

LFR
Regular Committee Meeting
Wednesday 2nd October 2019

Co-Presidents: Kirsty Fitz-Poole (KFP) and Jamie Keenan (JK)
Club Secretary: Christos Bitzis-Politis (CBP)
Club Treasurer: Alex Darsley (AD)
Membership Secretary: Simon Mac (SM)
Races Secretaries: Erika Kulikova (EK) and Alex Rendall (AR)
Publicity & Communications Officers: Joey Knock (JKk) and Andrew Corti (AC)
Social Secretaries: Brittany Bernard (BB) and Daniel Brittle (DB)
Coaching Team Coordinator: Rob Daly (RD)

Agenda Items

September Financial Updates (CT)

Races Update (RS)

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Communication improvement between the IT and the Club Committee, in particular regarding finances (AC)

Social Calendar update (SS)

LFR Christmas Party Update (DB)

OFS Birthday Awards (DB)

Christmas Party Fundraising Raffle (DB & JK)

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary

LFR documents (Update, Revision, Awareness)

Big Half Update

Collaboration Proposal between LFR and HSBC

LFR Christmas Presents and suggestions

LFR AGM

AOB

What to prioritise and what would we like to accomplish as individual Committee members and also collectively, for the remaining six months of tenure

Chair: JK

Apologies: KFP, SM, RD, EK

Minutes: CBP

September Financial Updates (CT)

One of the important subjects which needs to be promptly discussed is to start planning for the financial budget for the next Club Year.

Committee needs to decide on the membership fees for next year, which currently is at £49.

There follows a number of financial suggestions from the CT relative to the annual membership amount which we believe, by adopting it, it will enable every Committee member to bring forward the projects they would like to bring forward for the whole year, and support the expenditure and budget that have been hitherto allocated to each Committee role, while at the same time we try as much as possible and eliminate the possibility of bringing forward a deficit.

This happens to be an important subject that all Committee members need to consider carefully.

After some deliberation, the Committee members decide that for the time being this is a subject which needs some further reflection and that the future membership fee amount needs to be agreed upon and finalised at the RCM of February.

Besides the above, there is very little else and nothing incredibly important which needs to be reported in regards to the Club finances.

Races Update (RS)

The form for the LFR Marathon Places has been set and was duly sent to all those who have shown interest in applying and obtaining one of the Club places, we have already had six or seven potential candidates, which demonstrates a healthy interest and we will be receiving candidatures until the end of October. The four available Club places have also been publicised weekly on the e-bulletin, and we expect that there will be further interest on behalf of the Club membership. There has been expressed in a very clear way that the four places will go to those who have been offering voluntary work in support of the Club and who have also been running as many events as possible from the Club Championships.

There is an exciting and joyful event to bring to the Committee's attention and for discussion: LFR have won, as one of our teams came second overall at the River relay, and the prize is £500 which will be donated on behalf of the Club to a charity of our choice. At the same event JD won his stage, so LFR did really well. The Committee suggests that it is only fair that the persons who were part of the team that won the prize should not only have a saying but should actually decide themselves to which charity would they wish this prize to be donated to. People who won this award should be requested to come forward with a suggestion for a charity and these same people who formed the winning team should also decide on the charity, based on their own suggestions. Incidentally the River Relay organisers got back to the LFR RS with some further details this week and the RS wish to bring this event forward to the ebulletin with some relative photographs and a celebratory blurb.

Action to be taken: EK is kindly requested to please liaise with the members of the winning team in regards to the above and to communicate to them the Committee's suggestion relative to choosing the charity to donate their award.

Finishing on an equally positive note, there hasn't been an extra expenditure of money on races above than the amount that what was budgeted.

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Communication improvement between the IT and the Club Committee, in particular regarding finances (AC)

A discussion on the above follows. Analogies are drawn with the GBR and how financial issues of the GBR are handled and especially on who has the final decision for financial matters, as well as with a charity, where a separate amount of money such as the IT reserve is or should be subject to the charity's governance. The main reason this is brought to discussion is because it is a question of responsibility, mainly in regards to finances. The Committee decides that this is a subject which needs to be discussed further. It is suggested that AC and AD should hold a separate meeting and discussion and should please come to a number of suggestions and to a certain conclusion, in regards to who and how, which then needs to be further discussed among Committee members and also communicated to the IT Committee and eventually incorporated into the IT MoU, which anyway seems to anyway be in need of a revision.

