

Roadhoggs Committee Meeting

12 January 2016, L.C.C.C.

1. **Present:** Dan Bannantyne, Keith Dakin, Barbara Hermann, Alison Lodwick, Dave Lodwick, Colin Smith, John Stew, Dave Swan, Kim Richardson, Steve Martin, Sid Smith, Barry Waterfield
2. **Apologies:** Ron Atton, Mal Blyth, Jacqui Brown, Lucy McMillan, Mark Ramsden
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 27th October 2015:** AGREED (subject the correction of “English Athletics” to “England Athletics”).
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:**
 - i. Action to gather members’ next of kin details has been rolled forward
 - ii. Bradgate DRL debrief

Although not quite as many runners took part as in January 2015, it was still a very successful event and thanks were extended to all those who helped out on the day. The revised parking arrangements were a great improvement, with only three cars at most backing up at any one time. The Wardens were very helpful, opening up more parking spaces, and the local PCSO report back to the park authorities that everything worked well. The new course was just as good as the previous one and the new start/finish area was an improvement. In terms of learning points for the future, (i) the deer were roaming much more than in previous years and narrowly avoided interfering with the race – a note to runners to be aware of the deer will be included in further race information; (ii) in the junior race, the hares inadvertently misled the leaders on the second lap – we may need to look again at the pre-race briefing for the hares. Initial feedback from the Park management has been very positive. Profit from the race is likely to be around £285. There was unanimous support for hosting the event in 2016/17, should we be asked to do so by the DRL.

- iii. Derby Runner Cross Country League

We just managed to field a full men’s team in Race 4 but failed to field a full ladies team, so scored no points in the ladies competition. Race 5 at Grace Dieu is towards the end of January.

5. Finances

- i. We ended the year with a balance in the bank of approximately £2225 and a working surplus of £500 – due to profit from organising the Bradgate DRL twice in addition to the Kibworth LRRL. A detailed income and expenditure report is in preparation and will be available at the AGM.

6. Presentation Evening debrief

- i. 32 members (one third of the Club’s active membership) attended the Club Presentation Evening out of a total attendance of 63. 40% of those members who attended are

members of the Management Committee. The lack of engagement of the wider membership was disappointing, given the time and effort involved in staging the event.

- ii. It was noted that the lack of interest in the Presentation Evening mirrors a decline in interest in the social side of the club, with attendances at all social events (including going to the pub after Wednesday training) reduced to a greater or lesser extent in the last year or so. Whilst a variety of reasons may be hypothesised for the decline in interest in the social programme (including a reluctance to give up family time for non-running events and the relocation of members who were socially active) there was some concern that the Club might be perceived as “clique-y” by newer members.
- iii. In terms of the Presentation Evening, there was a discussion regarding the format, particularly with regards the “home-made” entertainment and fancy-dress element. It was noted that some other clubs (for example, Barrow and Birstall) have opted for a much more formal “dinner dance” format for the awards event which is very popular, although it was acknowledged that this format is much more expensive.
- iv. It was agreed that we should canvass members’ views on the timing and format of the Presentation Evening by, in the first instance, including it as an agenda item for the forthcoming AGM.

7. AGM format & agenda

- i. There has been a decline in interest in the AGM over recent years. Although the meetings have been quorate, the number of non-committee members in attendance has been small.
- ii. It was noted that January is a difficult month in which to encourage people to come out for a meeting but the timing of the AGM is fixed.
- iii. It was agreed that we should promote the AGM as an opportunity to meet up with fellow-members and to direct some of the profits from the Presentation Evening to the provision of free wine, beer, soft drinks and nibbles.
- iv. In addition to a discussion on the receipt of reports from the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Team Captains and the election of members of the committee, it was agreed to have the following as agenda items: Presentation Evening; membership subscription model; “open floor” for members’ questions and suggestions.
- v. Whilst it was recognised that personalised invitations would not be practicable, the committee requested that the AGM notice should be made as informal and friendly as possible and the Team Captains were asked to post the invitation on social media.

8. Membership of the committee

- i. In addition to Colin standing down as Honorary Treasurer and Jacqui as Ladies Team Captain, Dave S indicated that, after 30 years as the Club’s LRRL delegate, he would be happy if someone could take over from him.
- ii. It was agreed that the AGM invitation should also include a call for nominations for the above positions, as well as for general membership of the committee.

9. Proposal to establish sub-committees

- i. Dave L proposed that the creation of sub-committees which could meet informally and progress developments might improve the management of the club through increased transparency and a greater representation of the wider membership. Two areas where a sub-committee could be helpful would be Coaching & Athlete Development (convened by Dan/Dave L) and Social (convened by Keith), whilst race organisation might benefit from a more formal structure than hitherto.
- ii. It was noted that those taking the lead for various activities/events routinely bring informal groups together on an *ad hoc* basis. Whilst this approach has been successful, there was some concern that it tends not to widen involvement much beyond the Management Committee.
- iii. Whilst there was some concern regarding the use of the term “sub-committee” which was felt to be too formal, no strong views either for or against the proposal were expressed in the meeting.

10. Review of policies & procedures

- i. No amendments to the Code of Conduct were considered necessary.
- ii. An amendment to the Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure was requested such that a complainant and the person against whom a complaint is made need not be present at the same meeting of the investigating panel, as this was considered to be unnecessarily adversarial.

11. New members update

- i. Renewals have been slow to come in, with 20 so far confirmed out of a possible 80. However, it was noted that this was par for the course, with people having more limited spending power in January.
- ii. We have lost a number of members due, in the main, to work commitments and relocation. However, we have also had “lapsed” members re-join, as their personal circumstances have changed to enable them to run regularly once again.
- iii. There was some concern that we are being eclipsed by clubs such as West End which are highly active on social media and have a fixed city centre base to exploit. It was also noted that newer clubs with dynamic coaches such as Anstey currently attract huge numbers (typically 130 to training nights).

12. Coaching and athlete development

- i. Dan and Dave L passed their Practical Assessment in November, but still have several workbooks to complete.
- ii. The Network hosted a drill session with Gemma Hillier-Moses in the autumn which was excellent and well-attended. Videos of the drills are available on the Network website.

- iii. The Club's Thursday drill sessions have been suspended for the time being to allow the coaches to recharge their batteries. The sessions were well-received by participants but poorly attended.

13. Results round up

Ben Milson was congratulated on PBs in back-to-back parkruns earlier in the month.

14. AOB

- i. A reminder that the Club's parkrun takeover is on Saturday, 5 March 2016 – we will need to provide 15 or so volunteers.
- ii. London Marathon club place – this has been relinquished by Martin due to an ongoing injury and has been transferred to Dale (second place in the draw and first reserve). Dave L queried whether, now we only have one place, we should restrict eligibility so those who have taken up a club place in the previous 5 years cannot enter the draw. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the AGM.
- iii. Ben Smith's 401 in 401 challenge is still going strong, although it was noted that a runner in the West Midlands is now attempting 400 marathons in 365 days.
- iv. The Network's chip timing system (used by the LRRL) is going to be replaced with a system that uses both disposable and reusable chips. The new system will launch with disposable chips in this year's Summer League with the new, more robust, re-usable chips debuting in Winter 2017.

15. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.