customary low-key response (for example, training more members as leaders and coaches) would continue to be appropriate.

6. Chairman's Report

- a. The Chairman informed the Committee that Rachel has resigned her membership not only of the Committee but of the club as a whole, due to persistent injury and work commitments. He expressed his appreciation for her valued contribution during her time as a member of the Committee, particularly as Minute Secretary and Membership Secretary, and also for her contributions in LRRL races over the years. On behalf of the Committee, he wished her well for the future.
- b. The Committee was informed that Alison L had volunteered to take over the role of Minutes Secretary.

- c. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all those involved in organising and supporting the Glooston 2011 race, with particular appreciation to Dave L, Ron and Colin
- d. The Chairman noted that the club had gone from strength to strength since the beginning of the year, with a significant number of new members, record numbers of runners at races and at training (including Mondays).

7. Treasurer's Report: Financial information relating to Glooston 2011 reported under item 10. The current balance stands at £1103.17, with an outstanding bill of £25 due to St John's Ambulance.

8. Road Running Captain's Report: Mark was pleased to report that:

- a. Roadhogs is fielding a greater proportion of its membership at races than any other club in the league.
- b. It was hoped to field two teams in the Round Leicestershire Relay, although we're still a few short for the mixed team
- c. There was a large group of members (20/25) intending to travel to Latvia for the Riga Half and Full Marathon on 20 May 2012.
- d. The third place finisher at Glooston 2011 had agreed to run second-claim for Roadhogs.

9. Cross Country Captain's Report: Relatively little to report at this time of year, but there had been some notable successes in recent local races: Nick was second at Arnesby Fair and in the Oaks Challenge Mike was second and Rex (VM78) was 81st.

10. Glooston 10K 2011:

- a. £148 deficit at moment (including a bounced cheque), but awaiting online entries for June (est. £90) and refreshment money. Expenditure was similar to 2010, with the purchase of more racing numbers.
- b. Advanced and on-the-day entries were both down on previous years (117 entries; 41 unattached and 30 Hogs). It would appear that other clubs are not supporting the event, but it was noted that there were a great many races being staged that weekend.
- c. In discussion, it was remarked that if entries were closer to 200, the event would turn a good profit. However, it was noted that the primary purpose of the event was to promote the club rather than to make money. It was also observed that it takes years to build up a successful race – both Rothley and Hungarton which are now hugely popular had started small. The Committee were reminded that the original thinking behind the Saturday evening timing (apart from novelty) was that people would stay to socialise, but that did not seem to be happening, although the poor weather of the last couple of years was a factor in this. It was queried whether a Sunday morning race would be more popular. Other suggestions raised included:
 - i. Staging a 5K fun run at the same time – but there would be problems with logistics, in particular marshalling
 - ii. More volunteers are need to distribute flyers at races – it isn't fair to expect those running in the race to do it
 - iii. We need to explore why support from other clubs is so patchy

- iv. The biggest drawback is Glooston's location – it is remote and about as far south in the county as is possible, whilst most clubs are in the north of the county. Returning to the Langton route was suggested, but this would require twice as many marshalls, so Hoggs would have to be told that they couldn't run.
- d. It was proposed that a Saturday evening race at Glooston should be given one more go, with a big push on promotion, but it was agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting.

11. **Social:** Keith apologised for the lack of activity since his fall down a flight of stairs.

Forthcoming events include: the club handicap race in August, a quiz night at the Rose and Crown in Thurnby in September followed by a skittle evening in the autumn, when West End and Beaumont will be invited to enter a couple of teams.

12. AOB:

- a. Marshals have not been requested for Race for Life
- b. There will be no Big Fun Run in Leicester this year
- c. We will need marshals for our winter league race
- d. Current league positions: Men 4/7 D2 Vets 5/7 D1 Ladies 9/10 D1 Vets 6/8 D2
- e. The Rainbows 100 lap Challenge will take place on 15.7.11 at Saffron Lane – still a few short
- f. Thanks were expressed to Dave L for advance notification of Wednesday training night routes on website It was noted that runners of all standards are being looked after – this was sometime tough, but manageable
- g. The Chairman advised that he had received a number of compliments from members on the organisation of club – especially the website, newsletter and block entry to races
- h. It was agreed that it would be helpful to augment the Committee with one or two of the more recent members. John Stew was identified as one potential candidate and the Chairman undertook to approach him.