**Minutes of Forest of Dean AC Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, 10th of September 2019**

**Present:** Chris, Alan, Wendy, Dan, Maisy, Andrew B, Stef

**Apologies:** Emma, Nick, Lisa

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were found to be a true record.

Stef still needs to send an email to all members to ask who may be interested in providing First Aid Cover at our races. **Action: Stef**

The last of the Tri 5 races will take place this coming Friday. The previous two races were quite well attended and great fun. We hope that we will get some more runners for the last race and BBQ.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The income since the last meeting on the 6th of August came to 2,249.58. This was made up of Membership and England Athletics fees, the Goodrich Fell race, sale of club kit, Training fees, Comfy at 10 group donations, Easy Fundraising, Entries for the Christmas Tree race and entries for the Halloween relay. We are also holding £282.66 on behalf of Junior parkrun.

Expenditure was £ 937.25. This was made up of Tri 5 medals, admin costs, use of the field at Bream Rugby Club (Annual fee), club vests, Hire of Gloucester Athletics Track for throwing training, First Aid bags for events.

The current bank balance if 21,249.15, however we have not been invoiced by Five Acres High School for track and toilet hire since the end of March. This means that we still owe around £1,000.00 to the school. Wendy has been chasing the school for the invoice and also for a booking form to hire the hall again for the junior training during the winter season.

The cost of building the throwing area at Bream Rugby Club will be around £5,000.00, this will be paid within the next couple of months.

Chris stated, that we will be looking at a spending plan for the future. He has asked all committee members to think about any project we would like to consider and we will look at ideas at the next committee meeting. **Action: All Committee Members**

1. **Membership Report**

We currently have 244 senior members and 116 junior members.

We noted that we have very few membership fees outstanding. This is due to Cherry’s excellent work with Love Admin and it shows that the system works very well.

The Christmas Tree race is already nearly sold out. At the latest count there were only 35 places left. Chepstow Harriers have included the race in their Championship and are also making it a social event, hence the large number of early bookings.

1. **Coaches’ Report**

Unfortunately, no one from the coaching team was available for the meeting.

Chris explained that the lease at Bream Rugby Club is now signed and Nick will get started with the ground works as soon as he is available. Bream RFC are very keen to work with FODAC and we are very positive that through cooperation we can take the club forward.

We also have to dismantle the throwing cage at the school, as it has been mis-treated and will get damaged. We are hopefully able to reuse some of the parts for Bream. The net needs to be taken down and stored somewhere before the weather turns bad, so it doesn’t deteriorate.

1. **Cross Country**

Jools will be organising the men’s teams for Gwent and Gloucestershire Leagues. Catherine is organising the Ladies’ team for the Gloucestershire League and Lisa is in charge of the Gwent League Ladies Team.

All members who would like to take part in the Gloucestershire League will have to pre-register again, like last year and the Gwent League will still be registration on the day via the team manager.

Wendy will send prepayments to both leagues, as this worked very well last year and we can make sure that the club pays for all members. **Action: Wendy**

Anyone not pre registering for Gloucestershire League will have to pay for themselves on the day of the race.

We will also have to organise the junior teams. Stef will contact Marie, Vicky and Dave to get Juniors to preregister for the Gloucestershire League. **Action: Stef**

1. **Club Championship**

Alan is in the process of updating the club championship. Alan and Chris will get together to work through all races. Unfortunately, the person who was organising the Championship is no longer a club member, but we should have the current standing by next week. **Action: Alan, Chris**

Richard Cronin has already offered to take care of the 2020 Club Championship.

1. **Presentation Evening**

We decided to make the next Presentation evening a less formal affair with a simple buffet (sandwiches, chips etc), as we felt that the cost of this year’s event may have been a factor in the low attendance. Andrew B suggested finding out if Forest Hills could reduce the size of the venue by using the dividing doors. This was agreed as one possible option. Entertainment was discussed and it was agreed that a disco could be considered as other options had limited appeal. The club would subsidise the ticket price if needed. The date for the evening will be Friday, 31st of January.

**Action: Andrew B.**

The Junior Coaches are organising a Junior presentation evening again.

1. **Comments from the survey**

We want to analyse the survey a bit more closely as we only had about 25% of members responding. The club is doing well but we would like to erase the misconception that Tuesday training nights are only for Elite runners and that new or slower runners are not welcome.

Alan is currently preparing a statement along the lines of ‘if you can run you are good enough’. Chris has invited Julie Carthy, who organises the Comfy at 10 group to bring some runners along on Tuesday evening, so they can see what the training is about and how it can help with their running.

In the survey responses we found that quite a few respondents are interested in trying out throwing and jumping events. As it is the end of the track and Field season now, we will organise a launch at the new Throwing Area in Bream in the spring and offer members to have a go at the different disciplines. The Track and Field Team have done very well this season (thanks to the captains Mary Watkins and Pete Woodward) and it would be great if we could find even more competitors for next year.

1. **Our upcoming Races**

Halloween Relay, Thursday, 31st of October. We have applied for the Run Britain Licence and the Forestry Licence. After conversations with the Forestry commission we have decided to start advertising the relay race. Dan will set up an event page which can then be shared. **Action: Dan**

Christmas Tree Race, 15th of December. This race is already almost booked out. We can have a look at opening the race for perhaps another 20/30 places, bearing in mind that there will always be no shows. We’ll have a look nearer the time.

Jacqui has already had offers of help, but will ask for more volunteers nearer the time.

Fountain 5: As we had an enquiry from a club, who may include it in their Club Championship we have set the date for the Fountain 5. It will take place on Thursday, 21st of May 2020. Stef has booked the pub.

1. **The Forest Lottery**

Chris and Stef went to the launch of the Forest Lottery, which will be set up by Forest of Dean District Council. The Lottery is run by an outside company on behalf the Council and is designed to give clubs, charities and voluntary organisations to opportunity to receive some extra funding.

The club has decided to take part as there is no cost to the club. Members will be encouraged to buy lottery tickets online and when the buy the tickets they chose the cause they would like part of their stake to go to. The tickets, which cost £1.00 per weekly draw generate £0.50 for the club, £0.10 for the council (who will use the money to provide grants) and the balance for admin and tax.

The main prize is £ 25,000.00, other prizes include £2,000.00, £250.00 and £25.00 with the lowest prize giving the winner 3 extra lottery tickets.

1. **Any Other Business**

Wendy checked that she should go ahead with the hire of the school sports hall from the beginning of October until the end of March. We will hire the hall again for Tuesday evenings from 6.00pm to 8.00pm and Saturday mornings from 9.00am to 10.30am.

The Mental Health Champions need to be ‘revived’. Unfortunately, Nathan, who was leading the Mental Health Champions has been very busy with work and Chris will check with him what his plans are.

We may have to look for another Mental Health Champions Leader.

It was brought to our attention that a junior member entered a race that was not open to entrants of their age category. All members including juniors must adhere to the rules set out by race organisers and should not bring the club into disrepute by going against these rules. Rules are there to keep competitors safe and if they are not respected the insurance for a race could be invalidated.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting will take place on the 8th of October.