

COMMITTEE MEETING

8th November 2023

Venue: Venue: Colchester Sports Park, Northern Gateway 7pm

PRESENT: Rick Thompson (RT) Steph Maltby (SM) Rachel Lee (RL) Phil Wood (PW) James Plant (JP) Justine Sheekey (JES) Janine Simpson (JS) Dave Smith (DS)

APOLOGIES: Paul Mingay (PM) Paul Dellar (PD) Paul Preston (PP)

1) Tidy Up & Reassignment of Incomplete Tasks

Two or three items had still not been completed during the past year. SM to gain interest as to whether there is further interest in a First Aid qualification. RL and JES to continue with their policies, PDF formats required. RL and JS to create their welfare profiles for the notice board within the clubhouse.

2) Track & Field Budget

DS finally submitted his proposed budget for the T&F sector. Those present were all in agreement, and as with Endurance the T&F was rounded up to the nearest thousand.

3) Discussion on how to proceed with the recent motion from John Hyland

DS began by stating he had already been talking to a few members from CATS regarding a combined team's entry for events/meetings. The indication was that this was well received.

The main committee had been given copies of the information from JH that he had with him at the AGM. Upon email correspondence to JH from SM, this information was ten years old. There also seemed to be a mild proportion of blame from each side as to who was responsible for the previous talks failing. The committee felt that due to its long lapse, the best way to proceed would be to work with CATS over the next two seasons regarding the amalgamation of teams, officials and coaches as to see whether it was viable that they could both work together. It was deemed an absolute necessity of complete transparency

from both clubs, with regards to ongoing discussions; any meetings and conversations must be minuted. Also the requirement for each club to lay bare their finances, as currently Harriers are in a very healthy position.

Whilst those present were happy for DS to continue discussions it was felt that a wait for the adoption of the new Chairperson at CATS would be best before proceeding further.

4) Voting rights for Club President

At the recent AGM whilst reviewing a draft of the new proposed constitution. Margaret Williams, who is the current President asked as to why she held no voting rights.

SM mentioned that at an earlier meeting there had been a light discussion as to why the club has a president at all. RT stated that it was an “honorary” position, and that it had never been awarded due to an election from voting members; the president solely has a vote at the AGM. Further discussions led that the club would continue to have a president for the foreseeable future, but that with a potential merger, the position may be disbanded altogether.

5) Incorporated verses Unincorporated (**)

At the recent AGM, Lance Williams sought the attention of some key members of the committee with the regards to **. Having spoken to RL in depth, she had sought out some basic information. A few minutes were taken to read through this, before deciding more information be required, and the general consensus was that this could present a lot more work and complexity. PW stated he would happily look into this more deeply and present further findings at the next meeting. Currently CH is an unincorporated club.

6) Membership/Training/EA Fees

Once again the committee spent a vast amount of time on this subject.

SM raised a point from PD that he was in favour of single, joint membership for its simplicity.

RT stated that as the club again finds itself on a financial firm footing, he would like to, once again offer that the club pay the members EA fee. Those present were in agreement.

Also discussed was the possibility of encouraging members to compete by agreeing to pay the annual EA fee for each athlete. Members would need to compete a certain number of times throughout the year to gain this financial

reward. RT and DS stated that T&F ask their cohort compete a minimum of three times per year. Seniors would need to be thought about as their situation is slightly different, and perhaps PD gain the thoughts of the endurance committee.

With regards to the M/ship & T/fees JES asked how the club would go about standardising this. DS mentioned that PP had already trialled some methods of combining memberships. It was agreed to gain more information and evidence to propose a vote to all members. PP to be asked for his previous information and evaluation.

Whilst the simplicity of a membership fee was the key point, there are still issues around some members failing to pay their training fees. Upon asking PW stated this was generally down to the same people. SM asked who these repeat offenders were, and PW said he would like to gain the latest clarification from DS and now PD as to who was continuing to do this. One member who had not been paying, was now no longer training at the club, so this person's name could be removed from the list. SM asked that once this clarification had taken place, she would have the names and officially write to these members. A strong feeling was had that this was discourteous to the many who were paying for their training. DS suggested new members have a fixed yearly fee, though JES stated it would be hard to fix a fair fee. As before this was a hot topic, and to be continued.

AOB:

SM gave a message from PD regarding the retention of university students. Due to his absence this evening, PD would be presenting this at the next meeting in December.

The payment of EMAC fees by the club was once more raised by RT. Kevin McAllinden (KM) has again spoken to RT. In depth conversations were had as this really wasn't an easy request to navigate. PW advised the committee that there were only a couple of people this would apply to. Those present engaged into why the club should/should not pay these fees. It was mentioned that as we were trying to walk the path of simpler membership fees, this would just create another classification. SM asked if the club still paid for the Triathlon Assoc, no was the answer. PW mentioned that this proposal was unfair on the existing members who are second claim. SM asked would it therefore be fair to allow EMAC but not those who had requested the Tri payment. Those present were not in favour of allowing a subsidised membership fee for such second claim members. RT would return the committees decision to KM.

RT presented an offering from the company who provides the clubs apparel. The proposal is to provide two (2) gazebos. Each 3x3mtr gazebo would be printed with Harrier's logo or similar and come complete with a wheelie bag for easy transportation. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and that whilst these would be stored in the shed, they must be signed in and out to avoid the loss or mislaying of which seems to occur on an almost yearly basis. RT to confirm the order.

JS asked about a junior's awards night to help encourage and give incentive. It was mentioned that an awards presentation had been agreed at the beginning of last years new committee. A venue had been approached, with a suggested date of March, after the XC season had ended. Juniors would have their presentation in the afternoon, with the seniors to follow in the evening. Unfortunately due to the person engaged with this task having to step back, and other members becoming involved in various incidents, this particular idea had had to be shelved. To be thought about and discussed at the next meeting.

SM asked to agree a date of next AGM. She had been advised by Paul Duffield that even though Harriers hold their AGM during club hours, this had to be booked through the correct channels, and could not be booked with him. RL asked if it could be later in the evening. PW suggested it not be in half term. It was agreed to avoid half term week and go with the 17th of October 2024. However it was discussed that even though this year's meeting was at 7pm, it did not commence until 7.30pm. DS had advised that the senior groups they could begin their training at 6pm, so they would be able to attend. SM pointed out that it was only one evening of the year that their training was disrupted. And whilst a Coach had stated the juniors don't go to the AGM, it was noted that the parents of these juniors do and have a right to be involved in the decisions of their child's club, and that it was somewhat unfair to ask the juniors to wait around until later. RT confirmed there would be the usual drinks voucher per paid up member, and that next year a buffet would be provided. Therefore it was agreed by those present, drinks and buffet would be from 7pm, with the AGM to commence at 7.30pm.

Taken by S Maltby
Meeting closed at 8.50pm

