



LFR

Regular Committee Meeting

Thursday 13th April 2023

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

Club Secretary: Christos Bitzis-Politis (CBP)

Club Treasurer: Derwin Brennan (DB)

Membership Secretary: Geoff Hicks (GH)

Races Secretaries: Eliot Rees (ER) and Francis O'Callaghan (FC)

Publicity & Communications Officers: Stephen Tomaszewski (ST) and Sam Palmer (SP)

Social Secretaries: Nick Warner (NW) and Robin Budin (RB)

Agenda

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Official Admission of SP in the 2023/24 Club Committee

Welfare Officer(s) Election

Committee Financial Updates (CT)

Races Update (RS)

- Discussion and Approval of 2023/23 Races Portfolio
- 2023/24 Races Budget
- Club Championships Scoring System Suggestions

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Social Activities update (SS)

Membership Update (MS)

- Membership Renewals Update
- EA Code of Conduct

Club Secretary

- OfS LGBTQ+ Fair
- Thursday Run

Co-Presidents

Triathlon Future Plans Suggestions

AOB

Chair: AH

Minutes: CBP

Apologies: AC

Welcoming introduction from AH

Official Admission of SP in the 2023/24 Club Committee

The Committee votes unanimously and in favour of admitting SP as a full Committee member in the role of Publicity and Communications Officer.

Welfare Officer(s) Election

Current Welfare Officers declare that they are both happy to remain on the role and continue as such.

I am not sure whether the professional life of ST would have the potential to present a moral or an actual conflict of interest and on whether ST would be able to preserve the confidentiality requested of the role while at the same time continue maintaining the professional aspect of his job intact. One member could come forward and confess something that then Stephen might feel obliged to report to the Police, and this would constitute a conflict of interest. I feel that I should mention this and I am just saying it mostly in order to protect Stephen. (RB)

As LFR is a running club, in all frankness it is not really expected of members coming forward and sharing with the designated Welfare Officers a type of secret that could constitute an automatic conflict of interest with Stephen's professional life, so as forcing him to then make an official report. We do not really expect serious offenders to come forward and request a chat with one of the Club Welfare Officers. I appreciate very much your concern but I also happen to believe that this matter is entirely for Stephen to decide for himself, on whether he wishes to remain in the role and on how to handle any such cases, which again, if ever, I feel that they are going to be extremely rare. (CBP)

The fact that there are going to be more than one Welfare Officers available, offers also members the opportunity to choose whom they wish to talk to, they don't necessarily have to come and talk to me (ST)

NW expresses interest to join the team of Welfare Officers.

Committee votes in favour and confirms NW, ST and CBP as the 2023/24 LFR Welfare Officers.

Committee Financial Updates (CT)

As you may know the Club is currently in a stable financial situation with some healthy reserves in place, we have been receiving over the past few weeks the registrations fees for the present club year from members who have renewed their membership and also from new members, most of the changing facilities invoices have already been processed and paid for the following months, so nothing really more to report at this point besides that everything is going well, it's all good.

Races Update (RS)

As you may have all read from the document that was circulated in advance of this meeting by CBP, Francis and I have been meeting and discussing about the Club Championships, as to find a better way of increasing interest and making it a more inclusive event. At the

moment there are ten races overall which are considered as the core championship races, consisting of five road races and the five fixtures of the Met Cross Country League. Members are warmly encouraged to participate at these races and are also invited to submit their finishing times for non-core events such as a 5K, a 10K, a half marathon and a full marathon, on condition that these are UKA licensed events. During the 2022/23 club year a total of 134 members participated in at least one Club Championship event, which is an average percentage, I don't want to use a different term but frankly from a club that has about 600 members, we would have expected a bit more involvement. Incidentally, only two Club members participated to their great credit in all ten of the Club Championship events. The reasons why so many Club members have not participated in the Club Championship races are multiple, personal, professional obligations, etc. The point still remains that greater participation needs to be encouraged, as a priority (ER).

