



LFR
Regular Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6th April 2022

Co-Presidents: Ashley Harwood (AH) and Andrew Corti (AC)

Club Secretary: Christos Bitzis-Politis (CBP)

Club Treasurer: Roger Kennedy (RK)

Membership Secretary: Geoff Hicks (GH)

Races Secretaries: Denis Gorman-Gennaro (DGG) and Francis O'Callaghan (FC)

Publicity & Communications Officers: Stephen Tomaszewski (ST) and Gareth Fletcher (GF)

Social Secretaries: Eva Kucich (EK) and Charlie Abrines (CA)

Agenda

Financial Updates (CT)

Races Update (RS)

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Social Activities update (SS)

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary

CWO Election

Numerous Updates

Co-Presidents

Out for Sport awayday feedback, including Nike D&I grants programme

Off committee roles

Gay Games 2023 update

Eurogames 2025 vote feedback
Positive East / Hackney Half
Spond replacement update - Rally
Bank Holiday run (AH)

Chair: AC
Minutes: CBP
Apologies: EK, ST
Welcoming statement from AC

Financial Updates (CT)

A meeting has been scheduled between RK and JH for sometime tomorrow as part of the role-handover, so that there could be discussed a number of subjects which still are left uncertain, there has been an exchange of communications and a number of subjects is certainly much more clear at the moment but there are certain important questions which are still left to be answered in connection with the auto renewal process during this final meeting.

Races Update (RS)

We are considering having a shout-out for new ideas for the Club Championships, and by new ideas we mean suggestions for including to the Club Championships some new and exciting races. Our aim is to get members engaged in looking together with us at new races. Again we will be looking into making the Big Half part of the Club Championships, if CBP manages to get for LFR lots of community places like in the previous years, ideally we are thinking of having all the short-distance races at the beginning of the season and then gradually progressing into races becoming longer (FC)

AT will continue to be involved with the ParkRun of the Month, which we would definitely like to keep the momentum going and make it work for the Club, LC has also made some suggestions, making one of the Park Runs as part of the Club Championships, LC and SW are volunteering for this particular Park Run, it is their local and it come recommended, so we would like to involve them and collaborate into making Charlton a good race to include in the Club Championships as we are potentially considering racing it in June. Then there is a 5k race in Clapham Common Park on the 25th of May, we will try to get some discount for the Club, the Battersea Mile Relay is in July etc. (FC)

One of the new features which we could possibly introduce is having some relay races as well, we realised by going to the GG in Paris that we not only have the potential but we can certainly do really well. Other Frontrunner clubs had a huge

number of participants for the track relays and it would be really good to start having something similar for LFR, at least we can check to see if there is some appetite for such an event. After all, the Club does hold a track session every week and as I mentioned before, this could help us get better prepared for the Euro games and Gay games and smash it, as there are strong runners with excellent potential among the LFR members. In the meantime we could definitely encourage track training on a Tuesday night. We have spoken with some of the coaches to have a series of afternoon track open days, so that new runners and new members can try it out and see how they do, so we would really encourage members to come and have a track tasting session. We are also planning on launching a FB event through which we could be enquiring members whether they would be interested in participating and take it from there. When it comes to the track race we are considering initially doing a short distance, probably a 5K event, to be held sometime between July and August on an open track field in London, it will be something new and hopefully there will be some positive response from membership (DGG)

We are naturally planning on establishing a deadline for the suggestions coming from members, but we really want to remain very open for suggestions also in the future as in this way we can increase participation and make members also much more engaged with the race calendar (FC)

In the meantime it would be great to have some further publicity for the Club Championships so that members know what this is all about, and also have the Circle Leaders mentioning it to the members from time to time, when there are not enough announcements for the Circle (DGG)

