

## **Minutes of FODAC Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2016**

Present: Andrew K, Richard, Wendy, Cherry, Chris, Alan, Dan, Andrew B, Jools, Stef, Steven Harris to discuss Club Championship

Apologies: Simon, Ian, Bev

### **1. Club Championship 2017**

Steven Harris, who recently joined FODAC from Chepstow Harriers has offered to administer the Club Championship 2017. He suggested that the championship should be run under the following format:

- One nominated championship race per month (a variety of short/long races, road, trail, fell races)
- Bonus points for some bonus races such as any marathon and perhaps any parkrun throughout the year
- 7 or 8 out of all races will count towards the championship (tbc)
- Steven will try and pick local races and will perhaps include one track race too.
- The championship will run from January to December
- There will be a main championship and an age graded championship

There will also be a Cross Country Championship which will include the Gwent and Gloucestershire League races. This will run for the 2016-17 cross country season and hopefully this will encourage a greater participation in Cross Country races. The Cross Country Championship will start with the first cross country race in October.

In addition we will also have a Track and Field Championship for the 2017 season. The championship will include all track and field events.

The committee agreed with this format and Steven will now work out a race calendar and scoring system.

### **2. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising**

Maze runner event was advertised on facebook pages as discussed with Brian. Flyer also in hut.

Fountain Five, date for next year still to be confirmed with Michelle at the Fountain

**Action: Stef**

The school have moved all the throwing cage parts (poles etc) next to the throwing hut, so they can be installed when Andrew C has found someone to do this for us. Andrew has been asked to get two quotes for the work as soon as he can.

Richard and Chris attended a meeting with all the coaches where they talked about managing the large numbers of junior athletes. The coaching team have been joint

by some new coaches, who have taken their first coaching course and Nick Wellsted has taken more of a lead role. We do not have to have a level 3 qualified coach to be head coach. They discussed that if the numbers are too big they could limit or reduce a particular age group to help.

We still would like a coaching representative on the committee, unfortunately Jo Ablett, who was willing to do this is unavailable on a Tuesday. It does not have to be the same person for each meeting.

Richard has agreed that the new coaches will receive the same kit as the other coaches and told the coaches to go ahead to order this.

The coaches seemed happier with the structure and organisation.

Richard explained that we had a complaint from Lakers School about the damage to the track and Redgra area by throwing equipment and that we need to get the throwing cage build as soon as possible.

Andrew has send an email to the safe guarding officer to outline her role and responsibility and is still hoping to have a meeting with her.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

As Wendy had been away she has not been able to give us a detailed report for this meeting, but the current bank balance is £ 18,843.00.

Cherry voiced concerns wondering if, as a charity, we should be holding that much money in an account instead of investing it in the sport.

But we are planning to invest this money as soon as the future of the site is certain (i.e. redevelopment of the college site etc.)

We need audited accounts for the end of year report to the charity commission. Stef will try to get hold of Meryll Teague. **Action: Stef**

Chris informed the committee that he has applied for a grant from the Co-op, but so far he has only had confirmation of receipt of his application.

### **4. Membership Report**

We currently have 424 members. (251 adults and 173 juniors)

Cherry has looked into ways to improve the renewal of club membership. She checked how other clubs did their renewal and not many did anything different to us. Some clubs accepted BACS payments, but still had manual forms to complete.

She will meet with Malcolm Shergold to see if we could have an electronic renewal system which would accept online applications and payments. **Action: Cherry**

Cherry is also wondering if we should have a higher once a year membership fee instead of a low membership fee and the £ 1.00 track fee for **each** training session as we do at the moment. She compared us to other clubs who all seem to have higher membership fees, but they include entries to relay events and cross country events and don't seem to have any track fees to pay. We have to bear in mind though, that not all clubs use a track and also that we don't own the track.

We debated that our fees for members who train regularly are actually more expensive, especially for families, who have juniors attending training sessions two and three times per week. It was also mentioned that not all members seem to pay their £1.00 training fee, when they come to training and it is a lot of extra work for Wendy to bank the money every week. We would also need to check if we would be entitled to claim gift aid on the membership fee.