It becomes sometimes very difficult to do all Club Championship events due to a lack of time. When it comes to new runners, they very often do not know what this is all about, especially when it comes to new members who are completely new to running, unfamiliar with racing or have not been members of a running club before, they have no idea what the Club Championships are, at least not until they become more acquainted with other Club members and are informed by them or are bold enough to come and participate in one of the Club Championship events in their first year, which does not happen that often. We have had some new runners attending the Club Championship events of this past year but then again they were not that many (FC).

First of all we would like to submit a list of proposed races for the 2023-24 Club Championships, some already with their dates. What we would ideally like to do is to have these races discussed and approved as we intend to announce all of the races as soon as they become confirmed by the Committee. The dates of most of the road races have been announced but although we reached out to the Metropolitan League administrator regarding the dates for the forthcoming Cross Country season, the dates for all XC fixtures are yet to be confirmed (ER)

For the 2023-24 club year there are some events that we would like to keep, so we propose keeping three of the races, the Battersea Park One Mile Relay, the Eltham Park 5 and the Big Half. CBP has already obtained the Club a discount for the 5 miles in Eltham Park and we are hopefully going to receive some community entries for TBH like the Club did in the previous years. In the meantime we propose replacing a 5K parkrun with a more centrally located race, as all parkruns are local and ideally we would like to encourage attendance from as many members as possible, as participation very often depends on how far members have to travel to get to the race start, and with parkruns starting at 9am on a Saturday, it can often prove difficult for members living on the other side of London to reach the event on time. We would like to suggest to the Committee the Kangaroo Hop 5K, which is organised by the Sri Chimnoy Marathon Team in Battersea Park, which is a chipped time 5K race. Besides the location, which is very familiar to most Club members, we also anticipate that the event will be attractive to members as there are not that many chip timed 5K races around. The cost for this race is £7 per runner, which we consider is a good value. There are no medals nor goody bags and the rest of the frills but it's chipped and it's more or less easy to reach. We would like to propose that LFR covers the entry fees for this race at an estimated cost of £245 (ER)

Please excuse my interjection but it would be much more practical if we were to please follow the order established in advance in the Agenda and first to go through the list of events suggested by Francis and you, discuss them and approve them, then go over the second suggestion regarding the financial aspect of some of the races and vote for this subject and then in the end go through the changes you both would like to suggest, so that the Committee can go through and vote for each item separately and this can also be registered by me properly (CBP)

The proposed races for 2023-24 Club Championships are interspersed throughout the club year, so that there will be almost one race per month, so there is first on the 18th June the Eltham Park 5 miles, which with the discount that we got from Christos comes at £13.50 per runner. Incidentally, we have contacted MC, who lives nearby and who has always been extremely supportive and very kind and he is happy to have his home used again as a bag drop for the members. Then comes the One mile at Battersea on the 25th of July, then the 5K Kangaroo Hop on the 8th of August which as mentioned is £7 per runner, then we have TBH on the 3rd of September, hopefully again for £10, then comes Claybury in October, at a date to be confirmed, Wormwood Scrubs in November, Uxbridge is in December, Welwyn Garden City is in January 2024 and the Cross Country season will end with Trent Park in February.

We propose replacing the Battersea Run Fest 10K with an alternative 10K in March 2024 as the last event of the club year. There have been a couple of suggestions and we have been in touch with the corresponding race organisers regarding these 10K events but no dates are known or have been established for the moment. We will aim to have this last race sometime in the early part of March so as to also make it attractive to those training for a spring marathon. (ER)

We got a bit of time for this last 10k race, so we are not so much in a hurry to propose a specific event at the moment, we want to find an event that can be as inclusive as possible in terms of registration fees and location and ticks as many of the standard requirements as possible, so that members will enjoy it, being also the last of the races in the Club Championships (FC)

Voting

The Committee votes unanimously and in favour of the races portfolio suggested by the RS for the 2023/24 Club Championships as indicated above and the motion is passed.

