

Roadhoggs Committee Meeting

LCCC

1 April 2014

1) Present: Ron Atton, Dan Bannatyne, Jackie Brown, Keith Dakin, Barbara Hermann, Alison Lodwick, Dave Lodwick, Steve Martin, Kim Richardson, Colin Smith, John Stew, Dave Swan, Barry Waterfield

2) Apologies: Malc Blyth, Lucy McMillan, Sid Smith

3) Minutes: Agreed

4) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Round Leicester Relay

The committee was advised that this popular and successful event was in some doubt unless someone volunteers to take on the organisation. It was noted that the event would not be a viable option for a commercial race organiser.

5) Chairman's report:

Dave S welcomed Dan and Barbara to the Committee. He noted that the start of the season has been quite slow, with injuries and marathon preparation restricting the numbers turning out of races. However, he highlighted Mark R's great start to the season. It was noted that the Leicester Running Shop and the website remain the best sources of new members and there was a discussion of alternative recruitment ideas;

a) Scraftoft Joggers as a feeder club

It was noted that Scraftoft Joggers had developed beyond a beginners' group, with members running in LRRL Summer League races in team vests. Members reflected that, due to Baz's success with the venture, it is more likely that the club will seek membership of the LRRL rather than feed members into established clubs

b) Park Run

Whilst there may be some mileage in advertising at the event, members reflected that the unattached runners, who participate in large numbers, seem to treat the Park Run as an unofficial club.

c) Advertise in leisure centres

Dan undertook to place posters in DMU, Aylestone and Parklands as well as at Manor Road

6) Treasurer's report:

Colin noted that this is the best time of the year for the club's finances, with the

majority of subs in but few expenses paid out and this was reflected by a balance of £3048.15. However, significant outlay will be due in the near future, including:

- a) £600 for individual EA affiliation fees (collected by the club on behalf of EA)
- b) £99 for ARC affiliation
- c) £75 for EA Club affiliation
- d) £300 for remaining Winter League races

Colin advised the Committee that he had received a donation from a member who wishes to remain anonymous for the support of a younger member.

7) Men's Road Running Captain's report:

Keith noted that the club has a higher than average proportion of active members who turn out for races. Ludo, Richard and Mark C are preparing for London and a lot of people preparing for the Shakespeare Full and Half Marathons. The latter event is likely to impact on the club's ability to enter teams in the Livingstone Relays due to a clash of dates. However, Keith and Jackie will email members encouraging participation and Kim will co-ordinate the team on the day (as Keith is entered in the Shakespeare Full). In terms of LRRL league positions, the senior men are 5/7 in Division 1 and the vet men are 5/7 in Division 2.

8) Ladies Road Running Captain's report:

Jackie noted that the ladies teams are struggling due to injuries to so many members, with not enough injury-free runners to make up two full teams. Hopefully, some more runners will be fit for the summer league. It was noted that marathon training was taking the edge off the speed of our faster ladies. Vicky Sutton and Ashley are training for the Shakespeare Full and Lucy, Natasha and Valerie are entered in the half. In terms of LRRL league positions, the senior A team is 8/10 in Division 1 and the B team is 10/10 in Division 2. The lady vets are 7/8 in Division 1.

9) Cross-country Captain's report:

The club had fielded strong teams throughout the season, averaging 20 runners in the first four races and 16 in the final two. The Mens and Ladies teams finished 4th in their respective divisions (both Division 2) and the Combined team finished 8/10 in Division 1. For the first time, the club fielded teams at the County Cross Country Championships, with the Masters Ladies (over 35s) placing in the bronze medal position.

10) Athletics Network and LRRL Chairman's Report

- a) Dave L, in his capacity as LRRL Chair, explained the background to the race cancellations that affected the winter league. The main issue is one of road safety – any interruption to traffic (for example, a race marshal stopping cars to let runners out onto the road) is illegal. Even the police are only permitted

to stop traffic in an emergency. For many years, clubs have been taking risks but have been getting away with it because the law has not been enforced. However, in recent months, district councils have begun to refer event notifications to the Event Safety Advisory Group of the county council rather than simply noting them. In the case of Barrow, the risk assessment included reference to marshals stopping traffic (on the main road through the village) and the SAG advised that the event should not proceed without a temporary traffic restriction order (TTRO). There was insufficient time to apply for a TTRO and, had the race proceeded without one, the race organisers' insurance would have been invalidated, so the decision was taken to cancel the race. The Ashby case was similar, although a possible alternative proposed by the LRRL which might have allowed the race to go ahead was rejected by South Derbyshire runners at short notice.

It was noted that a number of clubs lack the strength in depth to stage races as professionally as the new conditions require. For the future, some races will require TTROs and a major concern is cost. However, the County Council are happy for the LRRL to apply for a single order covering multiple races in a 12 month period. The biggest cost is usually the placing of a statutory notice in the local press (at premium rates) but the league has recently concluded a sponsorship deal with the Leicester Mercury. The league is proposing to share the remaining costs (for example, authorised signage) with organising clubs, but the additional cost on individual runners will be small (£1 per race for summer league, 50p per race for winter). However, the application for the order will need to be submitted in April in order to cover the Hungarton 7 race. This means that dates for the 2015 Winter League races will have to be agreed much earlier than previously.

Organising clubs will need to have a small number of volunteers trained in traffic management ("Chapter 8" training) and the league has arranged for a course to be run in May for this purpose. LRRL is also making changes to include more scrutiny of clubs' plans against agreed standards in respect of timescales for actions.

There are implications for the club's organisation of the Kibworth 6 in 2015, as a TTRO will be required for the start, the finish will have to be reconfigured and some volunteers will have to undergo Chapter 8 training.

- b) Network meetings have now been amalgamated with Coach Co-ordinator meetings and are much more vibrant. EA is pretty much withdrawing all funding, but the Network can continue for a year or so, on the basis of its income generation (including the chip timing system and Children's Cross Country series).

11) Social News

Events organised so far have included:

- a) Keith's post-training 60th birthday bash at the Cow and Plough – attended by 35 members
- b) Curry night at More

To come:

- c) Hat night - 2 April 2014
- d) Camping – July/August, one or two nights
- e) BBQ – 23 August 2014, at the Lodwick's
- f) Equinox 24 Relay – 21 September, aim for two teams of eight
- g) Presentation Evening – 29 November 2014, former members to be invited to tie in with 30th anniversary

Other ideas:

- h) Male v female skittles at the Rose & Crown (Thurnby)
- i) Quiz night

12) Membership News

Current membership stands at 57 paid members and 11 life members.

13) Other business:

- a) Jerry Wilkes is planning to run the Leicestershire Round as a charity fundraiser, using the traditional footpaths rather than the road, over 24 hours in July. He would welcome support from fellow Hogs.
- b) Kim is working on a Roll of Honour of previous award winners, for the website. He would appreciate help in filling in some gaps
- c) Thanks to John S and LCCC for use of excellent venue
- d) Next meeting: 1 July 2014