



**Regular Committee Meeting
Tuesday 1st August 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

New Club Kit Sub Committee Update (Julian Williams)

Financial Updates (CT)

Races Update (RS)

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Social Activities update (SS)

Membership Update (MS)

Club Secretary updates
Brief update on The Big Half

Co-Presidents Updates
Pride March Feedback Discussion

AOB

Chair: AH
Minutes: CBP
Apologies: ST, SP, ER

NCKSC Update (JW)

I would say that things are going really well, we are not super fast but we are at a very good point. First of all it was very important for all of us in the subcommittee to meet with all members, with as many of the members as it was possible, and to capture as many opinions as we could. In addition, meetings among the subcommittee members have also been difficult to schedule, due to a number of commitments that we all have, the fact is that there are

currently two designers, one is Farrah's brother and the other is Filipe, who is a Frontrunners, they both came back to the subcommittee with their respective designs and we gave some feedback. The subcommittee would like to steer the design much more in line with the briefing that we have had. There have been put together lots of constructive thoughts, in particular relative to the logo, on how the name London Frontrunners is going to be spelled out, we have taken on board the fact that members want us to come across as a London club, in addition to come across as an LGBTQ+ club but to present this aspect with sensitivity, discretion and lots of good taste, and we are not there yet. The subcommittee wants to create a powerful and distinctive logo, that can also be used in the future and for further branding, we need to have a distinct name on the vest and especially on how the name of our Club appears on the vest, as the way it appears on the current vest is not very distinctive, so we feel that there is a need to rebrand the logo, and this part is a key element for the whole procedure, as based on the logo, all the remaining aspects of the new vest will be relative to it and will follow, as in fall into place once this has been established.

The subcommittee has also taken on board the fact that all the LFR members who came forward and were asked to give their opinion on the new vest actually like the back of the current vest, which is another element that we are trying to retain. I am going to have a meeting with one of the designers, Will Parry will be meeting with the other, based on what the outcome is we will keep you all updated. Fact is that both designers have been able to follow some aspects of the briefing, whereas they have not been able to pick up on some other aspects which the subcommittee considers as important. During our meetings with the two designers we have not been able to always come to a consensus, but they were nevertheless very beneficial. In all fairness, we are very much aware of the timeframe but we don't want to rush it as it is going very well at this point and with this pace.

The honorarium which will be offered to the two designers will definitely speed things up a lot, so in the next couple of weeks I will be meeting with Filipe and Will is meeting Paul, who is Farrah's brother, and share with them our feedback on the initial responses to our brief. There are still a few things we need to ask the designers to focus on and a few things they need to be corrected.

Although we have not discussed timings, I would assume that at this point we are less than six months away, but perhaps this is something that we can discuss in one of our next meetings as a team. We will have received the new designs by then, so it would make sense to start discussing the next steps, and especially timelines (JW)

I think that I am speaking on behalf of the whole Club Committee, if not of the whole Club when I say that it is much better to try and get this vest right, as much as this is feasible and for as many members as possible. We want to have a vest design that will please most of the Club members and so there is no need to rush (AC)

Conor Devlin is currently running out of small size vests but knowing that this is going to take more than six months or about six months or a bit under six months, we can try and calculate our next order and potentially keep our bulk purchase smaller than in the previous years.

And I assume that we will also need to discuss and decide on whether the England Athletics approval of the new design will have to happen before or after the launch.

Common sense dictates that the England Athletics approval will have to happen before the vest is launched. I can't possibly imagine having to retire the Club's new vest because it was

found that the new design did not fulfil the EA parameters. In any case, approving the new vest is not going to be a real obstacle and it will only take about a week or so in terms of time. There are naturally certain parameters to follow as we all know from previous encounters with the EA on the subject but besides that England Athletics does not have an impactful saying on how the design should actually be. The Club currently has just one vest listed as the official Club vest, the white and red one which we all hate and which we have been using for the past eight or nine years. Once the new Club vest comes out, even as a design, from the subcommittee, we will present it for approval to EA and then have it registered with them as the primary LFR vest. The current one is going to be registered as the secondary LFR vest, so it is not going to be neither completely nor immediately retired because we don't want members to feel the pressure that they have to immediately buy a new vest. The current one, which will become the secondary and old one, will continue for a bit of time. All our new members are currently purchasing the current vest in view of the Big Half and other Club races, and we have had quite a few of them. It would be unfair to ask them to purchase a new vest in six month's time, especially when the current Club vest comes at £27. So a coexistence of both new and current vest is likely or due to happen and will possibly go on for another two years more or less, I would assume, after the new vest has been launched, if not for longer (CBP).

We've had some very exciting first designs which need to be finalised with the designers. We also happen to look at what we already have and evaluate what we can keep from the present design because the positive aspects of the current design are really really positive and we would consider keeping them, and then there is what needs to be different, we are not throwing out things just because we are in the process of changing, we want this new vest to have a happy and long life within the Club, so we also see that there is no reason for pressure nor to make things happen in a hurry.