We have some ideas for working together and engaging further with Club members and another one of these ideas would be to update the Club records and potentially create some new divisions by including the age group and the gender. The Club records are in desperate need of being updated and in collaboration with JM we have come across of a new system that captures all those registered as LFR members and who every Saturday happen to be doing the Park Runs and it is a new way of keeping up to date though this spreadsheet with the members' races results, which ParkRun did they do, their time, whether this was their PB, etc. In the past the Club has had some great race results which have not been captured so we would also like to encourage members to contact us if they have smashed their records, please report this to the Race Secretaries, and let us know, then this will be highlighted on the ebulletin, we will make some buzz around it and celebrate it, as some Club members are getting some amazing results and they are not really celebrated enough (DGG)

From previous experience we have come to realise that members are not really engaging with the race results at the Circles either. We need to make members realise that races are going on, of course there was a gap of almost two years during

which there was either nothing or very very little to report in regards to races and race results, but now the races are back and it would be great to engage members as much as possible (FC)

Discussion relative to tracking data and members' performance and collaborate together with the MS, making sure that runners who currently are not registered as Club members are not included on the ebulletin for GDPR purposes (DGG)

The only thing to please bear in mind is that some of the runners on the spreadsheet which you shared with me, are not currently Club members and although their race results are out in the common domain of data, the Club should not be including their names nor their race results on the ebulletin, there are many runners on this spreadsheet who may appear as still being registered members of LFR but they are actually not, and the Club should try and avoid using their data (CBP)

Discussion on Triathlon relays and how to get the triathlon team more engaged by joining forces for certain events. The idea would be to split up some of the triathlon events: on the same event one person could be doing the running, another person could be doing the swimming and/or the cycling, so that we may have more engagement. We feel that the triathlon events should not go their separate ways and it would be great to organise some common activities, in order to promote further integration and engagement (DGG)

General discussion on how to currently share information in regards to the coaching sessions and the Long Runs, in the absence of Spond.

AH has taken the section of the Long Runs on board and every week there will be a FB post where all the info relative to the route, the longer option of Long Run, the map, starting time etc. will be made available. In regards to the issue of how to make everyone aware at the same time and for reasons of practicality, everything will now have to be concentrated in just one place and the simpler way for last minute communications and updates is FB.

There is not a specific section on FB to have the Long Runs appearing every week, the Long Runs will have to be added to the chain of all the other communications (GF)

All coaching sessions are on a spreadsheet and this will have to be updated regularly on the website. The advantage of having certain activities uploaded on the LFR website is that this medium also reaches runners who are not currently members. The LFR FB has only members on it and when events are posted on FB without realising it, it is not as inclusive as we think it is, as not every member is on it or uses it. Out of 570 Club members, only about 410 are on FB, so FB communications do not reach at least 170 Club members (CA)

In addition to celebrating and recognising running achievement, we would like to introduce something new, through a blurb that shares kydos by recognising the runner of the month. This runner of the month could be a new runner, it could be recognising achievement based on the runners' ability, it could be the recognition of a particular race or a training recognition and this comes out of the idea that we should be highlighting members' achievements throughout the whole year not just at the end of the year, during the Club Championships Event, like we do. In order to make this a special achievement, I would like to offer the suggestion of rewarding that person by allowing them access to a six months reduced staff travel with British Airways, so as to recognise their progress and offer them an incentive. This access to staff travel will be valid for six months and the awardee can travel during that period at reduced cost (DGG)

Thank you so much for this, in my opinion this is a wonderful idea and a great opportunity for LFR, offering such a generous incentive to all members; for reasons of transparency and inclusion I would like to make the strong recommendation to please create the selection criteria beforehand and present them as clearly as possible, so that members are well aware in advance what this is all about and how this great suggestion is holistically thought of and in particular how the part relative to their recognition will be determined and calculated (CBP)

Action to be taken: DGG is kindly requested to please create a proposal relative to the above suggestion and circulate it among Committee members.

Publicity Update (P&C O)

GF has had a briefing and handover with ST, who is going to be putting together his first ebulletin for next week, there are still some minor subjects which may need to be better clarified but the handover has been very fruitful.

