

Roadhoggs Committee Meeting

25 August 2015, L.C.C.C

1. **Present:** Dan Bannantyne, Jackie Brown, Keith Dakin, Barbara Hermann, Alison Lodwick, Dave Lodwick, Mark Ramsden, Colin Smith, John Stew, Dave Swan, Kim Richardson, Barry Waterfield
2. **Apologies:** Ron Atton, Mal Blyth, Steve Martin, Lucy McMillan, Sid Smith
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015:** AGREED.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:**
 - i. Item 4.v: Hi-vis tabards for race marshals/officials ordered just after the last meeting have been received.
 - ii. Item 5.iii: Short-sleeve technical T-shirts are on order. The price to members will be held at £10 (thanks to a promotional discount of 15%).
 - iii. Item 6: Go-ahead has been given for the Club to organise the second Derby Runner cross country race of the 2015/2016 season at Bradgate Park on 22 November 2015¹. The Park Management have agreed to allow us exclusive use of the Hunts Hill carpark and Dave L has already been round the provisional route.
 - iv. Item 10: no progress to report on a parkrun takeover. A second Leicester parkrun, to be based at Victoria Park, has been approved but the launch date is still to be agreed.
 - v. Item 12.ii: no progress to report on costing promotional car stickers. Some concern was expressed on the potential for negative PR for the Club if too many members displaying stickers park inconsiderately on training nights.
 - vi. Item 12.iv: nothing further to report on the proposal to allow B teams to count in the L.R.R.L Senior Men's competition. It would appear that support for the proposal is limited to Barrow Runners.
5. **Finances**
 - a. **General**
 - i. The working balance at the bank is largely unchanged from the previous meeting, at *circa* £2,145. Forthcoming expenditure includes £186 for technical T-shirts and the annual £50 charge for the use of the Manor Road changing room facilities.
 - ii. Tom has undertaken to audit the 2014 accounts.
 - iii. Colin announced that he intends to step down as Treasurer at the end of 2015. The following have expressed an interest in taking on the role: Barbara, Tom, Steve M and Steve W.
 - b. **Member subscriptions 2016**

¹ Subsequently moved to 6 December 2015

i. Dave L tabled a paper setting out the rationale for moving away from the current subscription model which includes the race fees for the L.R.R.L Winter League and Derby Runner races. The advantages of the current arrangement include:

- encouragement of members to race, and,
- ease of administration (both for the club and individual members).

The disadvantages include:

- widely differing value for money for members, with those who do not race regularly in the winter enjoying less value for their membership fee than those who do (20% of the membership did not benefit from free races in 2015);
- the risk of sustaining a loss if race take up is higher than budgeted for;
- our “headline” membership fee appears significantly higher than the vast majority of clubs (as the value we offer is not readily appreciated by the majority of those looking for a club).

The current full subscription, including the L.R.R.L Winter League and Derby Runner races, is £40 a year. However, there will be a further increase in the race fees for the former in 2016 to £5 (double the rate in 2012) and there will also be an additional Derby Runner race in 2015/2016. Just to cover these increased costs would mean increasing the full subscription to £48, and it was suggested that the point had been reached where the all-inclusive model is no longer sustainable.

In a wide ranging discussion, the following points were made:

- The Club should value most highly those who race the most, and, therefore, it is appropriate that there is some subsidy for races
- There was a concern that fewer members would participate in the Derby Runner if the race fees were passed on
- People expect to pay for races in the summer – there is, by and large, no problem getting members to race – so it is unlikely that we would see much if any reduction in the numbers racing if winter race fees were passed on
- It is impossible to find out whether potential members are put off by the cost of the subscription
- We do not currently have the kind of management information we need to make an informed decision about the likely impact of increasing/reducing the subscription rate

The following alternative subscription models were suggested:

- Discounted subscription rate for first year of membership
 - This would create an additional administrative burden on the Treasurer and Membership Secretary
- Members pay for a certain number of races, the Club pays for any over and above that
 - This would create an additional administrative burden at the start of each Winter League race (including the collection of race fees and checking off the cumulative number of races for each runner)
- A flat rate subscription that includes the England Athletics (EA) affiliation fee, but no race fees