It was decided that we will, for now, keep the fees as they are and inform members that they must pay the track fee every time they attend training. Stef will add this to the next newsletter and will mention it during the announcements at the next few training sessions. **Action: Stef**

#### **5. Club Mark**

Richard has checked if it is a necessity to have Clubmark. It is not a requirement from EA to have Clubmark and as it is a mandatory requirement we have decided not to update Clubmark for now.

#### **6. Lakers School**

Lakers have asked us to ensure that the toilets are checked and locked after each training session, as there seemed to have been a couple of times, when they found the toilets not locked in the morning. The lock is not working very well and there may have been times when it was thought to be locked, but was left open. Andrew B will take responsibility to check the toilets after the 0-5k groups and Stef will message the coaches to inform them that they should check the toilets after each training session. **Action: Andrew B, Stef**

Lakers are also not too pleased that the track is used again for the new 0-5k group. They were under the impression that the 0-5k group will now take a break and were surprised to find that a new group had started. They are worried, that the track will get damaged through overuse, especially during the wet winter months. Andrew B and some other helpers decided to put more structure into the 0-5k calendar and it was suggested that perhaps the groups should just take place 3 times a year to coincide with the school terms. Andrew B will let us have a time table and Andrew K will contact Lakers to explain what is going to happen. **Action: Andrew B, Andrew K**

#### **7. Club Huts**

Chris stated that we have moved to the new hut a year ago, but there still doesn't seem to be much progress with the Junior hut. Chris has bought racks and other storage for the throwing equipment and it all just has to be moved to the throwing hut, so that there is room in the storage hut for the wheelbarrows and other equipment that is currently in the junior hut. Chris and Alan are willing to move the equipment around and the committee agreed that this should be done as soon as possible. **Action: Chris, Alan**

## 8. Races

Autumn Mile: Dan has received the permit and we have 6 officials, as requested. We need some volunteers for registration, Wendy said, she would do this and Stef had asked during announcements and some members agreed to help. Registration will be from 5.30pm and tea and coffee will be served from the old hut, to give the people who are doing results some space. We will give prizes of beer or cider and have medals for the first three of each age category.

Yorkley Gallop: Dan has asked Pete to be race adjudicator and is waiting for a response. He is also waiting for a race permit from the Forestry Commission. He has send them a route map, but warned them that the course may change slightly to provide more single track running. The village hall is booked from 9am – 1pm and Dan will still book the Football Club changing rooms. The Police has also been informed of the race.

We have decided to split the proceeds 50:50 with Great Oaks Hospice and this will be mention on all race advertising. **Action: Dan**

Entries are open on Run Britain with the same prices as Fountain 5. £ 8.00/ £ 10.00 entry on the day + £ 2.00.

Dan will make up posters/flyers. He will contact Suntory for drinks and Jo Edwards for water from Co-op.

For the results we can use the online entry spreadsheets from Run Britain.

Prizes will have to be organised and we have decided to give medals to all finishers. Dan will look for medals with a tree or/leaf design.

We will once again present the Carol Jones and Great Oaks Gallop trophies for the first Forest finishers (female and male).

Bev, as social secretary, should organise cakes and refreshments for all runners after the race. **Action: Bev**

There will be a canicross race and we will have a look for a junior run route before we decide if there will be a junior race.

## 9. Any Other Business

Jools asked if we could pay for the entries for all club members who want to take part in the cross country races instead of members paying for their own. This seems only possible for the Gwent League and we decided to pay this. Wendy will try and find out what we have to do. **Action: Wendy**

Unfortunately, this is not possible for the Gloucestershire League as each member has to register individually.

Richard asked if we were interested in updating the club vests and he will look into options.

Bus to Swansea: We did not have the expected response to justify two coaches to the Swansea 10k. Cherry will count up numbers and we will then cancel the late bus.

Dan asked us if he could insure the Howling Bull run through the club. We agreed under the provision that although the club will run the event for insurance purposes and Dan is our Race organiser, but we have to be very transparent that the proceeds will go to Walford school.

Wendy will look into booking the sportshalls for the Junior training sessions for the winter. **Action: Wendy**

The meeting ended at 10.25pm. The date of the next meeting will be confirmed.