From the survey the subcommittee has conducted at the very beginning, there have been many opinions and lots of ideas; many of the members like the tri kit, because they like that it has some colour, so we will try and make the new vest with a bit more of colour, then the fact that the current vest looks clean and respectable for certain runs but get terribly dirty during the Cross Country is again another of the suggestions which we have to keep in mind, as we don't want to have the back of the vest in a colour that stains easily, these are some of the many things which were also referred by us to the designers, but not everything has been picked up and we just need to reiterate certain of these to them.

Our aim is to try and create a design and a final product which is timeless, a bit more colourful than the actual vest but distinctive (JW).

Please kindly pass the Committee's most sincere thanks to the subcommittee, reminding them that we are very much aware of all of them being volunteers and that they should not be feeling being under any pressure and please let us know if there is anything which we could do on our side as Committee in order to be able to facilitate the endeavour.

The Club Committee is both excited and delighted at the progress of this task, most importantly knowing that the subcommittee has on board people who understand design and who in consequence are approaching the whole endeavour in a way that is sensible and professional, and that they are able to steer the task accordingly, in addition to capturing certain aspects which others, with no experience in design, would not have been able to understand nor bring forward.

Financial Updates (CT)

The financial situation of the Club is very stable, there is £66,516.39 in the current account and £14,475.41 in the savings account. The only significant upcoming outgoings are relative to the Isle of Wight bookings, where 33 Club members have already paid up for their accommodation, but we believe that the number of attendees will eventually increase and that there will be close to forty members in the end.

All Club funds, both current and savings accounts are with Lloyds. One suggestion which I would like to make to the Committee is to move some of the LFR savings to a higher yielding account, which means that having a certain amount of the Club funds in a specific high-yielding savings account for a specific amount of time can easily pay up to ten times the national average of a standard savings account, as the difference in interest between a high-yielding savings account rates and the national average is significant.

The Committee considers the above as an excellent suggestion and approves of the motion.

Action to be taken: The CT is kindly requested to please share with the Committee a proposal relative to the above suggestion of moving a portion of the Club funds to a high-yielding bank account

It would be very practical to also have a financial report which could be relevant to the expenditures of the current year in comparison to the budget projection for the following year, so that we know how much is being spent from Club funds throughout the year and whether the expenditure is relevant to the budget allocated for each role.

Action to be taken: AC is kindly requested to please send to the CT one of the previous financial reports as per above.

Races Update (RS)

Report relative to the Club Championships.

We have had the first two races in the annual Club Championships with the third event taking place next week. We have enjoyed significantly higher participation in the Club Championships races so far and this year compared to the last year. Just to make a small comparison of numbers, between the 2022-23 Club year race participants and the so far 2023-24 Club year, the Eltham Park 5 miler has had 27 whereas this year there were 45, 31 runners were present at the Battersea Mile Relay last year compared to the 45 of this year, there have been 25 runners at the Charlton parkrun, which last year was our 5K race, whereas for the Kangaroo Hop 5K there have registered a staggering 61 runners, up to date. So this is extremely positive and we are very hopeful that the increased attendance will continue in the following Club races throughout the year.

The quarterly publication of results appears to have galvanised some further attention on behalf of Club members. There were, however, a couple of omissions from this for which we intend on publishing an erratum, which is also very useful to have been able to identify these omissions early in the Club year so that they can be rectified before the final rankings at the end of the season.

Besides the practical reasons for which the quarterly update may have been launched, which actually proved to be incredibly useful in spotting some omissions at this early stage, and much better now than having to deal with errors accumulating all the way until the end of the Club Championships, we believe that this quarterly update will prove a very good incentive in order to increase both competitiveness and participation at the forthcoming Club events. (FC)

Some general considerations on the Club Championship events so far:

Eltham Park 5 event.

As mentioned, 45 LFR athletes participated in the race. Tom Watson came 2nd overall and Anna-Kaisa Pietilainen was 2nd female, again the Club had a very strong presence.

The Battersea Park One Mile relay.

LFR competed with 15 teams, 45 athletes in total.

The Men's B team placed 4th overall (Zack Mitchell, Marius Thies, Alex Turner).

Kangaroo Hop 5K

So far 61 LFR members have registered for the Kangaroo Hop 5K.

The number of interested runners is significantly more than the number we originally anticipated and will incur a greater cost than was originally budgeted for this event and we would like to ask whether the Committee would agree to cover this extra expenditure.

I don't really see how the Committee could possibly refuse to meet this non budgeted expenditure. We can't really say that the Club is willing to cover the registration costs for a Club event for just a certain pre-established number of runners and then expect that the rest of the members who have shown interest in participating at the event will have to pay the registration fees out of their own pocket. Even if the Club did not have the necessary funds, which is definitely not the case, it would have been absurd to subsidise just one portion of the participants. The Committee will naturally have to consult with the CT here present, but from my point of view the Committee will have to warmly and fully embrace this endeavour and subsidise the registration fees for every Club member.(CBP)

I agree and this will also be added to the amount of Club funds that the Club has invested back into membership. Let's not forget that there was a relative discussion during the last AGM and a number of members pointed out that they would like to see an increased expenditure of Club funds towards covering race events, so the Committee has been listening to what was commented at the AGM and has been acting accordingly.