ST is very active on twitter, so he would naturally like to revive this as much as possible, so if you happen to have any exciting photos from LFR events and such, please send them over to ST (GF)

The two Co-Presidents and the two P&C Officers currently have administrators' rights on FB, whereas all the rest of the Committee members are moderators, and the Coaching Coordinator, Triathlon Coordinators and the XC Captains can post without their posting being in need of approval. The same applies to SC, who is organising events and who is currently organising the North Devon weekend (AC)

In regards to the 2022 Pride March, CA has asked and I have checked this recently, before coming to the RCM, the LFR application is there and appears as still pending

but we are confident that it will be approved. Based on the experience from the last year, which was ultimately cancelled, it just takes the organisers a lot of time to process this. Although we are normally requested to pay £1 for each wristband, this year the application is not costing the Club anything, so we will be having 77 wristbands for free (GF)

Social Activities update (SS)

I have had a thorough catch up with EK and we have had the opportunity to discuss a number of subjects. I have created a calendar of all the LFR events spread throughout the Club Year, which I have shared with CBP, and from this it is more than obvious that there are going to be plenty of events spread as best as possibly could over the whole year but for example there is not going to be a social event in May, as there is already a lot taking place in the month of May, it looks like there is a pretty busy schedule, with the International Trip and the GBR but it is really good that the Club has the possibility to offer to its members a diversity of different options. Also, EK and I have discussed and decided that we are not planning on holding a social event just for the sake of having a social event for the Club, we don't really feel that there is any such pressure to do this. With so many events in the calendar year, both races and social events, some events could clash, regardless of having created the calendar, but also this is a large Club and there are lots of different interests for doing many and different things among members, so we need to recognise that and keep this in mind as well.

We would definitely like to engage more of our female identifying members in attending with a bit more of enthusiasm some of the Club events, last year there was a specific allocation of spots for female identifying members, as we had a restriction in numbers due to the pandemic, and there was always a number of spots explicitly reserved just for female identifying members, and there were several occasions where these spots were booked by LFR women but then the LFR women that booked them did not turn up to the event, without any notification and without even bothering to cancel their attendance, in order to open the spots for those on the waiting list so these spots which could have been used by the LFR men were ultimately lost. This is not happening this year but it shows that we need to engage with our female members on a more solid level.

There is definitely the idea to make the LFR events in the future much more interesting and more engaging, as to be able to attract more women to these and we are definitely going to include a number of events that do not necessarily have to end up in a pub. We feel that not everything organised by LFR has to involve alcohol at all cost and all the time, and some of the cultural events, mainly those organised by CBP, do not follow this and it's good to be able to offer this option as an alternative.

We have been contacted by the LGBTQ Museum in Granary Square near Kings Cross and we are very keen to organise a visit on the 5th of May, as they mentioned that the Club is very welcome to go and visit the exhibits.

Discussion on the LFR website social events page and on a contentious paragraph which definitely needs to be changed as it feels slightly discriminating, in addition to the general content of this section, which is in need of a thorough reviewing.

Action to be taken: Please kindly make all the necessary amendments to the Social section of the LFR website and then have the updated text sent to the LFR Webteam and have it uploaded on the LFR website

Discussion on other sections of the LFR website that are in need of an urgent update.

There is definitely a need to go through the website and update several of its sections.

With April having the Easter holidays and March having the LFR Cruise, the International trip and the Green Belt Relay, we are more looking forward in having an event in June and then in July, after the Pride March, to organise a post pride social.

