



**LFR  
Regular Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 2nd March 2021**

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 Secretary: Daniel Brittle (DB)

LFR Coaching Team Coordinator: Matt Haas (MH)

**RCM Agenda**

Financial Updates (CT)

Races Update (RS)  
Club Championships Event

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Social Calendar update (SS)

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary  
Handover of Roles reminder  
Doodle Poll for Committee's Farewell Dinner  
AGM & Elections Candidates

Club Co-Presidents

AOB  
Chair: JK  
Minutes: CBP  
Apologies:-

## **Financial Updates (CT)**

The very positive thing which I would like to share with you is that the Club Year, which ended on Monday, ended on a very positive financial note: we are expecting to be refunded £700 from the Seymour Centre and we are also expecting to be getting £60 back from The Castle, for two Mondays which we have paid in advance and which we never got to use because of the lockdown. Both these amounts need to be chased.

In general the Club has currently about £1500 of profit, though I would like to alert you about this, as apparently it seems that the Club has lots of money at the moment but we are going to get back to zero, and be prepared for that, as we are expecting, and very probably we are going, to sustain a financial loss in the next Club Year, a calculation based on the number of members we currently have.

The LFR WebCollect page has been duly updated, with new fees for the forthcoming Club Year, in addition to the pro rata membership fees, what needs to be done is to have this same update on the Club's website as well. The membership fees have remained the same on the website, as this seems to be the normal fee, but it would be better to update it. The text on the WebCollect has been accordingly updated, with some specific wording making members aware that the Membership Fees for this coming year are somehow a special offer, due to the current situation and the side-effects of the pandemic, and that in the year after, 2022, fees will reverse to the previous levels and members should somehow become aware of this.

**Action to be taken:** JK is kindly requested to please liaise with JR and together effectuate the above changes on the LFR website

Furthermore, WebCollect has been updated with all the new GDPR regulations. Membership renewals are also ready to be launched, and the Auto Renew feature is also ready to be switched on, which is a very helpful feature, besides for all those who are using Paypal as their online payment system or for those who may have changed their bank details. The Auto Renewal feature was turned on automatically last year, and when it comes to Paypal, payments are costing the Club a lot of money, as discussed in a previous meeting.

### Discussion on Paypal

Paypal has very high transaction fees, which are producing no profit whatsoever for the Club, on the contrary, the Club is losing a lot of money by continuing to use Paypal. There is a "charity option" for athletic clubs, I will try to give it a go and if possible get the Club on into this category, as it will definitely save us a lot of money. We assume that members choose to pay through Paypal mostly out of habit, as some are used to pay through this platform and not for any other specific reason (AD)

The possibility of offering membership two different payment options is a legacy the previous committee, though I don't see why we should continue offering both (JK)

Abolishing Paypal might create a problem for any LFR members who happen to live abroad and may not have a different option to use for their payment (KFP)

I am of the opinion that we should abolish it. We could get complains, and most certainly we will get complains but if we try and explain to membership that using paypal is costing the Club lots of money, members will then understand (JK)

Members have been offered the option of choosing to pay in different ways, having the option of the AutoRenew feature does create less administration for those involved but not much else, so if we realise that it's not deemed as essential, we may have to turn it off.

**Action to be taken** : AD is requested to please turn the Auto Renew feature off and to keep the Committee updated in regards to the "charity option" of Paypal

The new members and the renewal feature are ready, the emails and notification for members to go into Webcollect is also ready and Webcollect is also ready to accept members registering, so practically everything is now ready and waiting.

In terms of sending the renewal email to membership, this can take place as soon as we decide to do so. Let us then get it out as soon as possible, with the next e-bulletin.

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

Club Championships Event

TC is currently assisting in compiling the results for the Club Championships.

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

Discussion on the new LFR flyers,

The latest version has been circulated among Committee members previous to the RCM as a printing proof from the printers; the Committee finds that it suits very much the purpose it is intended for and favours the motion.

All previous suggestions, having the front page all aligned and the main photograph in landscape format, have been taken on board and in consequence the present flyer has been amended accordingly. There have not been any further suggestions as to using other photographs deemed as more suitable photos than the present for the front, and none of the ones which were in DB's folder really followed the parameters established beforehand.

The suggestion is to go ahead with the present flyer, before the new Club Year, and have some flyers already available for any publicity purposes in the near future, be it the Pride March or the Pride 10K. The new Club Committee is going to have among its members two completely new P & C Officers, who are both coming professionally from the advertising and publicity environment, and if they want to suggest in turn a different and possibly improved version of this flyer, then it will be a task for the next Committee to accomplish.

The prices are 1000 fliers for £28, 1500 for £32, 2000 for £40, 2500 for £41, and 3000 for £44, all the above are charged £5 in addition as delivery fee. The Committee votes for the 2500/£41 option.

**Action to follow**: AC is kindly requested to please go ahead with the suggested flyer and to order the number of flyers the Committee has decided upon, as per above.

### **Constitution language update**

The Constitution language needs to be updated, with non-binary gender-neutral pronouns who will be replacing gendered pronouns. There are three different proposals, and amending the expression "of a different gender" to "of different gender identities" is more inclusive for non-binary members. None of the amendments suggested is controversial and it's going to become a good start for the next Club Year, during which we will suggest to update all other official documents and policies. What is actually needed is a good statement, which will advise membership ahead of time of the changes and why these changes are suggested.

