

Draft minutes of DRRL committee meeting

Monday 07/08/23

1-Attendees:-

Suzanne Janes **Chair**-LDH, Debbie Dowsett **Minutes** BJ, Jerry Shield WAC, Mike Towner PR, Graham Filmer (PAC), Nichola Taylor (RMPRC), Jo Kain GT, Steve Rigby (TTC), Abigail Baker PuR, Ian White (BAC), Mark Everett (LDH), Sarah Swift (Dorset County), Steve Stone (DR), Judith Coole (WR), Roger Cross (PR), Ian Edwards (HH) Alex Door (EH) and Inés Braun (DD).

2-Apologies for absence:-

Received and noted from Peter Clarke (WSPH) Peter Wallis (CR)

3-Course Measurer in Dorset

Ian Issacs joined the meeting to explain the process for becoming a course measurer as there is currently no one in Dorset causing delays for local run directors. MT asked how interested parties can get accredited. II explained there is a group of UKA accredited volunteers who measure road and of road courses. Measuring is taken by cycling the routes. Three stages to accreditation with info on course measurers website <http://coursemeasurement.org.uk/> 1-First stage is to complete on-line content and send for feedback. This can be completed comfortably within a week or a couple of evenings if focussed on project. 2-If positive feedback gained, candidates create an account and complete ten on-line modules. Once all modules are complete, candidate submits a written report which is checked by two accredited measurers. Course can be completed over any period of time but can, again, be completed within a week or two. 3-If on-line submission and report is accepted, candidates are invited to a practical assessment day, within a couple of months, to calibrate and measure an actual course. This Once successfully completed, candidates will be added to the list of trained measurers.

MT asked who marks course work as previous candidates have experienced delays. II advised there has recently been a reorganisation of this and submissions will be marked by area which is expected to speed up the process.

II explained role is rewarding and he usually measures 6-10 course per year. Expenses can be claimed and equipment is provided at no cost to the candidate. SS asked if there is much equipment to store. II confirmed small bag would accommodate Jones Counter (to be attached to bike when required) nails, chalk/paint, tape and tension device. Candidates need their own bike.

IB and MT have experienced problems getting their courses measured due to a lack of local measurers and response to emails. IB asked if there was a central point to request a course measurer. II acknowledged there have been communication problems but all volunteers do their best to respond as soon as possible. IB asked about charges to race organisers. II confirmed there is a template of charges used by measurers but costs will vary. Variables include distance travelled and length of course to be measured.

MT asked if it would be theoretically possible for candidates to complete their on-line content and have it marked in time to attend in September when II is due to re-measure the Winter 5K course. II felt that was possible. **ACTION** Club representatives to ask if any members are interested in becoming course measurers and direct them to website..

SJ thanked II and he left the meeting.

3-Minutes from last meeting and matters arising:-

No feedback or matters arising.

4-Feedback on races since last meeting

i-May 5. All good and well organised. Runners liked the atmosphere for prize giving. GF advised organisers are considering a minor change to the route for future events.

ii-Puddletown Plod- Overall, vast improvement on 2022. AD said there was only one prize trophy per team and runners would prefer a small token each.

iii-Portland 10-Very well organised and sponges were much appreciated by runners. Only issue was long queues for the toilets. NT explained the queue obscured signage to alternative facilities but organisers are aware and trying to find solutions. It was noted that some runners reported the alternative facilities in the changing rooms were blocked.

iv-Sturminster Half marathon-All good with particular praise for the excellent marshals. Plenty of water and sponges available. Good management of the car park and change of available parking managed well. Runners appreciated the facilities at the end. Organisers aware that DCC champs was mentioned on their entry form in error but had no impact on results. It was noted by committee that there were several club runners not in their club vests. **ACTION** Club representatives to remind members to wear club colours for league races.

5-End of year awards

Email received from Pete Clarke (WSPH) offering to produce towels and certificates for age category winners for the season. Committee happy to accept the offer. **ACTION** DD to reply to his email and confirm Round the Lakes is in September, not December, so there shouldn't be an issue with late results. **ACTION** Club representatives to check race results and ensure there is a DOB for their club runners.

JC asked how many prizes there would be for team prizes. JS advised matched to number of scorers in each division. MT advised extra trophies can be purchased if several runners have scored for their team.

AD suggested an award for Richard Braun for his race reports. Agreed.

6-DRRL funds used to cover expenses for runners representing County at regional races

SJ reminded everyone funds had been granted for the race in Chippenham which had been agreed within committee social media chat. Cost of a minibus and race entry had been funded, SJ asked what contribution was likely to be needed for future races. SS explained that some events can be reached by car-sharing so only race entry fees would be requested. IW felt it was important to support those who represent the county. General agreement. Discussion around the funds which are held by the County and what it should be used for. SS pointed out that those funds would not be replaced as they had mainly been accumulated when County retained the £2 per runner unaffiliated levy. JS asked if race organisers still made a donation to county following their races. It appears donations are not consistent with some race organisers not aware it was expected. MT advised he

believes the majority of fees paid by clubs are spent on end of year awards so unlikely to be a surplus on an annual basis.

NT explained organisers of events on Portland are struggling to put on races due to rising costs, lack of sponsorship and falling numbers of entrants. They are reluctant to increase entry fees too much and asked if county would be able to subsidise events to enable Portloos to be arranged in future. IB confirmed required ratio is one toilet to 50 runners. Discussion around subsidy and costs for events. Biggest expense tends to be timing systems and discussion around manual timing as an alternative. Acknowledged that runners expect chip timing and not having it may reduce number of entrants. Agreed events could request support from committee and this would be considered on a case by case basis.

SS advised next race where county athletes are competing is Chippenham and car-sharing has been arranged. Agreed county will cover cost of race entries for four runners and one travelling reserve per team. Future races will be considered by committee on a case by case basis.

7-AOB

- i- NT asked if committee has access to accounts. DD advised financial reports have been previously requested and produced by Richard Nunn when requested by committee. SS advised balance sheet produced for AGM and little movement between affiliation payments being received annually.
- ii- MT asked that names of anyone interested in becoming a course measurer are emailed to him.
- iii- DS advised Lytchett 10 will be 11/02/24
- iv- MT advised Winter 5K series entries are due to open 09/08/23
- v- DD advised Christmas 10K and Boscombe 10K entries are open. SS asked if list of county champs entrants will be available for Boscombe 10K. **ACTION** DD to find out.
- vi- DRRL races for next year discussed. **ACTION** JS to draft a list for discussion at next committee meeting. SJ suggested that should be before planned three months. Agreed to meet again in October. AD asked if committee would consider meeting on a different night as Egdon Heath struggling to get representatives to attend due to work commitments. Agreed poll on social media to see if 9 or 12 October would be best.

7-Date of next meeting

Agreed Monday 9th October at 7pm

Meeting closed 20:20

Meeting closed 19:43