

LFR Regular Committee Meeting

Monday 11th October 2018

Co-Presidents: Kirsty Fitzgerald (KF) and Jamie Keenan (JK)

Club Secretary & Welfare Officer : Christos Bitzis-Politis (CBP)

Club Treasurer: Warren Swart (WS)

Membership Secretary: Simon Mac (SM)

Races Secretaries : Julia Robinson (JR) and Alex Rendall (AR)

Publicity & Communications Officers: Mary Cormack (MC) and Andrew Corti (AC)

Social Secretaries: Daniel Brittle (DB) and Waldo Miguez (WM)

Coaching Team Coordinator: Adrian Mark (AM)

Agenda Items

Financial Update (WS)

Races Update (RS)

Club Championships survey (AR)

Publicity Update (P&C O)

App Discussion for LFR (MC)

Social Calendar update (SS)

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary

Thursday Run, Food and Drink Venue

All Active Card for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Co-Presidents (JK)

1. Suggestions/Actions to lighten the load on Committee members

- a. What takes you the most time to complete each week/month?
 - b. Can we simplify/automate any processes?
2. Review of booking system for Thursday/Saturday
- a. Are we happy with OutSavvy?
 - b. Do we need to 'overbook' to accommodate the 'no-shows'?
 - c. Is the ratio of new runners vs members right?

AOB

Chair: JK

Apologies: WM, DB, AM

Minutes: CBP

Financial Update

Reference to relevant Profit and Loss Spreadsheet which has been previously circulated to Committee members.

The membership fees during the past few weeks have had a very positive impact on own financial situation, as having an increase in Club registrations has had the consequence of an increase in our finances. And although the situation is still far from being prosperous, the current budget has slightly increased further to the initial projections.

One should bear in mind though that we have not received any invoices from the Porchester Centre so far. Initially it has been discussed that invoices from the PC would be send over to LFR every month, though it would be simpler if they were meant to be send quarterly.

The International Trip costs will be clearing up by the end of October, at which point a check will be effectuated as to assess the existing reserves.

The SS have requested a further £80 to be added to the expenditures subsidised by LFR in regards to the Christmas Party. The amount to be paid come in total to £ 5, 727.00, coming to each individual member at the price of £ 49, 99.00 through OutSavvy, when paying the App Administration Fees, or coming to £ 47,50 per member without including the OutSavvy fees, which we have been requested to subsidise.

The above ticket price will be including a glass of prosecco per person and canapés upon arrival, a three course meal, half a bottle of wine per person, the service charge, DJ and music until early in the morning. The schedule will, more or less, be accordingly: arrivals at 5.30, dinner starting at 7.15, ending at 9.00, so then the tables may be cleared and entrance will be permitted to all LFR who have not partaken at the seated dinner, as to be able to celebrate together, coaches after 3.00 in the morning.

Request to vote, relative to the extra Christmas Party expenditure.

Committee votes positively to the SS request, agreeing to a further amount of £80 to go towards the Christmas Party expenses.

Let it be known though that this is the very last time where such a subsidize is taking place, as the Club's financial situation does not allow any more such contributions towards similar and other causes, regardless of how worthy they might be and how much the membership benefits from them.

Discussion over different time options, relative to requesting membership to attend the Christmas Party, after the dinner/seating part of the function has come to an end. The time supported by the most and considered as better and appropriate

is 9.00 pm. KF is kindly requested to liaise with the LFR SS and the venue in regards to the above.

Discussion over which company/App to make the Christmas Dinner booking with, coming to the conclusion that WebCollect is cheaper and has less administration for all those involved.

Discussion over the new Club coaches. The Committee has approved, authorised the EA training of five coaches and bought five coupons in block, for the amount of £ 800 (5x £160) and one individual training EA coupon, at the cost of £160.

The internet domain has been renewed and paid for the next three years, at the cost of £50.

England Athletics have already communicated their intentions relative to the new Club Year, and which will become effective from the 1st of April 2019; accordingly the individual athlete registration fees will remain stable, at the same amount of £15, with the prospect of being reviewed in the end of 2019. The club affiliation fees though, paid once per year will have an increase of £50, so LFR this year will be paying £150 instead of £100.

Last though not least, there has also been an increase to the club registration fees for the Metropolitan League Cross Country races this season, which have also risen by £50, and in consequence LFR will have to pay £200 instead of the £150 which we paid last year.

Races Update

The River Relay has been quite difficult to organise this year, due to the fact that there was just one driver available on the day. In the end, by meticulously planning the relay changes ahead

and by using Uber and trains where available, everything went really well. The conclusion though still remains the same, that in spite of all the organisation and the perfect planning of all relevant logistics, we still need to have two drivers on the day.

The difficulty lies mainly in the fact that drivers do not have the possibility of participating in the Relay as runners, as happens during the Green Belt, so there is very little motivation to come forward and assist. There needs to be some further encouragement and possibly some ideas as to try and involve the rest of membership on this particular race, which is not only a really beautiful one but has also become a standard LFR fixture.

