



LFR

**Regular Committee Meeting
Tuesday 1st December 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)

LFR Coaching Team Coordinator: Matt Haas (MH)

Agenda

Financial Updates (CT)

Races Update (RS)

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Social Secretary Update (SS)

Saturday Christmas Pop-Ups

Zoom Christmas Social

Festive Fancy Dress Run

Suggestion on New Year's Day Run

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary

Discussion on Club Runs

Discussion and election of WO

Club Co-Presidents

AOB

Chair: KFP

Minutes: CBP

Apologies: AD, MH, EK, AR, JK

Financial Updates (CT)

The Club's financial situation is currently looking good. There was an estimate of £9,100 which was calculated based on the suggested total amount from the Club's membership fees for the current Club Year, and this has currently just been exceeded by £68. It seems that membership has held out much better than expected, given the restrictions, and in consequence we are expecting (fingers crossed) to end the current Club Year with a surplus.

On behalf of the CT, to all Committee members, in regards to

A. The membership fees for the new Club Year 2021/2022.

A discussion on the LFR membership fees for the above Club Year needs to take place at the RCM of January and become finalised at the RCM of February, thus giving the Committee enough time to make all necessary amendments into WebCollect promptly and on time, before all membership renewals for the New Club Year begin.

B. Committee Roles Budget.

All Committee Roles should dedicate a moment to have a thought into the specific budget for each Club role and accordingly inform the CT, in case there will be the need to calculate for any extra expenses, so that this may be planned accordingly and ultimately incorporated into the budget for the next Club Year. This suggested financial plan will be for the budget of each Committee role for the 2021/22 Club Year. Accordingly whether the budget for a specific Club role changes or remains the same, the result of your consideration and, in consequence, the budget will be inherited by the new Committee members. So one more reason to please spend some time considering this topic.

Action to be taken: all Committee members are kindly requested to please consider all possible alternatives in regards to the membership fees for the Club Year 2021/22 and also to consider whether any changes will be necessary for the 2021/22 Roles Budget, especially those of us who are planning to step down from their position as Club officials.

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Nothing much to report. The AGM in November went really well and the e-bulletin has continued with some very interesting content, which, given the times, is an achievement in itself.

Social Secretary Update (SS)

Saturday Christmas Pop-Ups

This idea originated as a thought of wishing to create a festive atmosphere for membership, considering that the traditional LFR Christmas Party will not be taking place this year. The aim is to turn up at three of the Club Saturday runs with some festive treats for everyone, namely home-made brownies and mulled wine. In order to make sure that all will be going well, there is a relative Risk Assessment prepared on purpose for this, which has been distributed beforehand to the Club Committee.

The Committee is extremely positive and supportive of this suggestion.

A discussion with comments on the activity and the Risk Assessment follows.

The Club cannot be seen as nor does it wish to promote nor will it promote any post-run social events nor any intermingling among Club members and in addition there is also the Rule of Six for all activities taking place outdoors, which needs to be respected. This important issue will be resolved by DB remaining static in just one place and all LFR who wish to partake and have some of the festive treats will need to come to DB, pick up their treats and move on. In such a way, the Club will not be breaking any rules nor make any of our members break any of the existing rules either. It will be an activity taking place outdoors and operated as a come over and take away. The suggestion is to do one of these Pop Ups on Saturday the 5th of December for the Long Runners, on Saturday the 12th for Victoria Park and on Saturday the 19th in Hyde Park.

Action to be taken: KFP is kindly requested to please read and review the relative Risk Assessment for this activity and kindly will respond to DB

The above suggestion could be also combined with the suggestion of having an optional festive dressing-up. For the Long Runners it's probably a bit short notice, nevertheless DB will be setting a FB event, announcing and promoting this suggestion, and it will be also coming out on the next e-bulletin. There was a fancy

dress proposed by LFR for Halloween in Victoria Park and about 10% of those running on that day followed that. Considering that there is much more time in advance to prepare for this dressing up and also considering that it's much easier to dress-up this time, when compared to Halloween, as all one needs is more or less a Christmas hat, we are under the impression that this time it is going to be much more engaging with membership and thus more successful.

The suggestion of organising a festive zoom social will not go forward. There is anyway a recurrent zoom meeting organised by the Club, the one relative to the LFR Book Club on Sunday the 20th of December. Also the Club will not be stopping the runs during this holiday season like we did in previous years and we do not want to organise a zoom meeting coinciding with one of the Club running evenings. Besides all the above objections, the only idea which we could come up with for the time being and relative to a zoom meeting is to organise a Quiz Night. We may want to reconsider this latter suggestion for one of the following months, as especially in January, after all the festivities are over, we will be needing something entertaining to boost everyone's morale.