Action to be taken: AD and AC are requested to please meet at their own earliest convenience and discuss the above and then come back to the Club Committee with any suggestions

Feedback on the Bring a Friend initiative. We feel that there has not been put too much effort into this initiative and that there is much more potential to it, which should be exploited further. On its launching Wednesday there were three new people, one of whom was a woman. The number of new attendees means that it wasn't bad though it wasn't particularly successful either. JK suggests that the initiative could become more successful if the initiative takes place on a different running night, or nights, and that the post-run social should be further publicised. We should also think of the possibility of publicising this much more in advance that it was publicised, by sending it out a bit earlier, and to have much more publicity. The Committee is in general positive in regards to this initiative and believes that it should be done again. January would probably be a much better month, as for all new members joining then it is also infinitely cheaper, as they need to pay for just three months.

Discussion on the creation of a video for LFR, as requested from the Mayor's office, where every LGBT+ sports club will be presenting themselves through a short video.

Committee decides that there should be put out a call to membership, requesting of members who would want to do this one minute video on behalf of the Club and then edit it. Although there is no definite deadline, we should proceed as fast as possible and we should also try and make a good job, as many of the other LGBT+ sport clubs have a number of creative professionals and experts who will be conducting such an operation for them.

Action to be taken: JK is kindly requested to please email EC, JK and WP in regards to the above and following the outcome to then please put it out forward to the LFR membership

Social Calendar update (SS)

The feedback from the Pub Quiz which took place on Sunday the 29th of September has been very positive, we have had about 40 people and the Club made £158. It needs to be said that the staff at the venue were very welcoming, accommodating and collaborative. It has been a thoroughly fun and enjoyable experience, LFR could easily return and organise another such evening again, as the pub wouldn't have anything against.

In regards to the next bingo which is being organised for Wednesday the 23rd of October, everything up to this point has been going really fine, LFR is getting the venue, which is the City of Quebec for free though there is a £500 fee for Sheila, who would be conducting the quiz. The entrance has been established at £11 pounds and 100 is the number of maximum people that the venue may contain. Besides the LFR publicizing this event through their social media, there should also be some good publicity on Sheila's social media. Tickets are being purchased through Outsavvy, with the venue doors opening at 7.30, and the bingo starting at 8.00 pm.

As every year, we are organising attending the fireworks on Blackheath which will take place on the 2nd of November, and there will be drinks afterwards at the George and the Dragon.

A short update relative to the LFR Book Club, there has been the relative blurb on the ebulletin, the event is also taking place on Saturday the 2nd of November and it will be happening in the afternoon, so that those who wish may have dinner afterwards. Nine people have signed up already since it became public yesterday.

LFR Christmas Party Update (DB)

115 tickets have been sold so far, there are still tickets available though just only the tickets reserved for the LFR women. On the 12th of October, and after a number of encouraging FB posts, the tickets reserved for the LFR women will become available to everyone and they will turn into general tickets. Up to this point we have had 17 women buying Christmas tickets for this year, whereas last year we have had 20 women. Though of course there may be more women signing up in the next few days. We have also had 32 members who have signed up for the after drinks, there is one person on the waiting list for a general ticket, so we have 147 people in general between those for the seated dinner and those for the drinks. Based on this fact, we have made the calculations that in order to be able to break even with what has been requested from the venue as the minimum expenditure for the whole evening, every person needs to spend £23 in order to be able to achieve that, and the more people are buying dinner tickets, the more this

amount will become less and less. So, we happen to be quite confident and optimistic in regards to the financial outcome for the evening. The venue does have the potential to accommodate more people seated for dinner and we can carry on selling tickets until two weeks before the event. So there is still plenty of time and many possibilities for others, if the dinner tickets are exhausted.

When we finalise the dinner tickets two weeks beforehand, before the dinner, then we can wait into the evening and see how the situation will be and how things will go, and if there is a difference to pay, we may then pay for the difference and close any such gap in the same evening, the venue have been very accommodating in this.

OFS Birthday Awards

Out For Sports are celebrating their 21st birthday and in order to celebrate this occasion they have been looking out for nominations for a number of categories. These nominations will close on Sunday October the 13th, whereas the celebration and the award ceremony will take place on the 1st of November at the City Hall, with tickets that may be bought through Eventbrite for £5.

