



**LFR**

**Regular Committee Meeting**

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)

**LFR**

**RCM Agenda**

**Tuesday 16th January 2024**

**International Trip Sub- Committee Updates (CTt)**

**Financial Updates (CT)**

**Races Update (RS)**

Updates on the forthcoming Club Championships

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

**Social Activities update (SS)**

**Membership Update (MS)**

**Club Secretary**

- London Landmarks Half Marathon update
- Saturday venue discussion and decision
- Minor Updates
- Candidates for forthcoming Club elections & 2024 AGM

## **Co-Presidents**

- Green Belt Relay 2024
- Transgender Policy Responses
- Committee Restructure proposal

## **AOB**

Chair: AC

Minutes: CBP

Apologies: RB, AH,

## **International Trip Sub- Committee Updates (CTt)**

Thank you so much for this invite. This year there has been a really long list of suggestions on the destinations for the 2024 International Trip, about 30 overall, but naturally so many of these events coincide on the calendar with important LFR events, so these were the first that had to be eliminated. One of our most important issues has been the overall cost. Greece last year was quite reasonable in every other aspect, though due to the distance and to the fact that Thessaloniki is not Greece's primary destination, the tickets were not extremely cheap. One of the most important parameters to consider before going forward with the IT is always safety, not just safety from a criminality point of view but whether it is LGBTQ+ safe for the Club to race in that country and for members to feel welcome, safe and to be able to enjoy themselves freely. After lots of thinking the long list of 30 was reduced to five and the IT subcommittee's favoured option is Budapest. First of all in terms of location, then it is good value for money, and for the standard quality and organisational quality of its races.

We naturally wanted to make sure that the event would not clash with the Isle of Wight weekend of races, nor with the Big Half, and also the really great thing about this event is that the races are split over two days, as on Saturday the 12th of October there is a 10K and a 5k race, and on Sunday the 13th of October there is a full marathon. We also anticipate that most of our members will choose the 10K race. Both these races are very urban and taking place within the city and we are confident that members will enjoy them very much.

Discussions on the LGBTQ+ issues that generally plague Hungary in the past few years and how safe it is for members to race in Budapest.

The IT subcommittee has anticipated questions on that subject and we have looked thoroughly at a few metrics and the legal grounds in regards to LGBTQ+ community in Hungary. The social acceptance is at the same levels as Greece and Budapest is currently in line or even above all the other Eastern European capitals, so we would say that it is relatively safe. Before we finally endorse this option as the 2024 IT, we have taken some contacts and we are planning to work together with local tourist authorities, to be able to fully

endorse the trip from a safety point of view. It is very important that there is an essential level of confidence established, hence the collaboration between LFR and the local tourist authorities, who will help us organise this trip in the best and safest way possible.

Although we are still at the very early stages, we predict that the cost for this trip will be around the same as last year's costs, more or less. The dates to bear in mind are the 12th and 13th of October.

Discussion on financial matters relative to the IT and the existence of a very small IT reserve already in place, as it is always good to think in advance and to have a buffer for any eventualities.

Discussion on how the weather is going to be. The trip is still in early October and it is not going to be very cold and hopefully it will be dry. The majority of LFR members are very keen on having the IT somewhere warm and preferably by the sea. This is not always possible and we are always trying to accommodate this as much as feasible. The weather in October is not going to be super warm but it is not going to be cold either. There could possibly be a bit of rain.

Discussion on the other shortlisted events. Helsinki was one of them and was a really expensive one, Vilnius was deemed as LGBTQ+ unsafe and Gran Canaria, had a prohibitive cost of flight.

Committee approves of the destination suggested by the IT subcommittee.

We still need to speak to the race organisers, as there is a chance that it could not be workable, we will see how that goes and we will come back to the Committee, if the local organisers prove not to be cooperative in that aspect.

The Committee is very thankful to Chris Tibbett for his time in meeting with them and for all the information and updates he has been able to provide.