Suggestion on New Year's Day Run

After a lengthy deliberation the Club Committee comes to the following conclusion: There is going to take place a swap of two of the Saturday runs from Saturday to New Year's Day, which this year is on Friday. Accordingly the Saturday Victoria Park 9.30 am run and the Saturday Victoria Park Normal Run, are accordingly now both going to take place on Friday the 1st of January 2021, at the same starting time as they would have, respectively 9.30 and 10.00 am.

On Saturday the 2nd January 2021 there will take place only the Club run in Hyde Park and the Long Run.

Discussion relative to Monday the 28th of December.

Monday the 28th of December happens to be a Bank Holiday, and normally the Club does not hold any runs on a Bank Holiday. Considering though that the Club will not be closing for the festive period this year, and considering that on the 28th of December the period of the five days during which people can travel for Christmas comes to an end and by the end of this period most members would have probably returned to London, we feel that it would be appropriate to hold a run on this day. The Committee's latest proposal is to embrace some further originality and to have the run of Monday the 28th of December taking place during the day, with a starting time at 11.00 am. Nevertheless, the above suggestion will take place only if the number of runners signing up justifies holding a run on that day, meaning more than

five besides the CL, which we will be able to efficiently monitor through Spond, closer to the date.

Action to be taken: JK, who is the LFR Spond Administrator, is kindly requested to please a. create two separate Victoria Park Runs, one starting at 9.30 am and the second starting at 10.00 am, for Friday the 1st of January. On Saturday the 2nd of January there will take place only the Long Run and the Normal Saturday run, both in Hyde Park. and b. to please change the starting time for the run of Monday the 28th of December, from 7.00 pm to 11.00 am.

Membership Update (MS)

There is not very much to report in regards to the Club's membership, as there have not been many new additions to the Club.

Currently there are about 339 members registered with LFR. Of these 302 identify as male, which is about 89,1% of the general membership, and 37 identify as female, which is about 10.9% of the Club members. Of the registered members, 306 have renewed their membership from last year, which is about 90,3%, whereas 33 runners are completely new to LFR, a number that represents about 9,7% of the total membership.

Club Secretary

Discussion on Club Runs

Having resolved the issue of long waiting lists with both the run on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Victoria Park, my question mainly regards what are we currently planning to do in regards to Mondays, which again has the issue of long waiting lists, as it appears on Spond.

Discussion on the volunteering opportunities for the Monday runs.

Mondays currently happen to have the shortest number of volunteers available from every other LFR running day, as there are no more than three Club Officers who regularly would run on a Monday. Committee believes that the best solution for the time being would be to increase the number of volunteers, which in consequence will permit the Club to hold two separate Monday runs, as per the Victoria Park Saturday. We first need to make a call out for volunteers in general, who would act as Circle Leaders for Monday and/or also ask those who run regularly on a Monday to please

step up as Circle Leaders for the evening. The more volunteers there are available, the more runs the Club will be in a position to hold. Accordingly, the plan of action is to make a call-out for volunteers through the ebulletin, making somehow clear to membership that there is a need for Circle Leaders for the Monday run. When there are enough Circle Leaders we may then split Mondays starting from January 2021, which will immediately reduce the long waiting lists on Spond. Committee is ultimately very willing to accommodate the Monday runs and split them into two runs starting at a different time in the same day, but this will take place only if enough members will step forward as volunteers.

Discussion on the role of Welfare Officer.

Both KFP and CBP are happy to continue in their roles of WO. The Committee confirms both the above as Welfare Officers until the end of March 2021.

General discussion on the role of WO; suggestion of creating a new Committee role which will be the Diversity, Inclusion & Welfare Officer(Jkk)

This is a great step towards the right direction and the Club Committee endorses the suggestion.

An update relative to the Big Half. The Club has been successful in their application and have been awarded 255 places.

Suggestion on whether Committee members agree to please prioritise all Club volunteers and open the registration for this race to Club volunteers first, before opening it up for the rest of membership. The Club Committee is in agreement to the above suggestion.

The LFR Archives

We are the largest LGBT+ athletics club in Europe and have been around for exactly 25 years. Nevertheless, we have never recorded our athletic achievements nor our queer journey in London over the past quarter of the century and I feel time has come for us to document our history, learn more about our club through this process and possibly share our insight from the life of an LGBT+ running club. CBP is proposing the creation of the LFR digital Archives and a project related to registering our oral history, as to commemorate and celebrate the LFR 25th Anniversary.

CBP intends to apply for a grant through the Lottery Fund, purchase a number of external hard-drives and assemble a small group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to assist with this project CBP is also in contact with the Bishopsgate

Institute, as to foster a collaboration between them and LFR, in regards to how to make this archive available, present it and preserve it for the future generations. An official proposal will follow on the next RCM; the Club Committee is supportive of the above proposal for the launching of the LFR Archives.

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to please send out a Doodle Poll for the date of the next RCM in January 2021

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