Another thing which EK and I are very much looking forward into changing is the current format of the Christmas party, as we both feel that it's very expensive to sit down and have a three course meal for that price, we consider that around £55 is too much to pay for a meal, so we would like to introduce a completely different format from this year where members will be able to circulate around much more freely and talk to each other in a venue, not just being seated and talk to those who are seated around them, and instead of food served on plates have cocktails and canapes going around. In this way it will be more flexible, members can go around and talk to many more people and thus price-wise much more accessible to members. Ultimately, by having a seated event, a great amount of our funds goes towards renting the actual physical venue, whereas food and drinks are not the major expenditure. In a much more simple and flexible way, we may rent a much more affordable venue and then we order some food from a catering company and the whole thing will come at a smaller cost. During the last LFR Christmas Party there were 130 seated guests and 180 in all in attendance and we had to pay £10.000 for the whole event, which is a huge amount of money. We feel that we can make this a much more accessible and fun event. The £ 10.000 were covered at the end through selling tickets and through the drinks members had, but it was also a huge chunk that went to the venue.

Most venues will not charge LFR for using their space, for example the RVT did not charge us for using the venue for the Club Championships, but there was a required minimum spent of £750 and apparently -this being the first time that something similar is known to have happened- we did not meet the minimum spent. We feel that there was a mistake in their calculations, as the people serving at the bar may have stopped counting for the LFR consumption of drinks after the RVT opened up the space to the other patrons and when the show begun, regardless of what was the reason, the target was not met and then the Club was requested to spend £120 from its funds to cover the difference.

So probably we are not going to return to the RVT any time soon. The event which we organised at the Duke of Wellington, there was again a target of £500 which not only did we reach but the venue also offered LFR free drinks. So, it is probably much better hosting an event at the Duke of Wellington then having an event at the RVT.

In the previous Club Year we have tried to organise an event together with the Brighton & Hove Frontrunners, and up to a point this went well but in the end it only materialised just for those of the triathletes that managed to cycle to Brighton, as the rest of the members could not travel due to rail closures. This year we would like to look at B&H Frontrunners but also at some of the other clubs, and organise an event together with them, and again reach out to the Brighton Frontrunners and to Out for Swim; in addition we could organise an event with RD climbing group, also Out for Sport organises some events and DGG is also part of a walking club.

We still have our Annual Summer Picnic coming up and we could get other clubs involved and have some more fun and together activities going on, as we feel that we definitely need to diversify the portfolio of the LFR events.

Our for Swim organised a cruise on the Thames, rented out a boat and sold tickets to both members and allies and after paying all the expenses they also made a small profit, which is also something that we could imitate.

Membership Update (MS)

Discussion on the auto renewal function

Action to be taken: Kindly please create a blurb for the next ebulletin advertising for a Club member that would like to volunteer for the period of three to four weeks and assist the MS with the England Athletics registrations

Club Secretary

Election of the LFR WFO

The Committee votes and agrees in having RK and CBP as the new WFO of the current Club Year

Action to be taken: In the interest of D&I, CBP is kindly requested to please contact ST and EK, inquiring whether they would also like to be included for the WFO role

Victoria Park Venue

Have reached out to the Community Outreach Officer of the Borough of Tower Hamlets who is responsible for Victoria park, they are meant to also be the person organising and running events within Victoria Park on behalf of the Borough, they run the Borough social media accounts for Victoria Park and are building links with community groups in Tower Hamlets, so if there is a venue that LFR could potentially be using as a changing facility for the VP Saturday run, they are bound to know. I am waiting for an answer and will update the Committee accordingly.

LFR Events Calendar

CA has shared with me the LFR Events Calendar spreadsheet and I have taken the liberty of updating it by including all the dates and the events that I am currently aware of, of all the Club events that are scheduled for the whole Club Year; the spreadsheet currently just needs to be updated with all the dates of the Club Championships events as soon as these have been established.

Eltham 5M

The organisers of the Eltham 5M have reached out to me asking whether the Club would be interested in running their event; it is scheduled to take place on Sunday the 19th of June and it starts at 10.30 am. There is an early bird promotion, £15, plus a £1.76 booking fee, and the promotion is on until the 30th of April. Please let me know whether the Club would be interested in including this event in the Club Championships.

