

Netley Abbey Runners EGM Agenda – Thursday 15 December

Committee members present:

Chair – Alexandra Coe

Vice Chair – Stuart Wigginton

President – Nick Coe

Fixtures Secretary - Tony Browne

Volunteers Coordinator – Jan Collis

plus 20 club members (25 in total and 28% of voting members)

1. Officially accepted resignations from those that have recently stood down from the committee:

Chris Lewis (Secretary)

Lucy Briggs (Treasurer)

Ria Gradwell (Volunteer Co-ordinator)

Steve Carr (Memberships Secretary)

Steve Townend (Child Welfare Officer)

2. Discussed current committee roles and position changes.

Nick Coe – Resigned from President

Nick Coe (NC) – Community & Communications Officer / Fundraiser – Proposed by Chair (AC) and seconded by Volunteers Coordinator (JC) – Majority Vote

Mel Captain (MC) – Welfare Officer – Proposed by Chair (AC) and seconded by Volunteers Coordinator (JC) – Unanimous Vote

Jeremy Robbins (JR) – Club Treasurer (by proxy) – Proposed by C&CO/FR (NC) and seconded by Chair (AC) – Majority Vote

Gemma Boyle (GB) – Membership Secretary – Proposed by C&CO/FR (NC) and seconded by Chair (AC) – Majority Vote

Vicki Brunink (VB) – Club Secretary – Proposed by C&CO/FR (NC) and seconded by Vice Chair Stuart Wigginton (SW) – Majority Vote

Martin Flavin (MF) – Club Kit Manager – Proposed by Chair (AC) and seconded by C&CO/FR (NC) – Unanimous Vote

Committee opened the floor to allow members the opportunity to air grievances/issues.

Steve Carr (SC) – Committee problems: decisions were being made by committee members that made the club too competitive. (SC) wanted defined roles of what people need to do and what they have to do so the committee has governance. Previous committee policies were leading to non governance. Documents and paperwork needed to back up the committee's decisions. Need to write new policies.

Chris Lewis (CL) – Reiterated that policies are important and the club was running the risk of

losing governance.

Ian Pierce (IP) – Concerned about joining the committee adding that it needs structure. Worried about committee members taking things away from club members and that he was concerned about joining a committee that seemed to be losing members. Added that the squash club he is on the committee for was a much better place once the Chair resigned.

(NC) – Offered the option to all members that the club's decisions could be voted on by all rather than having an elected committee decide on the club's direction. General opinion was that the club continues as is with the committee meeting at least every two months voting on ideas and suggestions from club members.

(AC) explained that initiatives and safeguarding policies were meant to be discussed in a meeting but her email communications were ignored by other members of the committee, who then went on to resign.

(AC) explained that she was unsure why so many had resigned as the only explanations given were that the 'club was going in the wrong direction'. Only (SC) and Steve Townend (ST) offered detailed reasoning behind their resignations from the committee.

(AC) explained that policies can be put in place and added to the website in the new year. These policies will be lifted from the England Athletics website.

3. Adjustment of Club Constitution

Due to lower numbers in the committee it was agreed that there will need to be changes to the club constitution re committee voting (number of quorum). It was agreed that the club shall take the policies of Run England as our own. Links to said policies are available to look at on England Athletics website and will be transferred over to the club's website in the 'Members' section by (NC) in the new year. (CL) will pass over constitution draft to (VB).

3.1 Club Direction

(AC) asked the members for clarification on the 'club's change of direction' meeting.

Mark Dallimore (MD) said there must be something wrong as five 'intelligent' people had left the committee and asked what the reasons were for their leaving.

(AC) once again explained that only two of the resigning committee had given detailed reasons.

(JC) explained that she wanted to stay on the committee but was not happy about being told to race (either in person or by email or Facebook). (JC) added that she likes the casual running and camaraderie but believed there was too much pressure to race.

(MC) explained that she felt that there was a widening divide between the slower runners and the faster ones and that the Wednesday night Improver's sessions were becoming too fast.

(AC) answered by saying that some of the faster runners were turning up on Wednesday night and not keeping pace with the group. (AC) said that runners on a Wednesday evening would have to stay at the pace that the Run Leaders dictate and not run off, leaving the others.

(VB) answered that club racing duties have been shared amongst people that enjoy it and that the

bigger the club becomes, more people will be available to run. One race a month is fine but she would do more if she could. (VB) added that she is a completely different person after joining in and running in races.

Tony Browne (TB) added that the Ladies' Team was absolutely fantastic this year and are currently sitting in 2nd place in one league and halfway in the other. (TB) mentioned that racing is not about competing at the front with elite runners but representing the club as best you can (adding that if there was only one more lady in a recent race that walked the route, the Ladies' team would be in 1st place).

(MF) added that he joined as his young son wanted to go to the family runs and he personally did not want to run in a race but that might change in the near future stating that people change their minds and that this club accommodates everyone as much as possible. By opting out of the race leagues the club will fail to provide for a large percentage of club members.

(CL) explained that cancelling the Wednesday night sessions to run in the RR10 (from previous AGM) was a step too far.

(MC) answered that there was no agreement to cancel Wednesday night in the previous AGM.

(NC) added that there was no agreement to cancel Wednesday evenings but that it was an idea to think about for the future (if current leagues went well).

(SW) added that the club can accommodate one Wednesday night of racing per month in the summer with Run Leaders changing duties.

Noelle Humphrey (NH) explained that the race dates all came out at once and it was difficult to sign up to the early ones, but has since added dates to her diary. (NH) added that racing is a very enjoyable thing and not as 'serious' as some people may have thought.

(NC) added that the leagues only give a couple of weeks' notice of their running dates for each season, however, dates rarely change so people can expect race dates to frequently be on the same weekend each year.

It was generally agreed that grievances had been aired and that the new committee shall take the above discussions on board while providing governance for the club. A very small number of members seemed unhappy with the new (and old) committee members, however, no open objections or clearly defined calls to replace committee members were raised from the floor.

4. NAR Runner of the Year.

It was agreed by Majority Vote that there will be a NAR Runner of the Year award (Senior and Junior). The club shall pay for the trophies and the committee shall vote on a shortlist that will be emailed out for all club members to vote on.

The trophies will be awarded in the new year.

5. NAR Treasure Hunt fundraiser

Due to the recent issues with committee members resigning and current committee members trying to keep the club running it was decided by Majority Vote that the usual holiday treasure hunt be

postponed.

6. NAR Handicap GP

It was decided by Majority Vote that the NAR Handicap GP Race Series continues as it has allowed runners to experience racing for the first time. The December race has been postponed until the new year.

7. New CiRF needed

(AC) proposed that it was important that she signed up for the next CiRF (Coach in Running Fitness) course so that the club has a committee member with running and coaching experience that holds the 4-day coaching licence. It was a requirement by England Athletics that the club has at least one CiRF.

It was agreed by Majority Vote that this happens.

8. Friday Runs becoming 'Ladies Night'

Due to lack of numbers at the Family Sessions (AC) put forward the idea to run a ladies-only run night on a Friday. This will be a session that pushes the ladies without having the worry of male competitiveness.

(NC) added that this would not mean that the Family Sessions were cancelled. As soon as the weather allows, the Family Sessions shall return. It was decided that there is the option of having the Ladies' Night following the Family Session.

Ladies' Night was agreed by Majority Vote.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.