- Setting an appropriate rate would be challenging in the absence of comprehensive management information

The Committee considered the following proposals:

- Continue with current model, leave subscription rate unchanged at £40
- Continue with current model, increase subscription rate to £48
- Introduce a flat rate subscription of £25, including EA affiliation fee, but no race fees
- Introduce a flat rate subscription of £25, including EA affiliation fee, and subsidise L.R.R.L Winter League/Derby Runner race fees (£2 per race entered)
- Continue with current model, but subsidise members in their first year (£15 subsidy per member)

It was AGREED to continue with the current model and hold the subscription rate at £40, subject to there being no increase in the cost of EA affiliation in 2016.

It was further AGREED to:

- track membership participation in races (to have a much clearer idea of the actual cost of the all-inclusive model)
- be more forceful in advertising the value of the subscription “package”
- elicit member views on the relative value of different elements of the subscription “package”

c. Training Equipment

The Committee AUTHORISED the purchase of training equipment (for example, hurdles and Velcro tapes for attaching signs).

It was noted that members are currently benefiting from the use of equipment purchased by Dave L but not recharged to the club.

7. Beginner Running/New Members Update

- Alison is continuing to work with novice runners on a one to one basis – although conversion rates are currently low.
- Dan would like all membership applications to come to him in the first instance. There are currently 80 paid up and affiliated members, with 15 honorary members (some of whom are also affiliated).

8. Coaching and Athlete Development

- Free software for the analysis of running styles has been acquired. However, there will be a cost to the Club if it is felt that “Coach’s Eye” would be more appropriate.
- The Club is short of trained Run Leaders, particularly those who can support novices. At least one potential candidate has been identified to undertake the L.i.R.F course. The Committee AUTHORISED funding for one person to undertake the course (£150) at a date to be agreed.
- The Club is seeing the benefit of its investment in C.iR.F. training for Dan and Dave L as the Thursday coached sessions are going well, with 4/6 members per session. It was noted

that the nature of the sessions will change as the weather deteriorates, with greater emphasis on hill training and speed work.

9. Social

- a. The Club Barbeque went well and the Committee thanked the Lodwicks and John S for their efforts. The event will definitely be repeated in 2016, but with a different style of food.
- b. A Quiz Night has been arranged for 22 September 2015² at the Red Lion in Huncote. Food will be available (no need to pre-order) at an all-in price of £8 per head. Minimum 20 people will need to sign up.

c. Presentation Evening

The theme will be British Comedy (any era). Price set at £12.50 (children free) to include a hot buffet of traditional British dishes. Keith has convened a working group to co-ordinate entertainment. Team Captains were reminded to think about their nominations for the next meeting.

10. Results Roundup

Updated League tables are still not available, but the positions after Prestwold were:

Senior Men: 3rd in Division 2

Vet Men: 6/7 in Division 2 but may avoid relegation as Leicester Tri failed to field a team in the last two races

Senior Ladies: 1st in Division 2 and looking good for promotion

Vet Ladies: 1st in Division 2 (by 17 points, so almost certain to be promoted)

12. AOB

- i. A member of the Committee queried the benefits of affiliation to the County Association, which cost £15 per annum. Whilst the principle benefit is access to the County Cross-Country Championships, it was felt that membership was an act of good citizenship and commitment to the wider athletic community.
- ii. Dave L has been contacted by the supporters of a runner (Ben Smith) aiming to complete 400 marathons in 400 days. The purpose of the challenge is to raise money for charity. The bulk of the marathons will be locally-devised routes around the country, and Dave L has devised two in Leicestershire, to be run on 17th and 18th December 2015. Local support for the runner would be appreciated.
- iii. The Committee wished to place on record its thanks to Trudy for the sterling work that she undertakes on the Club's behalf in terms of making cakes, not only during the Derby Runner season, but for social events and special occasions. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

13. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 6 October 2015³ at L.C.C.C.

² Subsequently moved to 9 October 2015

³ Subsequently moved to 27 October 2015