

**LFR**  
**Regular Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday 7th April 2020**

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: Matt Haas (MH)

**Agenda**

Club Treasurer (CT)  
Approval of Club Vest Invoices  
Membership Renewals

Races Update (RS)

Publicity Update (P&C O)  
GDPR and LFR Data Protection Policy

Social Calendar update (SS)

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary  
Virtual Circles through Zoom  
England Athletics Suggestions on Virtual Runs and Leader Board  
Ideas to entertain members socially (Zoom Quiz, Virtual Talent Evening, Virtual Karaoke)

Club Co-Presidents  
Gap in England Athletics Membership  
International Trip

AOB  
Out for Sports Fair  
London Pride  
GBR  
LFR25

Pride Run

Chair: KFP

Minutes: CBP

Apologies: MH, BB

## **Club Treasurer**

### Approval of Vest Invoices

There are currently two invoices relative to the purchase of Club vests during the month of February. The invoice of £690.12 is approved through voting by the Committee.

### Membership Renewals

In regards to the renewals of membership, the main question is whether we decide to have the renewals now or do we postpone them for later. The current situation is as follows: WebCollect has been reversed to last year's membership fees; 14 members have already renewed their membership of their own accord, before there was an official announcement from the Committee but there has now been a clear message in the eBulletin not to renew, so in consequence we do not expect any other members to proceed into renewing, before a different official announcement comes from the Club Committee.

Club costs are predicted to be lower this year due to the closure of leisure centres, and possibly due to the cancellation of other club activities. It is almost impossible to make a prediction, the ideal membership fee to meet expenditures for this year might be somewhere between £34 - £44, depending on how extended the lockdown is going to be, assuming also that all our members renew and that we don't lose any members.

The membership options are as follows:

a. Proceed with the renewals now, and maintain the membership fee at £49. Financially this is the safest option for the Club, and we are likely to bring in more than we need to cover our costs, but it will be difficult to justify this fee to membership, as all the Club activities are cancelled

b, Proceed with the renewals now, offering a discounted fee for this year at £36. This amount is based on a rough guess of what our costs will be, but there is the possibility that it may also go very wrong. Offering a discounted fee seems fairer and it clearly reflects the current situation, and at the same time it keeps the continuity of our usual cycle, and keeps money coming into the Club. On the other hand, as mentioned, we don't really know our costs for this year, so we will probably end up collecting either too much or too little money

c. The third option is to postpone all renewals until there is more certainty on when we can reassume Club activities, which offers us the advantage to be able to estimate our costs more accurately, so that we may set the right fee. The disadvantages of this last option is that there is no guarantee that there will be more certainty in a month (or even in three or even six months), so we don't get any benefits from waiting. Additionally, if we wait too long (or if the Club activities need to be cancelled for most of the year), then we may have members dropping off completely, or choosing to skip this year and wait for the next year, and both the above would result in a heavy loss.

The outgoing expenses that we currently have is the annual Club affiliation to EA, the Googles fees, there isn't much money going out, as there are no activities going on to pay for. With almost certainty, this situation could be going out for the next three months.

CT is leaning towards option b., as we don't gain much by waiting as things could stay very uncertain for the whole year. In which case, it is better to keep some continuity with the

usual cycle. We don't want to postpone this for too long either, as we could end up in a situation where we have to charge a really low, or no fee at all; thus the suggestion is to go for £36 as the discounted fee for a full membership.

There is also the suggestion to proceed with the renewal in three month's time, but offering membership the previous membership fee of £49. The issue mostly is not so much about the money, it's mostly about the timing.

There are a lot of members who are currently out of work, and are facing financial difficulties due to the current situation. We don't think it is a very good idea asking members to renew their membership now. Also it wouldn't be fair to ask members to pay the same amount of money as they did last year, for a Club Year which will start much later than usual, with at least three months of inactivity.

One of the main questions is whether the suggested £36 as membership fees will be able to cover all Club expenses for the rest of the year. Worst case scenario there are lots of Club activities which are cancelled for six months of the year, and although £34 to 36 could be an equally bad scenario, the Club will not go bankrupt if we choose to have membership at this rate. There is still a bit of time to decide until July and we shouldn't be asking for any money now, as it is not the right moment, not are we providing any services to members.