### **Financial Updates (CT)**

The Club account currently has about 37,000K, including a reserve of £7000 from the last International trip. The Club has finally managed to pay off what was due for the hotel of the IT and we have also paid GBR organisers. These two payments constituted our most significant outgoings, by paying Chris Tibbett for the International Trip the amount of £4,137.48 and for the accommodation of the Green Belt Relay £1144.

The LFR subsidies for the Christmas Party came to £ 900, which brings our current bank balance to £36,851.68

Total outgoings in previous month: £6,331.95

Total income in previous month: £1,255.42

Significant income : Christmas Party Ticket Sales: £1,076.19

We are very thankful to CBP for his masterful intervention and his negotiations skills with the Seymour Centre in convincing them to writing off all LFR fees for the current club year, from April 2023 to the end of February 2024, due to a breach of contract relative to the closure of the bag drop and to the failure of notifying the Club and providing LFR with an alternative, thus saving LFR more than £1204 (43 sessions x £28).

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

Updates on the forthcoming Club Championships

After some research and deliberations, Eliot and I would like to propose the 10K event at Regent's Park which is organised by the Mornington Chasers, and the date is set for Sunday the 3rd of March with the event starting at 9.00 am. The registration fees come to £24 for those affiliated and as this is the very last race of the season we feel that it is going to be quite successful. It is very central and also members can come and cheer runners on as well.

The event is chipped and there will be a medal at the end, so it is well organised.

The last XC event of the season is next month, this is scheduled for Saturday the 10 February at Trent Park. The first and the last fixture are always the busiest ones. This is the last Met League race of the season and the course is undulating but it has always proved quite successful, in all previous years.

Then we have the Club Championships which is scheduled for Friday the 15th of March, at the Two Brewers and the Club Championships results will be updated by Eliot and in time for the next ebulletin.

We also have the LM criteria update, which we will bring to your consideration as they need to be approved at the next Committee meeting.

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

Nothing much to report

### **Social Activities update (SS)**

Discussion and closure of the Christmas Party welfare subject

On Saturday the 17th of February is the 29th LFR Anniversary Party, and from 6pm to 10pm LFR has exclusive use of the back room at the Two Brewers. Doors will open at 6:00pm, the there is the drag-show at 7.00 pm performed by Karla Bear, who is well known and

established in the drag scene, then there is a DJ post-performance and the doors will open for everybody else at 10:00pm, so members can hang around and party until late.

Discussions on the pizza which will be provided for free for all members and the budget is established at £500. The speeches which are meant to be provided by the Committee are duly cancelled, to the great joy of all Committee members.

As the Retro Bar proves to be very small in terms of size of the LFR post London Marathon social, the venue considered is Comptons

### **Membership Update (MS)**

The Club registered members are 649, with two members' registration still pending, getting 700 members until the end of the club year is very unlikely. What would be very much interesting to see is the drop off after the new year.

### **Club Secretary**

London Landmarks Half Marathon update

Saturday venue discussion and decision

### **Minor Updates**

Triathlon trip abroad to Portugal to participate at the Cascais Half Iron Man on the 19th of October

Discussion on the £300 request and relative to the new coaches training venue

Candidates for forthcoming Club elections & 2024 AGM

Confirmed are Derwin, Geoff, Nick and Eliot. All questions at the AGM will need to be submitted in advance, simply because we need to avoid having another long AGM and running late for the social event afterwards

### **Co-Presidents**

#### **Green Belt Relay 2024**

The Committee is unanimously in favour of subsidising the registration fees for the four LFR teams. The hotel reservations haven't increased and the event unfortunately clashes with 2024 Hackney Half.

Running events are yet to be confirmed for Vienna Eurogames

### **Transgender Policy Responses**

Comments and feedback

**Committee restructure discussion**

**Action to be taken:** All Committee members are kindly requested to please go through the relative document in view of the final decision to be taken at the next RCM