

Minutes for FODAC Committee Meeting, 15th December 2015 at Fountain Inn, Parkend

Present: Pete, Rich, Chris, Wendy, Cherry, Jacqui, Jools, Dave, Ian Stef

Apologies: Sharla

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Dave is still looking into the cost of the timing clock. **Action: Dave**

Chris and Emma are still working on the Database and will need to have a separate meeting to ensure all requirements are met for the Junior database. Meeting will be in the new year. **Action: Chris**

The older Juniors who went on the coaching course have now helped at some of the Saturday session and Pete said that that they were doing very well and are a real asset.

Pete confirmed that there is no extra cost to the club running the 0-5k, 5-10k and 10-20k groups and he is hoping that the groups are self sustaining. Some people who have now joined the club as members are becoming run leaders (eg Martin Walby) and if they can take over the running of the groups there is no need for the coaches to run the groups.

There was concern that only very few people from the groups actually become members and when they have graduated from the 0-5k group they move on to the other groups and effectively get free coaching, when our members pay their track fee every week. Pete was under the impression, that the 10-20k group are all members, but the group has nothing to do with Pete, it is organised by Daren Smith and seems to be more of a group of people just getting together for a run. It seems just an informal arrangement between Daren and the people taking part and we need to ensure that people are aware that this groups is not part of FODAC. **Action: Pete**

Pete has suggested that we put a donations box up for the groups, so that, although they are free, runners can donate to the club.

Jools suggested that the 0-5k groups should not be run continuously throughout the year. We should perhaps offer two courses a year and if people would like to carry on running they can do so by joining the club and attending regular training sessions. At the Lydney group we only seem to have Mike Marks and Cherry coaching at the moment and they may like to take a break.

We need to know who is coaching the sessions before we can offer any more courses.

Richard stated that the groups have become victims of their own success. It is great to run the groups and they fit in very well with the charity status, but we can't have people coming back again and again for free coaching and use of facilities. Dave

suggested we can give people a second chance on the 0-5k group, as not everyone can complete the course first time round.

In comparison to our free session other clubs charge £ 2.00 per session and then ask people to join the club.

Dave would like to have a chat with the members running the 0-5k group to discuss future plans. **Action: Dave**

Perhaps we should charge for the 5-10k group and not run the group as often as we do.

Team Selection:

It was decided that the Junior Team Selection is up to the Junior coaches, who know their athletes and can make the right decisions.

We recently had some members from Chepstow Harriers joining us as a second claim club, so that they can run the Glos. Cross Country league. They could potentially push some of our members out of the team, which could be quite demoralising for some of our members, who may feel, that there is very little point in running xcountry races, if they have no chance of scoring for the club. It also seems a bit strange that these second claim members could run for us in one league and against us in the Gwent league.

Would we like to make rules about the membership or do we want to be welcoming to all? Are we an inclusive club or would this turn us too elitist? Pete and Chris were not comfortable with the club becoming too elitist as our ethos has always been for a very welcoming and inclusive club.

We need to decide if we want to make this an AGM point, so that all members can vote on the rules for second claim members. Add to next agenda. **Action: Stef**

Stef had to leave the meeting

2. Clubmark:

Richard advised that Emma and Steve were progressing with the registration section. Much of what was required were updated risk assessments and certificates

3. Cross Country:

Pete advised that he was still awaiting consent to use the grass area from Lakers. Jacqui to check with Arthur Dayley with regard to the permit and also that Glos AAA had offered a portalo. Would they also cover the cost of £1 per head for use of a shower. Sharla already primed to arrange cakes/teas for sale. Changing rooms at School and Leisure centre to be booked.

It was agreed to set up a working party to clear the course on December 30th 10.00am at Lakers

Post to be put on Facebook. Action –Jacqui/Pete

4. Treasurers Report:

Wendy advised that there had been quite a lot of expenditure although this included the defibrillator which we had funding back for and the money for Xmas entries was coming in.

Chris M enquired whether Walter's bill had included the work he did for the school. He also asked

Account balance £12,800

Why the cost of the kit had risen dramatically. Action Wendy/Pete

5. Membership Report:

Chris M advised no change

6. Coaches Report:

Dave reported that one of the Juniors had broken her leg during a training session. Flowers had been sent to the parents and an official report to EA. The parents were very happy with the way it had all been handled.

Pete advised that work had commenced on the throwing cage with holes dug for posts. These now need concreting and the poles inserted. Pete was also investigating lighting for the throwing hut and will obtain a solar one to test. He had also had the generator renovated.

7. AOB:

It was agreed for Sharla to purchase a vacuum cleaner for the new hut.

Richard enquired why we had separate websites for seniors and Juniors. It was explained that it was historic and that at the time Wordpress would not support both. It was agreed to keep as is but a clearer link to be added to the Juniors site. It was acknowledged Dave was the Facebook "owner" for the club.

Gift Aid – Wendy to check with David Jenkins how we set it up and the implications.

Chris M had checked the on line offer for membership renewal via EA and advised against, which was agreed.

Jacqui raised concerns about the poor level of response to volunteering to help at club events. She suggested that volunteers should be offered a voucher for a free place at another club event, which could be passed to a friend or relative. Also to only offer VLM places to members who had volunteered at least twice. Jacqui to produce a voucher that will be given as of 2016.

Richard asked why we actually held any races, the general consensus was that it kept the spirit and ethos of the small clubs, the danger being it would let in the professional companies who run races at ridiculous prices and don't put the money back into the sport.

Julian advised he had spoken to Terry Haines, who is retiring from Glos AAA and has said he is offering the Blaisdon race to Severn AC, if they don't want it we can have it in our calendar. All agreed this would be a good one to have.

Meeting closed 10.10pm