Discussion on whether we could move the membership year and what consequences would that have to the Club functions.

WebCollect is currently based on the financial year, with subscriptions until the end of March but we may be able to change this and extend the year. This means that we could be offering the renewal of membership at the same fee as last year, though for a period which extends for more than 12 months. We could be also offering membership a registration/ renewal fee based on the month the Club reassumes activities: if we start again in July, then the membership fees will be for nine months.

It is theoretically better from a practical point of view to have members registering all at the same time, so that we know what is happening from a membership point of view. This is though not happening anyway, as new members register whenever they wish.

What we could do, would be to open up the membership in July and then it will be for the members to decide, it will be their decision on whether to renew or not, as we do not expect that this will go further than three months, maybe four, and we could communicate this to members and remove any uncertainty.

At the same time, there is no certainty at all from any official sources in regards to the duration of the current situation, so we have to wait, anyway.

The Committee comes to the decision that we are not going to proceed into effectuating any renewals for the moment; memberships will be renewed when we are allowed to renew and the membership renewal does not necessarily need to be tied to a specific month. The level of the membership fee will be reappraised closer to the date that we will be allowed to start our activities again.

**Action to be taken:** Please have the above decision communicated to membership through the e-bulletin, adding that we will kick-off the renewal process as soon as we are allowed to do so.

The Club may still continue paying all outgoing expenses and may still be able to survive with the fees of about six months. All the above financial matters will be reassessed again at next month's RCM.

Currently 14 members have renewed their membership, eight are brand new members and seven are renewals. Discussion on whether these members will be refunded now or later, and discussion on the various options of whether to refund them in the near future, when we will have eventually established what the membership fees are going to be, or to refund them now, as we have received a fee but there aren't any activities going on which would justify such fee.

The Committee decides to refund these members when the membership fee has been established and send them an amended membership form, as the WebCollect forms are going to be radically different. As these persons might be requiring some clarity at this moment, it will be good to contact them individually, in the meantime, and to let them know of the above.

**Action to be taken:** The MS is kindly requested to please send to KFP the list of names of the members who have already renewed their membership for this year, as to be able to contact them

**Action to be taken:** please kindly contact JR requesting to please disable the renewal option on the LFR website.

### **Races Update (RS)**

This is the exact period when the RS would have been planning the new races for the Club Championships but with so many events being cancelled, it is impossible to make any assumptions nor to make any decisions as to be able to plan ahead. There needs to be a clearer situation in order to be able to choose and suggest any races, so for the time being we may only wait with patience.

**Action to be taken:** The RS are kindly requested to please get in touch with the Bridges Relay and the Battersea Mile organisers, as to get an idea whether these events have already been cancelled or not

An idea which could be adopted in the following few weeks would be embracing the suggestion of having members sending their time and distance results from their individual runs, collecting them and posting them on the e-bulletin, as this would be a fairly simple thing to do and members will be able to see that we are still running albeit in a socially responsible way.

### **Publicity Update (P&C O)**

GDPR and LFR Data Protection Policy

Following the RCM of March, AC has updated the WebCollect form and rewritten the Data Protection Policy and sent them to MN, as to have them checked beforehand; when we will have a clean copy of the above, we will be able to update the WebCollect forms in time.

In the meantime there has taken place some tidying up in the MailChimp and we have crossed out 475 persons who have ceased to be members, and the tidying up is still in progress.

We lunched a new feature on the e-bulletin, as there aren't any LFR racing in their tops around the world, asking members to send us their photos from running on their own, though we have had no photos until now, and we would like to make members feel more engaged through getting and sending us some photographs from their runs.

**Action to be taken:** AC is kindly requested to send to CBP the emails relevant to the question by ADS

Regarding DdV posting on FB, relative to Wednesday core classes, there follows a short discussion as to make sure that all Committee members are happy to go forward with joining workouts with the Manchester Frontrunners. The Committee fully supports any such initiative of contact and getting together among clubs

### **Social Calendar update (SS)**

The SS have cancelled all events which had been booked for the following months, which was quite unproblematic as there weren't any deposits or fees involved. There was the virtual pub quiz, organised by SC, which was great fun and we are looking into options to possibly plan this for more people. We want to think that it is doable, we just have to try and think how to do it. There are several such activities which are going on-line and we could suggest some of these to membership.