Thank you so much for these great suggestions to both of you, I really like the fact that both the Battersea Mile Relay and the Kangaroo 5K take place on a Tuesday, instead of a Monday, as in previous years at least the Relay event did, so there is no disruption to the Club Monday run and members can still enjoy their Monday run on the day before (CBP)

As you might have seen from the Agenda, we would also like to make the suggestion of having the Club covering the registration fees for the Battersea Relay and for the Kangaroo 5K. There were 32 LFR that competed at last year's event, so we would like to suggest 36 runners for this year at the Battersea Relay, the registration fees for each team is £21, so we are suggesting an estimate of 12 teams which would come at £252.

Members do not often enter 5K races on their own so in addition, we would like to suggest an estimate of 35 runners for the Kangaroo Hop 5K, which with £7 of registration fees per athlete will cost the Club £245. Both events would take the Club back by an overall of about £500 (ER)

As mentioned earlier, the Club is in a healthy financial position and will be able to cover such expenditures, we do have the budget to cover the entry fees for these two races, so there is no issue on my part so I don't really see why we shouldn't (DB)

I think it is important for the Club to be in the advantageous position to invest some funds in these races and also to be willing to do this for a number of reasons. The reserves accumulated over the years should be used exactly for such purposes, having the registration fees being paid by the Club is an actual investment to the future of the Club. LFR is currently paying for registering all interested members to all the Cross Country fixtures, Eliot and Francis have found a really good value for money 5k event, TBH comes at £10, we are getting a fair 10% discount on the Eltham Park 5, if the Club decides to cover the expenses for these two events then we are in the position to be offering a complete set of races for the Club Championships at almost no cost at all to our members and at least from this point of view LFR is or at least tries very hard to be as inclusive and as egalitarian as it can be (CBP)

There were certain complaints expressed during the AGM on how expensive participating at certain races has become over the past five years and suggestions that the Club could and potentially should subsidise some of the events taking place each year, like the GBR for example, and whereas the GBR is ultimately available to just four teams of 11 runners each, these events are open to all Club members and it should also be pointed out and announced to membership that LFR is planning on fully subsidising these two events.

Voting

The Committee votes unanimously and in favour of the suggestion by the RS for the above two races of the 2023/24 Club Championships to have the registration fees fully covered for all participants by the Club and the motion is passed.

Is there any policy in place for those who eventually sign up for an event but in the end do not present themselves to do the race?

The Club should apply the exact same rule which has been hitherto applied to the SEAA Cross Country events. The Club covers in full all registration fees for all three SEAA events but those who fail to attend an event, regardless of the reason, will have to refund the Club for the registration fees paid on their behalf. It has worked really well so far, we have had no problems, and I think that this principle should also be applied in these cases as well.

What we would like to do is to ideally release the dates as soon as possible, as soon as we can, so that members can put the dates into their diaries (ER)

Discussion on the proposed changes to the Club Championships Scoring System

We would like to propose a change to the scoring of the Club Championships. Currently members accrue points from participation in core races and from the position they get, for example the fastest runner in each race distance receives 500 points, the second fastest runner receives 499 points, and so on. In addition, runners also receive ten points for each core Club Championship race that they participate in. Based on the current scoring system, in order to be able to score the maximum possible points, a runner must attend all ten Club Championship core races. We all know that many Club members are not able to attend

every event of the Club Championship races due to professional, personal, family and other types of commitments. As mentioned, only two Club members managed to race every single event in the past year. It is a bit of an all-or-nothing system so we are suggesting having the ten core races as previously and adding one non-core race, which will be a full marathon. Every Club member would be able to submit their best full marathon result throughout the whole club year in order to be considered. Parallel to this, the scoring system will continue to consist of two areas: one based in position and one based on participation. In regards to position, all performances will continue to be ranked as currently, with the fastest runner for each event receiving 500 points, the second fastest receiving 499, and so on. The runner's top seven performances, from a total of 11 races, would then be totalled. For those who have participated in fewer than seven races, they will have all of their performances totalled. In regards to participation, runners will continue to receive ten points for each core Club Championships race they participated in, so this area of scoring will not be capped at seven events. At the end, and if a runner participated in all ten core races, then it would be possible for them to receive up to 100 points.