One suggestion would be to organise a pic-nic or a social event at the end of the race, for next year, so there will be more participation as in involvement from the membership's part.

There could also be the possibility of passing a minute amount of the costs, such as £5 per person to membership, as to hire a van or a coach. The Race Secretaries are very much aware of the situation and will consider these options, as to facilitate the logistics for the next year's RR.

Discussion on the LFR London Marathon Places, with the announcement having gone out this week and the potential of a meeting between the RS and the Cross Country Captains, as to discuss certain issues relative to the Cross Country Season.

Discussion relative to the Club Championships Survey and what type of information do we aim to obtain from such a survey and how is this info going to be used afterwards for the benefit of the Club. This survey is a collaboration between the RS, DA and TC and there are a series of questions, such as what do you think is the best feature of the Club Championships, in which part do you believe that there should be implemented some improvements, as in where do you believe we can make it better, is the scoring system understandable to you and how can we

make it simpler, which might be the reasons that hinder you from participating, etc.

Discussion on the number of questions and on whether there is a limit of ten questions addressed to just 100 participants. Recommendations to use multiple questions for reasons of simplicity and practicality, or to adopt the combination of having at the same time both open questions and some multiple choice type of questions, all the questions though being as much pertinent as possible to the possibilities of a future action.

The aim is to bring this survey out to membership as soon as possible, definitely in the period from now until Christmas, as to be able to gather and elaborate the results and to plan better the next Club Championships for the next year.

Publicity Officers Update

Extremely positive feedback on the aspect of the e-bulletin and especially on the member's interviews, with the intention of aiming henceforward also at newer members.

The article on Run ABC, which happen to be the most popular on-line magazine for runners, was also a great success, as it focused on both the LGBT+ part and on the running part equally and made it an excellent reading.

Discussion on the clashing between the Red Run and the December Cross Country fixture, is will be impossible to participate in both and members will have to choose accordingly on their own and without any pressure. The Red Run starts at 12.30 pm and there will be 25 free places which will be offered to the first 25 LFR runners who will be willing to run it.

Discussion on the publicity of the race and the offer of 25 places and the liaising with MB.

Discussion on finding and using the right App for LFR, the possible maintenance costs of such an App and the possibility

of a cooperation between LFR and another London based LGBT+ sport club which has the exact same needs as ours, with the aim of possibly involving other FR clubs in the UK.

Discussion on the possibility of a promotional invite by Adidas to come over with a number of their newest types of running and track shoes and organise a presentation for LFR. Shoes on that day will be sold with a certain discount, to be discussed.

Discussion on the ideal day for such an activity and the possibility of using the occasion for further LFR promotion, by inviting a photographer to be present on the day.

Sadly nothing really came out from the possibility of an LFR radio interview while in Denmark for the IT, as the Danish journalist was unavailable and contacted MC after we were gone

Membership Update

There has been an increase in membership registrations. Currently we are at 499 members, and almost on our way to reach the aim of last year, when we ended having 554 members. Out of these 499 members, 450 are male and 49 are female runners. 400 are old members which have renewed their membership, whereas 99 are completely new to the Club. Out of these completely new members, 86 are male and 13 are female. There are still five months to go, during which we need to either recruit or have renew their membership 55 runners.

Club Secretary

Discussion on the proposal of having a unique entry card for all three All Active Centres LFR is currently been using. Pros and Contras.

Feedback on the current Thursday venue. Decision to go ahead with a different venue.

Club Co-Presidents

Discussion and suggestions on improving the existing booking system. Proposal to abolish the female tickets for both Thursdays and Saturdays, which is discussed further and positively accepted by the Committee. Further discussions are concentrating on eliminating as much of the administration as possible in regards to the booking systems and on ways as to improve their efficiency.

Need to proceed with certain updates on the new LFR website.

Action Points

-KF is kindly requested to please liaise with the SS and L'Artisane in regards to establishing the time of when the venue will be open to all membership after finishing the Christmas dinner.

-MC is kindly requested to please liaise with KH as to finding out more details (maintenance costs etc.) about the mentioned App and please report back to the Committee

-MC is kindly requested to please liaise with ANS in regards to the Adidas promotional event and to enquire whether he would be available to come and act as the LFR official photographer.

-JK is kindly requested to please contact RC and discuss with him the present situation at Amba Hotel and the reasons LFR considers it as important for membership to move elsewhere

-CBP is requested to please contact Amba Hotel in regards to the decision relative to the change of venues

-CBP is to contact Prezzo and liaise accordingly in regards to using their premises as the LFR Thursday post-run drink and food venue

-CBP is requested to please liaise with the management of The Castle, requesting for their contact details

-CBP is requested to re-send the Welfare Officer Role description, as to be read by all Committee members