Membership needs at least seven days notice, we could easily get this suggestion out also on FB, before the e-bulletin, so that members can become aware of this beforehand, and we

can also have the old document and the new document both on the Google drive, about the same time as the e-bulletin will come out.

We need to keep both the document and the suggestions very simple. The Committee is considering and suggesting the following best-practice lingual changes to the wording of the club constitution as to make it more non-binary friendly.

We are suggesting swapping each and every pronoun of "him and/or her" with "they". It is suggested that all gendered pronouns throughout the Club Constitution (e.g. he or her in article 13) are updated and replaced by "they", as a gender neutral pronoun. The Committee agrees to the suggestion and the motion is carried.

**Action to be taken:** JKk is kindly requested to please send a relevant email, containing all the Club Constitution updates, to the Club Committee, for their consideration.

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

Everything went really well with the Virtual Bingo, and there was very positive feedback on the event, as members had a really good time.

### **Club Secretary**

Handover of Roles reminder

This Agenda item is very much obvious what it is about, please make sure that you update all documents relative to the handover, especially those of you who are stepping down. I would like to request the Co-Presidents to please create a folder with all the emails relative to the Club changing venues, as we don't want to have the same which happened with the track session, where we were not acknowledged and nobody knew, or pretended that they didn't know, the Club after having been using Mile End for about four years. In consequence please preserve all the emails and names of contacts and any other contact details which you may have, as many members of staff could have been made redundant and/or furloughed.

Doodle Poll for Committee's Farewell Dinner

There is still a bit of uncertainty relevant to when exactly would we be able to meet again and eat, in groups of more than six persons Please indicate the month and week

**Action to be taken:** CBP is kindly requested to please send a reminder to everyone, when it will be allowed again for groups to meet, according to the updates from government

### **AGM & Elections Candidates**

The next Committee will be known as Erika and her boys, as besides EK, the rest of the candidates all identify as male. The candidates are: EK and Francis O'Callaghan for Race Secretaries, Gareth Fletcher and Jon Lissemore for P & C Officers, James Henderson for Club Treasurer, Charlie Abrines and DB for Social Secretaries, SM and Geoff Hicks for Membership Secretary, AC and Ian Faller for Co-Presidents and CBP for Club Secretary.

I would like to create an order of appearance doc, like in all previous AGMs, not just for us, but also for all the new candidates, as none of them has the back-stage experience of an AGM, and the whole procedure could be a bit daunting for a first timer. Accordingly and first of all, I would like to please have the AGM taking place first and conclude with the Club elections and subsequently pass on to the Club Championships, because we wouldn't want members to just take the trophies and post their photos on FB and then disappear and then

we end up not having a quorum for the voting procedure. The above suggestion finds the Race Secretaries in agreement.

In addition, all Committee members agree to meet 15 minutes beforehand, so as to make sure that the technical part of the AGM is in place and working and that everyone is present and prepared.

The event this time will be different and not like we did in November, when just Committee members were on the screen. It will not have the format of a webinar, and thus everyone will be on the screen, we just need to remind members to please remain muted during the event.

This time, as we have contested roles, can pay for a large meeting, which may include up to 500 members (Jkk).

Based on the last AGM, Jkk gives me the cue and I welcome everybody, Committee and members, and then inform everyone on the structure of the evening, what is going to happen and when, and then pass the baton to the Co-Presidents, who are hopefully still happy to say a few words. Co-Presidents are still happy to say a few words.

Just a reminder, a lot of people are finding this third lockdown harder to get over. May I please ask all of us to concentrate on the positive aspect of the event, and to the fact that the Club will be starting its activities soon.

Although there is naturally a need for transparency, Committee is against having voting results and percentages shared, as we don't want to make a popularity contest out of the event, we may just announce the person that has gathered the larger number of votes, and the next person for this position is so and so, but without revealing any numbers. In order to maintain transparency for this election, Jkk will be in charge of the whole procedure and the Club will appoint a Returning Officer for this purpose. The election results will be viewed by Jkk, who will then share them with the Returning Officer and who, in turn, will confirm the results.

The Committee suggests TC as the Returning Officer for the forthcoming elections.

**Action to be taken:** CBP is requested to please contact TM and liaise with them, in regards to the position of Returning Officer.

In order to have the event open to just Club members and to have just Club members voting at the election process, we may need to change the password for the meeting on the e-bulletin, or to have an email sent out on the day of the AGM just to all those who are Club members. We may also have the create a list of those who are Club members, and thus entitled to participate at the LFR AGM.

**Action to be taken:** SM is kindly requested to please copy all members and send an email to everyone with the password to the AGM, on the day of the AGM.

Then we come to the voting of the new club committee

I will present briefly all the candidates in one, ask membership if they have any questions which they would like to pose to the candidates and then proceed with the voting.

Then we will offer membership the opportunity to ask any questions if they have. I will say the famous set phrase: we have enough time to take one or two questions for the parting committee, do you have any questions to pose to any of us? We may offer you access to speak live or you may write them on the chat box, at the bottom of your screen, I am not going to be particularly encouraging, simply for time-keeping purposes.

It is the members' prerogative to ask important questions on the evening of the AGM and especially to the new candidates, if they have any. Members may use the chat box or they can ask any question they wish themselves, live. Alternatively they may message JKK with a question, but there are no anonymous questions on the AGM, members may always ask a question, but not anonymously.

Club Co-Presidents

AOB