Action to be taken: AC is kindly requested to please send the LFR Constitution updates to the Web Team and have them uploaded on the LFR website

Volunteering Calendar

These are some of the racing events which could potentially bring some funds to the Club, under the condition that the Club will be able to provide the requested number of volunteers. These are the Vitality 10K on Monday the 2nd of May, the Standard Chartered Great City Race on Tuesday the 19th July, this is a race that takes place in the City and it starts from 17.30 pm, then there is the Big Half on Sunday the 4th of September and finally the London Marathon on Sunday the 2nd of October. I am planning on creating a blurb for the next ebulletin asking members to please save these dates. Just to let you all know that the London Marathon Events has created a sliding scale of donations and accordingly the number of club entries a club gets and the donation a club receives, depends now entirely on many volunteers is a club able to provide; accordingly the number of volunteers required for having an extra club entry for the event of the year after is about ten more volunteers than the number

LFR was requested to provide for last year's event. So it will become necessary to start raising some interest well in advance.

Cross Country Updates

A document has been created in collaboration between Hazel and myself which is relative to the requirements and specifications for the role of XC Captain, it will reach all members through the next ebulletin, as in my opinion it is important to let members know in advance what are the basic and fixed requirements of a role they are being asked to volunteer for. I have made a suggestion to Neil and Hazel and they have both agreed to enthusiastically adopt it, that is to organise a pre-XC Season Taster-Session, to encourage new members to take part in the upcoming season, and/or a XC training event for established Club members.

Also in the interest of fairness and transparency, it is important to have the role advertised on the ebulletin and thus made known to every Club member that there is a volunteer vacancy, I am in the process of writing the relative blurb and it will again be sent out with the next ebulletin.

The fees for next XC season are £245 as LFR is classified in Tier C, which is having had 80 or over competitors during the previous season. The registration fees have remained unchanged from the 2021/22 season and must be paid 14 days before the start of the season, so that would be sometime in the beginning of September. Notice of fees being due is usually received sometime around August/September, and I will forward the invoice on to the Treasurer upon receiving the relevant notification.

I have put these dates on the Events Spreadsheet, if you would also like to pencil them down, the Metropolitan League Fixture Dates for the 2022/23 XC Season are as follows:

- 15th October – Claybury
- 12th November – Wormwood Scrubs (*Provisional*)
- 3rd December – Uxbridge
- 14th January 2023 – Welwyn Garden City (*Provisional*)
- 11th February 2023 - Trent Park (*Provisional*)

The Wormwood Scrubs fixture is being moved to take place earlier in the season in order to hopefully avoid waterlogging and the subsequent damage to the playfields that occurred this year.

Hillingdon AC are being asked to revise the Uxbridge course to avoid or modify the course in order to completely avoid the river crossing. While this may be disappointing to many of the runners, it is deemed necessary as the river channel has changed since the course was first devised and it has become a significant injury risk, it is now a Health and safety hazard.

The race day timetable will change for the 2022/23 XC season, with the gap between the start of the Women's and Men's race being reduced from 65 to 45 minutes. In my opinion this is good for LFR and will hopefully encourage more of the LFR men to

arrive in time to support the women's race. Given the new timings, the Club will need to advertise the meeting time as 12:30 pm rather than 13:00 pm:

- Senior Women's race will start at 13:15 pm
- Senior Men's race will start at 14:00 pm

The revised timetable may mean that the junior races may start a bit earlier, which will mean the LFR volunteers requested for the day will be asked to arrive earlier. LFR was one of four clubs given special mention at the XC Met League AGM for providing volunteers at all the fixtures.

Thursday Run

Thursday nights are currently a bit low in attendance numbers and going to Soho for a karaoke does not seem to be working very well, as the venue is a bit too far to walk there and many members feel the need to return home early.