### **Club Secretary**

Virtual Circles through Zoom

There are Zoom meetings taking place and organised by LFR members and the concern is that there may be some people who haven't been invited to any of these meetings and may be feeling isolated. It would be good to have the opportunity to open such a connection to all members. In consequence it is considered whether it was worth organising larger meetings that everyone may attend, on a couple of days per week or on the days we were meant to be running by using a paid for Zoom account, which can host up to 100 people. This type of account is around £12.00 a month.

The Committee totally approves of these virtual meetings, and they should continue as such in the format and capacity of participants that they are still going, though we feel that it would be very impractical to hold or host officially one such meeting for a large number of people.

Circles are very useful when there are runs going on, as it is an opportunity to make announcements relevant to the Club activities, though at the moment there aren't any announcements to be made, as there aren't any Club activities going on.

What we could do though would be to support this initiative by having these informally organised meetings become known through FB and e-bulletin announcements, in a way that they may reach all members, and then leave it to the discretion of those who wish to participate to do so.

**Action to be taken:** CBP is requested to reply to the emails as per above, adding that the Club Committee would be happy to support any virtual social initiatives as well, such as Karaoke, if there are adequate platforms available for these purposes.

### **Club Co-Presidents**

Gap in England Athletics Membership

Clarification and understanding of the situation where some members are not covered by EA membership, and thus by insurance, how this happens and how may we close this gap.

If a member is renewing their Club membership for the new Club Year, their EA membership has already been paid, meaning that it still valid, it has not expired. This means that their EA membership does need to be renewed, so we leave the situation momentarily as it is. Based

on the above, one could come to the assumption that the EA membership starts on a personal basis, when a member registers or renews, meaning that it is valid for 12 months from the day they join.

Though we don't know when exactly a member's individual EA membership has elapsed, this can only be known only through a frequent process of checking. When the EA individual membership expires, they expire in different times, as they had been renewed in different times, and the only way to make sure that these memberships are renewed is through frequent individual controls. This must be an issue that EA has to be dealing with for years now, and they should be the ones who first realise that one's individual membership has expired.

There is an annual Club membership, for each year, which also follows the financial year, and this should be able to cover anyway those whose individual EA membership has elapsed.

**Action to be taken:** CBP is requested to contact EA as to request some clarification to the above.

#### International Trip Update

There was an email from the IT Committee with the update that it is impossible to organise an IT for this September, and very possibly for this year, as the logistics of an IT are currently impossible to organise. It is impossible to book for a venue, when the venues are currently closed and when the situation will have returned back to normal, it is impossible to know whether these venues will be able to open and function again. In consequence, there isn't a possibility to make any plans nor any bookings. And if the current situation will end in July, then there isn't enough time left by then to organise such a trip for September. The IT Committee is currently looking into the possibility of organising a trip in March 2020, and this trip will be very possibly a local one, within the UK, if all goes well.

This needs to be communicated to members, as they have been asked to reserve a date in September for the IT, and this trip is not going to take place anymore.

#### **AOB**

The Out for Sports Fair has been cancelled.

London Pride has been postponed and very probably it is going to be completely cancelled for this year. This may give LFR the opportunity to focus on the Reading Pride, which is taking place at the end of September.

GBR has been cancelled. We have had a full refund of the GBR entry fees and of the hotel booking, which will be used for the same event next year.

The Pride Run has not been cancelled as MP and the Pride Run Committee are looking into alternative options to still go ahead with the event but they are keeping an eye at the situation of the pandemic. For the moment nothing has been officially cancelled and everyone is still willing to make it go ahead as planned, as they are looking into options that would make it safer for runners to participate.

IN regards to the LFR25 event, it is still too early to know whether to cancel it now, so we are expecting developments.

**Action to be taken:** CBP is requested to please send a Doodle poll, as to schedule the next RCM in May.