First of all we are suggesting all the above because we think it is going to be much more inclusive, it is a fairer way of scoring and for this exact reason it is likely to encourage greater participation in Club Championship races (ER).

With the current system of scoring, in order for a runner to score the maximum possible points they must attend all ten Club Championship races. Many times members realise that they are not going to make it to one or two of events throughout the year, due to personal commitments, and knowing that not attending these two events they are not going to accrue enough points, they lose interest for the whole year, they see that there is no point in continuing, they lose interest and so they do not come and run in any of the following events. But with these changes they will be much more encouraged to participate as it is a fairer way of scoring. In addition, these changes will bring LFR in line with many other running clubs. (FC)

We definitely want to encourage more members to come and participate in the Club Championships so we intend on keeping scores up to date throughout the club year and sharing some periodic result updates in order to inspire a sense of healthy competition amongst Club members and also make everyone much more aware of what is going on during the year in terms of points and positions. In addition we shall endeavour on keeping the Club Championship page on the LFR website updated, in order to detail the scoring system and to include the winners of past Club Championships. (ER)

Members have also been given the opportunity to present their top equivalent time for equivalent races which they may have done throughout the year, if they have not been able to attend a Club event, although no one sent us anything this year. The current scoring system is unfair, because if someone manages to do all the Club Championship races and came last in each event they raced, they would have nevertheless come second overall, just by mere participation. Which is not the point, as these are performance races and it is unfair to those who are faster runners but were unable to attend all the events (FC).

As Francis also said, it is a way of making the Club Championships more accessible and more fair and bringing it more in line with what other clubs have in line in terms of scoring, and hopefully members will perceive this in those terms and understand the reasons for coming forward with these proposals (ER)

If I am allowed to make a suggestion, in my opinion it would be extremely useful if you were to divide the way all three subjects are going to be communicated, the portfolio of races has already been voted, as mentioned it would be great to get it out on the ebulletin as soon as possible so that members could get the dates pencilled down. When it comes to these suggestions for the Club Championships scoring system I feel that the Committee could benefit from a bit more of time, perhaps a week, so that we may all go through them individually and in a more relaxed way, and in the meantime you can announce on the ebulletin something along the lines of please stay attuned as we are suggesting some important changes to the Club Championships. This intentional delay could be both used as a teaser but also attract some further attention on the Club Championships and the changes proposed for the scoring system. These are important changes and the Committee would definitely benefit if we were given a week to go through them, making sure that there are no grey areas and ascertaining that the whole procedure is as tight as possible. In addition, this is an important Club subject overall, that will affect everyone competing and it shouldn't be overlooked among other Club Championship communications, it needs to be given its own prominent space on the ebulletin, so that it doesn't get lost with all the rest of the Club Championships communications. The Committee will go through these at leisure and can then approve them through a short exchange of emails.(CBP)

Please be also prepared for the fact that there are going to be some complaints within the Club. You are both going to receive some questions and requests for clarifications but as with everything that is being introduced as new, or that is being updated at a certain point, it will incur some complaints among members.

Regardless that all these changes that are being currently discussed will be communicated to membership in time, sometime between the end of this month and the first week of May, the complaints or anything negative that has to be said relative to these changes is going to be kept as to be expressed in public at the AGM, if experience from previous years has taught Committee members anything about the attractive combination of an AGM and the possibility of presenting grievances and making complaints in public.