The Committee agrees to fully cover the registration expenses for the race regardless of the number of final participants.

Big Half

After the Kangaroo Hop race comes TBH, which is again a Club Championships event and very many LFR athletes have already registered thanks to the £10 Community Entries scheme negotiated by CBP. Do we have a number of participants for the Big Half?

There certainly is a number of registered runners for the event, and so far there are 22 Brighton & Hove Front Runners, two Bristol Frontrunners and finally 152 Frontrunners, which is a very good number of participants overall, for a Club event. We are in the process of getting some

more Community Entries, which may alter the final numbers of attendance but I do not believe that this will be a dramatic increase (CBP).

SEAC Bridges Relay

LFR was represented by 11 teams of 3 athletes per team, so again a very good turnout.

Other races

Francis and I are looking to finalise the 10K race for next March shortly, so this can be held in the members' diaries. We continue to look for other races to support and to promote. These may include track races, relays, and the potential of developing a handicap race.

Clapham run

ER has designed a 5K and 10K route commencing from the Clapham Leisure Centre. The route has been tested and he is currently in the process of making some minor modifications; once these have been adjusted, the route will be circulated among the Club Committee for consideration.

Publicity Update (P&C O)

Everything is going well and there is nothing particular to share. Sam is currently on holiday and Stephen is on his own, so please bear with him if things are not happening as seamlessly as they normally would.

Social Activities update (SS)

Discussion on The Village social event on every first Thursday of the month and whether it should be cancelled for September, in view of the potential launching of the Clapham run.

The Committee agrees to have the social event cancelled for the month of September

Mention of supporting the Cake Appreciation event further and at the Club Circles.

Mention of the Summer Social on the 12th of August summer social and cock tavern.

Mention of TBH social with The Pelton Arms opening at half eleven for LFR.

Mention of the Christmas Party.

Membership Update (MS)

The renewal process is now finally concluded. The last renewal came through last week and all those who have not renewed have been removed from WebCollect and the ebulletin.

As at 1 August 2023, there were 581 fully paid-up members, including one member who has paid by bank transfer and doesn't have a live subscription on WebCollect, and with another four payments being currently processed, I would expect the Club to reach 600 members by the middle of autumn.

A review of Facebook group members is ongoing, but most non-members have now been removed. The group membership on FB now stands at 468.

All LFR members who have renewed their subscriptions have also been renewed on England Athletics. There is currently a backlog of about 40 new members which I am working through. If committee members are contacted by new members who are concerned about their URN, please reassure them that they have not been forgotten, but gently request that they be patient.

Please be aware that, even in ideal conditions, EA memberships are likely to take a minimum of 2-3 weeks to go through after new members join. All LFR subscriptions take 7-10 days to process on our system, and EA memberships will only be processed after that.

Club Secretary Updates

TBH Short Update

Discussion on the LFR survey

Co-Presidents

Pride March Feedback Discussion

International Trip update

You will be pleased to know that there is currently no one on the waiting list.

There has been some commotion lately over the cost of flights, as there was some increased interest at a certain point for flights to Thessaloniki but following the algorithm, flights to Thessaloniki are currently coming down. This was an issue for those who had not purchased their flights but I would assume that this has mostly been resolved by now and that most of the Club members have already purchased their flight and are also staying in Thessaloniki for the three days, as in for three overnight stays.

So, we arrive in Thessaloniki on Friday, Friday dinner has already been booked, there has been arranged for Saturday a free tour of Thessaloniki, we have been in contact with the local Information Bureau of the city who have been absolutely brilliant and extremely helpful in organising so many things for us, we are just following many of their suggestions, as they are booking and organising things on our behalf, then there will be the race, with a 5K, a 10K and a half marathon option, then the Saturday dinner has also been sorted for everybody, and it is going to be a buffer dinner, considering that members are not doing different races but also have different finishing times, then there will be a night out for everybody, Sunday morning could be a free day for members to relax or go around, then in the evening of Sunday there will be a surprise. I cannot tell you what it is but we are in the process of finalising the entertainment for Sunday evening and we are all very excited. There are still a few things to do, bits and bobs here and there. As most of the venues have been selected and finalised we are now in the process of finalising the social-only tickets and of offering them to those who have arranged for their own flight, accommodation and race entries, and would like to join the rest of the members just for the social part, the dinners on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday and all the rest that we are planning on having as social activities. Michael and Chris are just working on that plan and I have to tell you that these tickets are not going to be that much cheaper, the team is trying to do their best anyway and, pretty much all is going really well. One of the very last things which are still left to do is just the room allocations.

Clapham Run updates and discussion

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to please email AH one of the old contract LFR used to have with the changing venues

Action to be taken: CBP is kindly requested to please contact Roger Kennedy in regards to information on Clapham venues

Action to be taken: NW is kindly requested to please check The Sun pub, in Clapham Old Town, following the recommendation that the venue has been used by the Clapham Feelers

AOB