

Minutes for FODAC Committee Meeting, 19th of January 2016 at the Fountain Inn, Parkend

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

1. Minutes of Last meeting and matters arising

Dave is still looking into the possibility of buying a timing clock for the track.

Action: Dave

We still need to update risk assessments and certificates to achieve Club Mark. This needs to be looked at in more detail.

The Cross Country County Championships were a great success. Pete checked the course after the event to make sure it was all left tidy. The grass seemed to have coped very well and there seemed to be no damage.

We had lots of very positive comments about the event on the day and by email and Mick Morris of the Gloucestershire AAA thanked us for yet another great event.

2. Treasurer's Report

Wendy compiled a report for the financial year to the end of December 2015. This showed an income of £ 24,068.34 which was made up of membership subscriptions, track fees, race income, sale of kit, donations and grants and other miscellaneous income from coach hire, interest, sports hall fees and refreshments and raffle. We spent a total of £ 33,054.28 which was mainly made up of the cost for the new hut, the throwing area, coaching and equipment. There were other miscellaneous expenses such as transport, affiliation fees, donation to Lydney parkrun, sports hall and track hire, race expenses and presentation evenings.

We started the year with a bank balance of £ 21,864.35 which included £ 600.00, which we are holding for parkrun and the bank balance on the 31st of December came to £ 13,006.41.

During January we have had an income of £ 2056.22, which included a grant from Active Gloucestershire for the Lydney Satellite Group, track fees, sale of kit, refreshments at cross country and donations from the 0-5k/5-10k groups. Our expenditure was £ 215.00 for EA fees, course fee and a vacuum cleaner for the new hut.

The Christmas Tree race made a profit of £ 1,200. Pete expressed his thanks to Jacqui for all her hard work in organising this very successful event. We came to the conclusion, that we advertised this event much better and we had a lot of compliments from runners who took part.

Wendy has looked into Gift Aid. She will register with HMRC so we can claim gift aid as a charity.

We will have to get all members to fill in a gift aid declaration. The best way to do this will be to send it out with membership form, so that we know who will donate gift aid and who won't. We should also be able to claim gift aid on small donations such as the 0-5k donations, but as the details Wendy had stated that we cannot do so for the first two years, we need to double check this.

3. Membership Report

The current membership stands at 500 members. There has been a steady growth since last June and we gained approximately 140 members since August 2015.

Chris would like to put a block on new members, as we seem to have issues with overcrowding during junior sessions and the adult session on a Tuesday also seems to be very busy now. He suggested that we should have a waiting list for new members from April and we would only admit new members when we know how many old members would not renew their membership. Could we perhaps restrict new members in certain age groups? This was deemed difficult to police.

Pete explained that it is only the Tuesday Junior session which is too busy to meet the EA required coach to athlete ratio and there are plenty of sessions such as the Severnbanks session on a Monday, the Thursday session and some of the older age groups, which are actually undersubscribed.

The coaches are going to have a meeting to discuss the Junior coaching situation and they would like to restrict the Tuesday session to the Juniors who are willing to compete and commit during the upcoming track and field season.

With regards to the adult session it would be better if all sessions are pre-planned and that the newly trained Run Leaders will support the coaching during those sessions. It was suggested that perhaps one group may go for road run on a Tuesday and the group on the track works well when it is split into three ability groups.

If the club is to grow more and more we need to ensure that we adhere to EA guidelines and work properly towards Club Mark status. We need to address all coaching, Welfare and safeguarding issues and the coaches must follow EA regulations. Members need to be aware and follow club policies.

The club policies need to be reviewed.

We voted not to restrict the membership for now, but we do need to keep a close eye on membership numbers and how the coaching sessions work out.

We do have to appoint a club development officer from the committee to work out which way the club moves forward.

4. Coaches' Report

Dave stated that the coaching is going well and that he is currently dealing with welfare issues which were flagged up in a recent welfare and safeguarding audit.

Action: Dave

5. 0-5k, 5-10k groups

The Coleford session is still going strong with Pete leading the group. We can offer the group on the track as long as we have run leaders available. The group is still free of charge, but we have received £ 1.00 donations from members of the group. According to Pete half of the runners who do the 0-5k group eventually join the club. They then go out with Daren Smith to continue running for longer distances.

The Lydney group is not as well supported and we do not have run leaders taking the group on a regular basis. We need to make clear that only the Monday session is a coached session and that the Wednesday and Friday runs should be done by the runners themselves, following the suggested plan.

We need to review the situation at Lydney and Dave will check on Monday, to ensure that we have a qualified run leader. The club should not be associated with the 0-5k group at Lydney if we have no qualified run leader leading the group.

Action: Dave

We will have to stop doing 0-5k group back to back, as we cannot expect run leaders to be available all year round.

6. Lydney Tri Club

We have been approached by Lydney Tri Club to see if we would offer discounted membership to their members. We have decided that we are unable to offer a discount at the moment, as we have a large number of members and our membership fees are very reasonable anyway.

7. Prizes for Club Races

It was suggested that we should perhaps offer prizes for the first FODAC lady and man at our own races, but as we are always struggling to have enough marshals and helpers for our races we cannot offer trophies like that. Members who are helping out would not be able to compete for these trophies. It was also decided that we will not offer championship points to the members who are helping out, but they will receive a voucher for a free race.

8. Social events

Although the Christmas party at Whitemead was a huge success it may be better if we could have a private function this year. Sharla explained that we would perhaps have the event earlier as most venues are booked out in December, but she will look into it. **Action: Sharla**

Sharla will also organise another summer picnic and will look into booking the coach to the wineathlon.

9. Junior parkrun

We have been able to secure the Junior parkrun, which will now go ahead every last Sunday of the month. Mark Mathews has asked if we could purchase a separate laptop for it. This will all be funded from the parkrun money which we are holding.

10. Midland Track and Field League

Pete announced that our application to the Midland Track and Field League has been approved. We will be in League 6 and Pete will post the dates for the competitions shortly. The league is for Senior men and women from U17 upwards.

11. Any other business

Jacqui and Chris have both decided that they will be stepping down at the next AGM in April. They have both offered their help to their successors.

Wendy had a meeting with Kate Dennant (Club Welfare officer) during which Kate explained that the club needs to adopt new policies and that all current risk assessment should be revised. Dave stated that risk assessment should be revised when situations change.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 16th of February 2016 at the Fountain Inn, Parkend.