LFR would be very keen to win the Club Award, considering our membership, and as a Committee, we should decide and focus on one of these awards, preferably putting LFR forward as to win the Club of the Year Award.

Christmas Party Fundraising Raffle (DB & JK)

After the seated dinner, we would like to organise a Fundraising Raffle.

Dinner will terminate at 9.00, so after the dinner there will be the Co-Presidents speeches, then we will have the Fundraising Raffle and then we may finish the evening with some lip-sync karaoke. Instead of actually buying the prizes, the best thing would be to have the prizes being donated to LFR, in a way that what we may get out of the raffle, goes into boosting the Club finances.

Suggestions are the whole series of episodes from Dallas in a coffret box (!), a free meal at Prezzo, a free meal at Wahaca, a free bottle of prosecco by The Anthologist, something interesting from Prowler, potentially something from Retro Bar, etc. In addition there are a number of donors who have been giving out such prizes for the Pride 10K. Furthermore, this could also be communicated to membership and having them becoming involved by donating unwanted items.

Action to be taken: JK is kindly requested to please liaise with MP in regards to the donors of the Pride 10K and then to liaise with a number of businesses which could potentially offer some of the prizes to the LFR Christmas Fundraising Raffle.

Membership Update (MS)

We have currently 464 members, which is 83% of the way to reach the 562 members that we had last year. Of these, there are 423 male members, the 91.2%, and 41 female members, the 8.8%. Of these 464, 402 are renewals from last year, the 86.6%, and 62 are new members, which is 13.4%

We still have six months of the Club Year to go and we will need 98 members to match last year. On an average, we would need 17 members to join or renew each month as to be able to match last year. Considering just the new members only, we

have had an average of 10 members per month over the past 6 months and based on this it will take us 10 months to match the 562 members we had last club year. For October, we can expect to gain between 7 - 17 members with the average being 12.

For November, we can expect to gain between 6 - 15 members with the average being 9.

Additionally, based on the average new members per month, we can expect to reach 508 members by the end of Club Year 2019/20

This means we will end up 90% of the total members of the last club year.

Club Secretary

LFR documents (Update, Revision, Awareness)

HSBC Collaboration

Big Half Update

LFR Christmas Presents and suggestions

LFR AGM

Club Presidents

Raise discussion relative to the update of software (KFP)

The above will be discussed further at the next RCM.

AOB

What to prioritise and what would we like to accomplish as individual Committee members and also collectively, for the remaining six months of tenure

KFP (in absentia)

My priorities for next 6 months will be led by membership, as to what they want themselves to see happening for the Club. I want to ensure that the Club Committee feels supported and I want to support all the new female members to become better integrated into the Club.

Alex D

My main interest relative to the planning for the next of rest of the year has very much to do with the next year. I feel that we need to become more strategic and to set clearly what we want to become as club. This year has definitely been less stressful than the previous.

Discussion about the LFR running gear

We become even larger every year, becoming larger means that we might have to start looking for bigger venues and that will soon have to be applied for all the LFR events.

One other subject which we could very much look into and try to focus on is how accessible the club really is, as there are still several barriers to participation, mostly of a financial nature. The issue would possibly evolve subsidizing, thus being able to remove some for these barriers.

JKk

Although all the LFR runs are open to everyone, not all of our venues are accessible to everyone, we need to look attentively into the Club communication relative to trans inclusion. LFR has been using public changing facilities, and that is a fact, though it is very important how do we communicate our vision about inclusion and how do we manage to communicate our efforts regarding visibility. For example, the Bring a Friend, initiative, which is a really good initiative in itself, if this is brought out to membership as it is, and being this a member where men are the majority, most of our male member would, most of the times, bring another male as friend, at the Bring a Friend evening, so this mean that the number of male runners will increase even more. It then become even more important if we try and have some goals of inclusion for the long term and we try to work towards them.

In addition to the above, it is imperative that we should engage with someone from the trans community and liaise with someone and get their own suggestions on what would they like to have from a running club such as the LFR. Non binary toilets is a basic thing which should be the norm in all our venues, although it is not. Though there are still several other issues which are important to the trans community.

Action to be taken: Committee members are kindly requested to please prepare beforehand three or four questions, for the next time we meet, relative on what do we think we want to know from membership

International Trip Committee update

Time: 21, 06 pm.

The next RCM will be taking place on Tuesday the 5th of November