



Minutes AGM Wednesday 16th October 2019

Venue DARC 8.00pm

1. Apologies: S Barlow, M Hughes, S Lumsden, C Farnsworth, B Evans, G Davis, S Davis, D Nisbet, A-M Fisher, D Benvin

2. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Minutes accepted as read.

3. Foreword from the Chair:

JH thanked PK, PF and SS for setting up the room and also Jules for her illustration accompanying his presentation.

The report from the Captains (available on the website) provides a detailed and very positive reflection of the year.

JH wishes to thank outgoing committee members and officers of the club, and also those continuing. All have made a valuable contribution. The new committee members and officers of the club are listed in his report (attached).

From the WMTR proceeds £250 are to go to each of the 2 chosen charities.

Looking at the way forward JH felt a new Chair should be sought and asked for expressions of interest from anyone wishing to take on the role. Support would be available. There had been episodes of unpleasantness from some individuals within the club, some of which effectively would make a volunteer officer feel unwelcome and disengaged. JH asked for support in zero tolerance of inappropriate behaviour and attacks on officers of the club. This was voted for unanimously by the meeting.

Jonathan's full report will be available on the website

4. Status of Associate Members:

PK suggested a change in status for Associate members who, in the past, could neither apply for LM club numbers nor could take part in any vote. It seemed unjust that people who pay the same EA & club membership fee should be debarred purely because of where they work or live and so cannot access MC on club nights. After a brief discussion it was agreed that, since many who don't use MC do pay full membership, and as a matter of principal, it was agreed that all members who pay EA registration and club fees should have equal rights and that Associate Membership should no longer be an option.

5. Size and Composition of the Committee:

With a committee of 7 it could be argued that we may easily not be quorate if committee members send apologies, or that the committee is not entirely representative of the membership.

This is to be referred to the next committee meeting after the AGM.

However, it was noted that some people opted not to be on the committee.

In addition, non-voting Officers of the Club can choose to attend meetings and contribute to discussion,

Also, it was pointed out that coaching should be more widely represented on the committee.

It was felt that a committee of 7 could make decisions but if meetings have to be cancelled or postponed then subsequent meetings may have to be longer. The new committee will re-evaluate the composition of the committee at the next meeting, as happened last year.

It was also proposed that we engage members generally and give them a voice. Issues can be raised in the first instance by members and can be circulated to a wider audience because the committee do need to know what people want. If there are members who feel uncertain about making their feelings known, the committee needs to consider how to give opportunities to them.

The discussion then turned to training and coaching. S Ellis felt that there were opportunities for members doing 5K to 10K but 10K and beyond needs attention. It was suggested that we ask the Training Co-ordinator to organise a programme for (say) 5K to 10K improvers and beyond.

ML said we need more coaches to achieve more balance but, are there really 'fast' groups? – most seem to be slower.

LC mentioned the need for shorter runs for those recovering from injury.

S Ellis wondered whether it's how training groups are described that could be off-putting. Is 'improvers' a good enough description? It should be put to people in language they understand.

JY suggested it was time to fund more coach training so that a wider range of members can be covered. Ashley should also have training. SJ felt it was important to remember that we are all volunteers but said that he had run with Sunderland Harriers in order to get sessions appropriate for him. D Shipman asked – is a coach necessary to achieve goals? Maybe a more informal approach could work for people running with other who have the same goals. There could be a 'suggestions box' for people who want to propose ideas to the committee.

6. Allocation of London Marathon Numbers - eligibility:

PK had received many applications from those members who had been rejected from the Marathon ballot. The draw would take place at MC before training on Wednesday

23rd of October assuming all Elvet Striders who had entered had received a response. Members were reminded of the criteria for applying for a club number.

7. Aykley Heads XC – information:

GD was unable to attend the AGM however PK was able to read from an email he had sent for the meeting for information. In summary there had been a good response from Striders to volunteer as marshals however more are still needed, particularly those not running on the day. However, those wishing to run can still also marshal. This will be Geoff's 6th and final time as Striders' lead representative in organising the event. In addition, although AH will host the 2021 Northern XC Championships in January of that year, the future of the event after that is in doubt owing to DCC's plans to vacate County Hall. SJ acknowledged Geoff's huge contribution to this event but he and Elaine do not want to take it on. Possibly a subcommittee could be formed in the style of the WMTR. The HL might be looking at other venues for the future – e.g. WMTR course? Waldrige Fell? So that a HL event can still be in Durham.

8. Website – empty spaces:

This item was discussed briefly at the previous committee meeting. Members were urged to contribute, update and send reports of races using the online form rather than by email. SG wants to offer ideas to the next committee meeting.

9. Competition – the Way Forward:

This was also discussed at the previous committee meeting. It would be good to extend the events members enter – such as National XC event, Six Stage, Road Relays? The prospect could possibly be intimidating but members can achieve in these events.

SE commented on the poor turnout for some events. The need to engage members was discussed – maybe initially something low-key & local like the Crook relays would be a start but this gets people involved. Other examples mentioned were Farrington Relays or the Good Friday Relays. Individual members could organise entries for an event on a one-off basis with committee approval.

TS suggested subgroups to look at the year ahead – should it just be the captains' job? DS mentioned Blackhill and a list of interested runners.

FB **has** sent out a list of races over the year but it was felt that the captains should coordinate it.

The Captains want club run ideas – like Stuart's 'last man standing'. To be put out on email.

10.MC:

PK has had no further updates on parking and the changes to the building – e.g. cafeteria. The situation remains with the track that we (allegedly) cannot use it during term time until Easter. We have a 2 year deal with them.

So, we could use the Fram track again but it is not ideal. We share lighting with Phoenix. Or we could look at Chester le Street.

However, it was noted that DCH still use the track on Tuesdays and Thursdays and MoTR use it on Mondays. So why are we different? Although Wednesday IS student sports afternoon. The priority given to WSL was noted even though they appear to be mainly children.

PK to arrange a meeting with Quentin at MC to discuss our concerns.

For Fram we would need a block booking of 20 sessions and this would be on Wednesdays only. However, the track can be waterlogged.

SJ asked about training on the grass at MC however this is being withdrawn (for DCH) since MC want to offer it to Durham County Cricket Club.

11. TeamApp:

This was a pilot as a means for various club transactions. It has been very successful for the Membership Secretary, for bus bookings and for kit. BUT some members won't use it. In addition, the list of members is wrong – there has been some double counting. Data privacy has been questioned. JH feels it is something which needs additional support from members willing to share the responsibility of managing it. So the question was raised – do we want to continue using it? Are there any other apps? Yes, but this one seems to be the best. It does save officers time. DS suggests we continue with it even though he personally doesn't use it. BUT who will administer it and take ownership? Members with 2 accounts should delete one but maybe it would be simpler that everyone should be deleted and then re-submit.

12.AOB:

Membership fees will not change for next year.

Honorary Member – Geoff Davis was nominated, and the vote was carried unanimously.

DS mentioned the summer Charity Relays – covering all Maiden Castles from west to east and a charity would be decided. Nigel H has organised a route.

Meeting closed at 10.30