All these items are a great opportunity to point out at the effort that is being currently put into making the Club Championship as accessible as possible, and also offering the opportunity to publicise and broadcast what the Club Championship actually is to new members, attract their interest and to make some more members come forward and participate to the events..

Having a blurb on the ebulletin relative to the Club Championships in general would be a very relevant move and timely convenient to have from an informational point of view, so that all new members could have an idea what this is all about.

We are very keen on increasing the Races general engagement with Club members during this new year, we are very open to hear from members, to explore any Ideas for races and events that they would like to share with us, and as said, sharing some quarterly updates throughout the year will build a bit of a healthy competition among the Club (ER)

It would not go amiss making a more extensive use of FB and the LFR Instagram account, to have some more publicity on specific Club events, with lots of photographs, share these Club events with followers and runners that are not yet members and thus increase their interest and engagement with LFR.

As it has been mentioned, it is important and necessary to give to all members the time to air their thoughts and to encourage a healthy discussion and appreciation of what the RS are trying to achieve in terms of fairness and inclusivity.

After a lengthy discussion on all the above the Committee decides to have the new portfolio of races coming out with the next ebulletin, so that members can have these events in the diary as soon as possible, in addition to highlighting the fact that the Club is planning on covering in full and for every participant the fee registrations for the Battersea One Mile Relay and for the Kangaroo 5K. Finally, the item relative to the scoring changes of the Club Championships is to be made public at a later date and as soon as all Committee members have had the time to go through it.

Action to be taken: All Committee members are kindly requested to please go through the changes suggested as per above and relative to the Club Championships scoring system and come back to the RS at their earliest convenience.

Membership Updates (MS)

Membership Renewals Update

Based on the number of renewing members which is over 500, I would second what DB said earlier and I would also like to say that the Club is doing really well for the time being.

The very good news is that thanks to Roger Kennedy, the auto renewal functions has gone smoothly this year, definitely much better compared to last year, with nearly 450 members having auto renewed without any incident, few cancellations, one person that wants a refund, so all in all everything has been very unproblematic. At the moment we have 510 fully paid members, which is an excellent number to start with in April, and an equally excellent number compared to both previous years. As mentioned we have had 20 cancellations from members that did not want to continue with LFR for a number of reasons, and there is a remaining 50 members who have not renewed but are in a state of limbo, they have been informed that there is an issue and they are not cancelling their membership, but we need to chase them up with Derwin for a number of reasons again, mainly because there is something that went wrong with the process of their renewal, so Derwin and I we will be in contact and sort this out. It is not a big deal, as I have said, this is nothing like it was last year, so even having to sort out 50 members is not an issue compared to the chaos that we were left with last year. As a first estimate it also looks that far fewer people have not renewed compared to last year as well.

All those who have not renewed with the Club, their accounts will be deleted in WebCollect, and they will also be deleted from FB, the process has already started and is ongoing.

One very big task which has been left to do is the EA membership renewals. This is a long and painful process, and just to inform those of you who are new to the Committee, this is a process that cannot go through auto renewal, it has to be done manually and in consequence it will take some months to get over 550 members. Good news again in this specific subject is that your EA membership, everyone's EA membership, will remain active for race purposes until the end of June, and covered by the fees of the previous club year, which means that I will have more or less until the end of June to process all the EA renewals. I have to say that EA was much more clear this year compared to last year with their announcements. As mentioned this process will take me some time, existing members are highly unlikely to raise this as an issue, it is only new members which are going to potentially start complaining or asking about it, and if anyone should say anything please

inform them that we are getting there, it is a long process, and feel free to refer them to me, in case they have a race coming up and they need to have their URN on time for this event. In addition, while going through with the EA renewal process, there could potentially be some new members who might slip my attention, so I am letting you know as an alert for the future, it could be just one or two out of the 600.