The Thursday run still needs some further boosting, the Lord Wargrave just cancelled all the LFR reservations until the end of June, which incidentally myself and the Booking Manager had made, even though we had only established them three days before they were cancelled, as one of the managers just could not take the pressure of not knowing the exact number of attendees expected each time. Accordingly, we need to forget this venue and in my opinion LFR should also move away from the Marylebone area as the offer of venues available to sit 12 to 15 runners ad hoc are not that many, and thus we may need to move towards Marble Arch, mostly for reasons of practicality. I would be suggesting Ask Italian, which is a brand similar to Prezzo, located in Park Street, W1K 7JA, and which remains open until 22.00 pm, thus offering runners a window of about one and a half hour to enjoy their meal and then potentially go for a drink.

If there happen to be any other suggestions for a different venue, they are more than welcome and I am happy to explore them.

RCM Venue

If one of you happens to work somewhere in the City, or somewhere more central or somewhere where you think we could have a meeting room for a couple of hours once per months and for free, then please let me know, we love coming to The Three Stags but I am very happy to explore other venues as well, that goes also for a pub that you may want to suggest and which has a meeting room. There is a meeting room at The Grafton, in Kentish Town, but I am not sure how convenient in terms of distance Kentish Town Overground station is for most of us here, we may give it a try in the near future.

Co-Presidents

Out for Sport awayday feedback, incl. Nike D&I grants programme

The OfS awayday was more of a strategy away-day, during which the member clubs attending put forward their views on what the OfS strategy should include and what the organisation should try to achieve for its members in the near future.

NIKE has launched the initiative of a grants programme available to all those who are members of Out for Sport, as from this year there is a subscription to become a member and/or to remain a member of Out for Sport. This initiative aims to raise awareness and increase participation in sports across the LGBTQ+ community and the grants offered start from £500 and going up to a maximum of £10,000 for ideas aiming at targeting the barriers that prevent LGBTQ+ people from participating in sports. This is an Inclusion and Diversity project aimed at increasing sports participation among female identifying members, non binary and/or trans members, mainly those who happen to be underrepresented, among ethnic minorities or those of diverse ethnic backgrounds and also among young people, mainly those under the age of 25. There is a six weeks window, with the deadline being on the 16th of May, in case LFR would like to apply for such a grant, the point is to try and organise and run events differently to the way these have been done before. They are planning on holding a workshop relative to the criteria in order to support candidates with their application, this is going to take place on the 25th of April and it's the first time that NIKE is organising anything similar but they are hoping to have this as a multi-year recurring event.

As I mentioned earlier, Out for Sport has introduced a membership with a subscription fee from this year, which comes at £15, so a sum that the Club is more than able to afford, and although we have not had much interaction with them over the years, this year it could prove to be useful as we could get some interesting data through our subscription and get to understand what are the issues other clubs are facing and how does LFR relates to them (AC)

General discussion on gender balance

Talking to some of the other clubs, we tried to have some strategic thoughts on how to tackle some issues, among which was the gender imbalance. It just so happens that some clubs happen to have a good gender balance, whereas some others just do not. Sometimes it may depend entirely on the nature of the sport, the dragon-boat racing and the climbing club seem to have a very good gender balance, football clubs in general don't really seem to have a good gender balance, as they are mostly male-oriented, although there are separate women football clubs that are very active. Most clubs seem to have an ethnicity imbalance because they tend to be very white. LFR has a broad range of age distribution but there are obviously other types of imbalances that we need to tackle. (AC)

In a zoom discussion that I had over this exact same subject with club secretaries from other Frontrunners clubs, who happen to be in a situation similar to ours, where there is an numerical imbalance between male and female members, I enquired what are their clubs doing towards bridging the gap of this gender disproportion, only to find out that LFR has not only been consistently doing all the right things towards

further enhancing and consolidating a strong female presence in the Club but that other Frontrunners clubs are facing the exact same issues. Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh are the only Frontrunners Club in the Northern Europe Frontrunners Section where a certain equality in numbers between male and female identifying members has been achieved. The remaining 14 Frontrunners clubs of the same section are currently in the exact same position as LFR. (CBP)

One of the main issues which has been apparent over the years is the limited number of females coming to the weekly runs and mostly why are females not coming to most of the weekly runs.

