# FODAC Committee Meeting (via Zoom), Thursday, 4th March 2021

**Present:** Alan, Patrick, Wendy, Emma, Stef , Nick

**Apologies:** Maisy, Dan, Lisa, Mary, Jo, Andrew

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

The Minutes were found to be an accurate record of the meeting.

Alan explained that the restructuring of the committee will have to be done at the next AGM.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The current bank balance is around £10,000.00 with the only payments received since the last committee were payments for Bobble Hats. We have already sold half of the Bobble Hats.

Wendy has done a Gift Aid Claim and she will be asking for a refund of the hire of the sports hall and track from the school, as we have not used either since December.

1. **Membership Report**

We have had no new members during the last month.

Emma will do a post on Facebook to tell members that the annual memberships are due on the 1st of April. She will then send reminder letters out towards the end of the month.

EA have decided to keep the affiliation fee at £ 15.00 per person for a third year running and they are extending the pay by deadline until the 31st August again. Therefore, our membership payments can be made until the end of August too, however, if someone wants to become a new affiliated member, they have to pay this affiliation fee prior to making use of any affiliation discount. So, if someone wants to enter a race before the end of August as an affiliated runner, they can only do this, if they have already been affiliated for 20/21 or they have paid the affiliation fee for 21/22.

1. **Restarting Training and Groups**

According to the latest England Athletics guidance we can restart outdoor training from the 29th of March (subject to no changes to the current advice). This would mean the first training session back could be Tuesday, 30th of March for adults and Saturday, 3rd April for Juniors.

Alan will also start the sessions at Bream Rugby Club again on a Wednesday evening, as they were well received last summer.

Nick, Emma and Andrew will discuss when they will be starting and new 0-5k and 5-10k groups. Alan suggested that the groups could be using Bream Rugby Club, but Nick said that the coaches like to run from Berry Hill as they know the routes and distances.

Thursday Group runs could also start up, but for the time being in groups of 6 (ie one leader and 5 runners), so we could offer a booking system for small groups. We will ask Brian to organise run leaders and we will see if we get enough offers of run leaders, so we can start group runs after Easter.

1. **VLM Club Place Ballot**

Due to the lower membership numbers this year, we are only expecting only one VLM Club place. Normally the criteria to enter the club ballot include the requirement of volunteering at our club events/races at least twice in the previous year, however, we were not able to organise any events this will not be a requirement this year.

The following criteria do still apply:

1. You must have been an affiliated member of the club since April 2020.
2. FODAC is your first claim club
3. You have not had a club ballot place within the last three years.

Stef is still waiting for VLM to open the application for Club places (end of March). We will organise the ballot as soon as we have had confirmation from VLM how many places we will be getting. The draw will be held one evening after training.

1. **Junior Training and Competitions**

Dave will not be able to organise teams or training, but Alan has been able to recruit

Jo and Ben Oliver and Vicky Wilson to organise teams for competitions. They will be meeting with Dave to get advice and find out exactly what to do.

Jo Ablett has done a brilliant job keeping the junior training going and Ben and Jo are also coaching on a Tuesday evening, which is much appreciated.

We have also had a number of people offering to be track officials for the various leagues. (Thanks to Simon Roberts, Pete Woodward and Mary Watkins)

1. **Any Other Business**

Alan and Stef met Simon Phelps (Head Teacher of Berry Hill High School) and Ian Brace (Site manager) last week to discuss what is happening at the track.

The school want the whole area spruced up and are hoping to move our main hut to a more suitable position. They would like to gravel the area around the huts and get the huts painted. The caretaker has some contractors on site, who will probably be able to do this.

They are currently building a golf driving range at the side of the track, which will be used by a junior golf academy on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. We will have to ensure that none of our athletes misuse this facility.

The school is very keen to encourage their pupils to use the facilities a lot more and they have asked if we would be interested in helping with some coaching sessions to get pupils interested in athletics. (Mr Phelps indicated that it would benefit the club if we would be able to help out)

Cotswold Way Relay. Currently the CWR is set to take place on the 3rd of July and Jools is happy to help organise teams, but may not be able to be there on the day, as he is expecting to do a triathlon which was postponed from last year. Brian and Stef are willing to be team managers on the day, if Jools is not available, but it would be good to have another one or two people on board to help out. We are aiming to enter 3 teams again and depending on how many people are interested we may offer the relay to those who have been running it over the last few years, so they can complete the whole set. We will find out bey the end of March if the race is definitely going to go ahead.

Jools has confirmed that he will be happy to organise Blaisdon 10k again in July, depending on Covid rules of course.

Stef suggested that this would be a good race to enter as a 5-10k graduation run.

The meeting ended at 7.50. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th of April.