Discussion on the EA Code of conduct (England Athletics Senior Athletes Code of Conduct)
Coming now to what has been discussed over emails, thank you again CBP for sending this to everyone before the meeting, this is something new which has been launched this year, the Membership Secretary is now required to tick a box that requests the confirmation that members are aware of and agree to be bound by the UKA Anti-Doping Rules and have agreed to sign up to the Senior Athletes Code of Conduct on each members' EA membership. In previous years there has been a box to tick in regards to the members' data being processed, members are anyway aware that their data is being processed, but now there is this second box, which I feel that members should explicitly be made aware of, as this box regards the UKA Anti-Doping rules plus the EA code of conduct. You have seen the document that was attached, and personally I am very unwilling to tick that box without making everyone aware that this box needs to be ticked on their behalf.

We touched this subject between us through a very brief exchange of emails, members are aware that LFR is affiliated to England Athletics, we did have to upload on the LFR Website and in what we consider as a prominent position the EA logo so that hopefully new members will also notice it, as we had an incident last year, we would expect that by making this mental association between LFR being affiliated with EA, members would also come to the conclusion that by implication they would also have to comply to EA regulations, simply by being members of LFR and by being registered with EA, but I understand that this is something completely new and that members should be made aware of. I agree with GH and I believe that it is important to explicitly make all members aware of this box being ticked on their behalf (CBP)

I also am of the opinion that we should put this out for everyone to know and in advance of having this box being ticked (ST)

The Code of Conduct is mainly about having the expected behaviour when taking part in a race, this is an also important issue, as we had to expel someone from the Club over their behaviour at an event, so we need to let members know about that, what we could do is have a notification relative to the Code of Conduct and have it out on the ebuletin, saying that it is on the website and members should go and check it (GH)

I made the suggestion to have this posted as a caveat to the joiners section of the membership page on the LFR website, so that members are aware of this when they sign up (AH)

Discussion on how best to communicate both the above to membership and in which section of the LFR website the EA anti-doping policy ought to be included, in order to be made as conspicuous as possible.

The Committee agrees with what is being presented and proposed by GH

Action to be taken: GH is kindly requested to please liaise with Julia Robinson in regards to having the above Policy inserted in the Club website

Discussion on whether a specific notification needs to be put on an email letting everyone know that their data is being processed upon joining the Club.

When it comes to Club members who are going through the period of gender reassignment, if they are at a race event and they were to be collecting control samples from them, the results from such samples would have then come out as substances prohibited to use as some of these substances are still classified as drugs (RB)

Discussion on the above

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to please liaise with EA in regards to what has been raised by RB, requesting some clarification on the use of anti doping substances when they come under the use of transgender hormone treatment

Publicity Update (P&C O)

It would be good to have some sort of schedule for some of the announcements that need to be shared so as to be able to space them out properly, if there are certain subjects that we can get to know in advance, then we could prepare the heading for the week in advance, this would prevent neglecting any items, prioritising what is important and being prepared in advance, so as not to have so much pressure. All news we happen to know in advance could go into an excel spreadsheet and that will also guide us into knowing the heading of that week in advance.

There is a spreadsheet already serving as an events diary, with all the races and the most important social events in there, certain specific dates such as Bank Holidays, so this could also be used together with what is being suggested as to help you better in your role tasks.

Discussion on looking into finding an alternative type of communication to FB, so as to be able to offer to members that are not on FB all the last minute updates.

It is true that there are not that many in numbers those who are not on FB but on the other hand, even Club members that have a FB account doesn't necessarily mean that they are on the LFR FB, I believe there are about 460 members currently on the LFR FB, and there are about 560 members, so more than 100 members are not using FB.