The Club seems to have a much better gender balance when it comes to new runners, meaning with runners coming to try out the Club for the first time but not with membership in general. We seem to be having a fair number of female runners who come to try the Club for the first time, then they realise that they are the only female runner in the run among 30 or 40 men and then they never return.

General discussion on how to engage female identifying members.

It seems that most female identifying runners enjoy coming and trying something new, like a run with the Club, but apparently and in the long term they want something more structured like the Couch to 5k programme, which the Club has tried about five years ago and which, although well-structured and quite well attended, did not produce the desired results, as at the end of the programme only one person signed up to become a member, and it was incredibly taxing on the organisers. So this is not something that we would like to repeat.

It is possible that many of the new runners expect a different format to the LFR weekly runs, they may expect a more structured run, where different people run in different paces, and again this is something that has been tried and it does not work for LFR.

We do not really believe that it is a location problem, the Club has runs in different part of London, in order to be more accessible to as many members as possible.

There should be some effort from the LFR females put into advocating for LFR. A great number of new runners come to the Club having heard about it from their male friends who also happen to be members of the Club, so there are numerous cases of gay members who bring other gay men to the Club but I don't think that the LFR females are very much advocating for London Frontrunners, whereas the male runners advocate a lot and bring a lot of new runners to the Club (CA)

Off Committee roles

SM has offered to help the Club out and to become a volunteer for D&I

ST will be able to support further this from a trans person's point of view

Following up with all the Clubs volunteering roles

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to inquire whether the Circle Volunteers and the Web Team Volunteers would like to continue in their roles.

There is a member who has contacted me in regards to the LFR Trail Runs and would be very much interested in organising trail runs (FC)

Action to be taken: FC is kindly requested to inquire whether the Trail Run organisers would like to continue in their roles

Gay Games 2023 update

The dates for the Hong Kong Games will be remaining the same, 3-11 November 2023, but the organisers are currently in discussions with Guadalajara, that was one of the finalists for the 2022 and 2026 Gay Games, to become a co-host for the Games. Hong Kong is currently struggling, hence the proposal to have a dual location Gay Games split between Mexico and them, mainly because of the pandemic but there may be some underlying political issues, and are currently at the point of trying to sort out the logistics of hosting the Games between the two sites. Apparently Mexico did a really good bidding for the Games and this is the main reason for which the organisers have gone back to them.

Eurogames 2025 vote feedback

London lost the bidding for the 2025 Euro Games over just one vote, with Lyon getting 61 votes to London getting 60, which was very disappointing.

Positive East / Hackney Half

LFR receives numerous requests from race organisers to advertise their races and also numerous offers from charities to support them through raising money for them. As a rule and in general, we do not tend to take on board any such proposal, but as an exception I would like to ask the Committee whether they would have any objection of having the Positive East request for runners for the Hackney Half be published to membership through the e-bulletin
The Committee votes in favour of the above request.

Spond replacement update - Rally

Discussion and feedback from the meeting AC and CBP had with DC in regards to Rally. Spond has a technical limit of 500 members, new Club members were not included and were missing out on important communications, in addition, after a while it did not feel inclusive using the app. Spond was initially brought in as it requested by EA to use an app for track and trace purposes. The Club has

functioned without an app for years and although we can all relate to the great functionality and the practicality of having one, it seems that we may have to go without one for the foreseeable future.

Also, something that needs to be mentioned, Spond was not admin-free, there was a lot of admin that went into maintaining it.

Discussion relative to MeetUp, its functionalities and whether it could be explored as a substitute for Spond.

Bank Holidays Monday run

Suggestion to have a run on the forthcoming Bank Holiday on the 18th of the month (AH)

The run will have to be organised as an unofficial one, without the use of changing facilities, as The Castle Centre has different opening times on a Bank Holiday and it closes much earlier (CBP)

The suggestion is to have the run advertised on FB and to also mention it during the Monday circle.

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to please send out the Doodle Poll for the next RCM

21.35