It would not be appropriate to have any sort of LFR events calendar uploaded on the LFR website, this is an LGBTQ+ club and we need to be extremely careful who is able to view the Club events, and having something similar on the public domain would make me extremely uncomfortable in regards to the members' safety. In addition, the LFR website is primarily used as a first point of information by new runners before they come for a run with the Club, and as a point of reference by Committee members for new members, pointing out towards certain sections. It is not really being used so much by those who are already members of the Club, let alone by those who are long standing members of the Club, they would never refer to the website as a source of information, let alone for any updates. Members would go to the website to consult on a specific item or if they are being admonished to go there for a specific reason but not just like that.

There could be created a mailing list relative to different topics that members could subscribe to, it could be a mailing list for races, a different one for socials, etc. and from these mailing lists members would be receiving regular updates, meaning members who are not on FB would be receiving these updates, I don't mean creating new mailing lists with all Club members.

This could bring forward two potential issues, one is that members have expressively mentioned that they do not wish to receive that many communications from the Club, which is also and up to a point perfectly understandable, as most of us do receive a large number of email every day anyway, and the other one is that if members keep receiving emails coming from the same source, these could also be recognised as spam and end up in their spam folder.

SP doesn't use FB so now there are three FB administrators instead of four and all the rest of the Committee members remain as moderators

Maybe time has come for the Club to ask members the question how they would actually prefer to receive the LFR news, through a short survey.

Suggestions to look into WhatsApp and check what functions are there available for larger communities

Suggestions to look into MailChimp in order to check whether of the functions available could be used for last minute updates and communications

Action to be taken: SP is kindly requested to please have a look into the above suggestions and find out whether there exists an alternative to suggest to the Committee for consideration

Social Activities update (SS)

We considered that it would have been really crowded booking at the Retro so now the post LM social will be taking place upstairs at the Duke of Wellington. The whole first floor has been booked for LFR.

Discussion on the LFR Events Spreadsheet

We are very happy that Eva Kucich is happy to continue organising events for the Club women, we would naturally help Eva and support her as well but it would be great to have someone who actually has some insight information and knows what the Club women want to do in terms of socials.

Pride and Christmas in on the radar

Discussions on the christmas party and the proposal to have the Christmas dinner taking place at the Marble Arch Thistle but as an alternative option, if they would make a really good deal to LFR and if there is no possibility to come forward with a different venue

There is in place an LFR calendar for the social events and we try to send blurbs for the ebuletin as they come, though it would be great to be able to have a calendar that members can subscribe to in order to be able to have a head start for Club events.

AC is very much the Committee member who is using WebCollect and could facilitate you if you need any type of access for the above (GH)

Club Secretary

OfS LGBTQ+ Fair

Discussion on who is doing what at the OfS LGBTQ+ Fair

The event is scheduled for next Friday, there are going to be 20 plus LGBTQ+ sports clubs and it will be from about 6 to 10pm.

It would be good to get a couple of volunteers there earlier than everybody else so as to get a convenient space and set up the LFR stall.

Suggestions to get the banner from XC.

It would be good to have the possibility of signing off from the CT a tiny sum to buy some sweets as treats for the visitors. The CT gives his consent.

Thursday Run

The Thursday Run subject will be explored further by GH and AH, in order to come up with an answer to having a LFR run on a Thursday somewhere in the south of London.

Co-Presidents

Triathlon Future Plans Suggestions

This is a suggestion in order to be able to improve in general the integration of the tri section as sometimes there comes across as a bit of a net separation between the main Club events and the events of the tri section.

FH has stepped down and currently BH is the only tri-coordinator, so we have been discussing on how could there be a bit more of engagement of the tri section with the Club, the tri section has already established an unofficial version of the Club Championships, there are six races which are included in this portfolio at the moment, so we were discussing with Ben on how we could make the tri Championships more of an official event, how to make these events more known to all Club members and how to attract more members towards supporting these events through participation, Ben could come and join the Committee at a future meeting and we could discuss together the way the tri Championships could become an official LFR event together with the LFR Championships. The whole idea would be to make these sort of unofficial races become official through some extra publicity and make the tri section feel much more included by using the same scoring system.

The Committee expresses approval that all the above sound really good and expresses interest in supporting all the above

AOB

Seymour Centre Saturday morning issues with the bag storage. In the beginning LFR was forced to share the bag drop room with the diving team, one Saturday we just found their stuff being there all over the place and they started using what was our room, without any prior notification, but now apparently they do not want to share the room with LFR, we have

written to them and we have been ignored and we are expecting for them to try and find a solution. In the meantime it has been announced to members that they should start using the lockers and that they should remember to bring along their own padlocks. Those of us that are getting there early for the Long Run, we try to use some of the larger lockers and we usually would put several runners' rucksacks into some of the big lockers, so that we don't occupy all the available lockers, anyway, this is still an issue and we are hoping that the situation will be resolved as soon as possible and for the best.

LM trophies

F is currently with CBP, M is with AC, both will be brought to the post LM social on the day

Short update on the IT

Now we are at the stage where all the payments have gone through, there are 126 official attendees on the list, the waiting list is about seven people now as in the meantime a few people have dropped out, but it looks that there is a good possibility for all those on the waiting list to get on the actual list, there is lots of hope for them. From the perspective of accommodation, a deposit on the hotel has already been paid, half of the amount was paid on one of the IT sub-committee members' credit card, considering all the issues that we had from last year, and the amount has immediately being paid back to paid back to CT, and after having secured the accommodation, what we are mostly looking into now is the social aspect of the trip, the main party of the trip is going to take place on the Sunday evening, and we have been working on that. In regards to Saturday evening, as the main event is a night race, there will be a buffet at the hotel, as runners will be coming back at different times, so having a buffet is the most convenient solution, and we also need to find a venue for the Friday evening dinner, and this is another social that we have been working on. We have taken contact with the Hellenic Tourist Board, who are extremely helpful and efficient and they are currently looking out for an appropriate venue for us, on our behalf. They have been very supportive. So for the time being everything is in a good process.

Victoria Park Post Run Venue discussion and request of changing the current venue to the one that LFR was using during and shortly after the pandemic.

I am reluctant to the suggestion of moving the LFR social from where it currently takes place to a different venue and especially the Victoria Park Pavilion because it is important to be able to provide runners with the possibility of a venue that comes with a roof and some walls around it. The weather may be fine but nothing can ever guarantee that it will continue to remain fine. We live in the UK, the morning may start well but the weather may change in the meantime and throughout the day from one moment to the next. I don't really think that it is fair to want to have members standing in the rain with a coffee cup, exposed to the elements and especially after a run, like they did in the previous year, when there was no structured social. As with all LFR venues it is very difficult to book in advance for a fluctuating number of runners. This has always been an issue with all LFR venues, that one day there might be 12 runners and the next day there could be 35. Furthermore, we tend to change venues when there is a specific complaint about a venue. This being a vegan café is not a reason valid enough to move to a different venue, there is nothing wrong with the venue, this is simply a matter of taste, which I fully respect but as a Club official I have to take into consideration the wellbeing of the Victoria Park runners as whole and not prioritise individual culinary preferences. In addition, the present venue comes with a garden, which will be used when the weather is fair.

Nevertheless, if any members that are interested in changing a venue commit themselves and manage to provide on their own a venue similar to the one that we are currently frequenting, and with the prerequisite that this venue fulfils all the necessary parameters as the current one does, then I am more than happy to explore the possibility of moving to a different venue, but I am not going to go into having to search for a different venue myself, as I do not have neither the energy nor the time to do this at the moment (CBP)

Discussion on the Club's D & I, based on an email send to the Co-Presidents by SM

Action to be taken: AH is kindly requested to please share with the Committee the email sent by SM, so that this can be properly considered so that the Committee comes up with suggestions to discuss at the next meeting.

Discussion on preferences regarding the RCM Doodle Polls and whether there should be created a calendar in advance,

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to please send to everyone the Doodle Poll for the May meeting