

Draft minutes of virtual DRRL committee meeting

Monday 4th July 2022 7pm

Apologies for absence:-

Received and noted from Norman White WSPH, Ian Graham BAC and Jean Henry WR, Dougie Scarfe LMS.

Attendees:-

Suzanne Janes **Chair**-LDH, Debbie Dowsett **Minutes** BJ, Jerry Shield WAC, Ines Braun DD, Judith Coole WR, Ian White BAC, Mike Towner PR, Sarah Swift PR representing DCC, Graham Filmer PAC, Joe Godden PR, Nichola Taylor RMPR, Abigail Baker PuR, Steve Rigby TTC, Mark Stockman DR, Ian Edwards HH, Jo Kain GT, Peter Wallis CR joined 19:28.

Review of recent races:-

NDVM All good.

Query over results from May 5 which GF will follow up but otherwise all good.

Puddletown Plod-Much discussion around issues on the day. Result times seemed to be about 30 seconds faster than Strava for SS and those after her. Not checked anyone ahead of her, at the time. Pre-race instructions event would be cup less. The water station on the way out at mile 2 wasn't ready. SS stopped and waited for him to get his jug out of his car boot, the next one not until 7.5 miles, then 11 (the same one as the way out). A lot of runners were anxious about how to manage and ended up carrying water (bottle / vest) or lost time getting filled up. Ultimately people didn't drink enough or have access to water to throw over their heads to cool down. SS felt it cost over a minute on her time and was definitely more thirsty & hot than normal. Cardboard & plastic cups were available at the finish. Having the search and rescue large 4x4 drive along the narrow road at the start, just as runners were starting was a major concern. Particularly, as it was only a few years ago when runner from PAC had her leg severely broken by a car, a little further down that road. When the vehicle finally stopped trying to drive through all of the runners, SS told them to wait there until the tail runner went past. No signage at the school entrance to direct to loos / number pick up / baggage. Narrow humpback bridge at 4 miles would have benefited from marshals. There wasn't a tail runner and tail vehicle was actually ahead of back runners. It was noted that finishers didn't all get the same medals. JS felt there was a lack of signage to the event as well as on the course. Joanne advised the awards ceremony was on the course so she ran through it to finish. General agreement that race not as well organised as usual and not aware of any clubs being consulted to give advice. IB doesn't know who race adjudicator was and wasn't asked herself. Possible there wasn't one. IB will make enquires with UKA.

Round the Lakes went well and minor issues already been discussed between MT and IB. IE advised all good from spectator point of view.

Portland 10. Enjoyed by runners but feedback offered re marshalling around roundabout at the top. Marshals instructions were conflicting and with spectators making comments, directions not always

clear. Questions over ladies loos and discussion around competitive cost options for portable loos. Also noted that traffic was heavy coming back up from Portland Bill. Some runners ran in a field to avoid conflict with cars on the way back up. Earlier start was praised. NT explained there isn't currently any local venue that can allow all start facilities to be in the same place. There was also feedback that there was no change available for those paying by cash to enter on the day. NT explained it was a last minute decision to offer entries as race had more space than expected and it was assumed more would pay by card.

Upcoming races:-

Gold Hill not yet confirmed as school haven't confirmed availability. IB hopes to have a decision by the end of the month. DD advised entries are open for Boscombe 10K and offered as an alternative. Plenty of space available as only 49/650 spaces taken.

Wimborne 10 entries due to open in August.

Cup less races

Discussion around impact of races deciding to avoid single use cups/bottles for environmental reasons. Agreement that stopping to fill cups detracts from racing. IW suggested possible compromise is to offer cups/bottles but encourage self-hydration. Acknowledged impact of single use items on environment. Understood that innovation for solutions is on the way but need to manage in the meantime. IW asked if organisers have reviewed their risk assessments if water is less freely available. IB confirmed organisers need to have marshals on drinks stations to assist runners when cups need to be self-filled. Agreed that issue needs to be considered when selecting races for the league events for 2023. Also agreed events should be encouraged to use existing supplies rather than further wastage.

Proposed changes to league structure

SJ and DD advised their clubs have not had a committee meeting to consider yet. Will need to be discussed at next DRRL meeting to make any changes for 2023. Agreed next committee meeting should be before usual October to allow more time. DD will also have list of proposed races for 2023. Confirmed Hamworthy Harriers are fully paid up and are included in 2022 league. MT will update website and SR asked that spelling be corrected for TTC at the same time. Noted.

Payment of league fees for 2022

MT raised concerns that committee weren't aware which clubs had and hadn't paid. DD reminded committee that treasurer's report had been requested for April DRRL meeting but not been received. Discussion around clubs not getting the invitation to renew, in particular JC didn't believe GT received notifications. Agreed possibly due to Treasurer sending invites to the email addresses he has on file and may not be aware when club contacts change. Treasurer to be asked to chase clubs who have not renewed as two are currently included in results for league competition. MT advises Richard Orme will review results from HH runners to allocate results from races completed, but not to recalculate for everyone else. IE confirmed club were happy with that. SJ confirmed a group chat has been created to facilitate website training and asked MT if this has been arranged yet. MT wasn't aware of chat group and advises training still not arranged. SJ suggested virtual training should be possible but MT favours face to face. MT will try and arrange a date.

Dorset teams for intercounty RR competition

SS confirmed Richard Nelson is actively trying to select a county team for Chippenham Half on 18/9. A possible deterrent is cost of travel/accommodation. SS asked if committee would be happy to agree to county funds being used to cover costs for scoring athletes. JS advised he was finding it hard to push for a Dorset event to be selected as part of the league when the county hadn't entered a team for other events. Noted. PW expressed concern that funds all clubs had contributed would be used for the benefit of a few athletes, from a few clubs. MT felt benefits of encouraging athletes to compete were more compelling. DD proposed entry fees and cost of minibus for scoring athletes specifically could be funded. Seconded by IE. 11 in favour, none against and two abstentions under the one vote per club protocol.

DCC funds

Discussion around available funds to benefit road running. Agreed not wholly practical to purchase equipment due to storage and logistics. However, funds can be used for courses/training. Clubs to consider anything they may feel could be useful.

League races selected for two years

Previously, races selected for inclusion in DRRL league would do so for two years. JS advised Marnhull organisers are keen to know if they will be selected for 2023. DD explained that whilst the two year criteria worked well for many years, with the after effects of the pandemic, new races emerging and others being cancelled or changing when they take place, it isn't always possible to ensure races will get two years.

AOB

County champs. MT noted that clubs weren't always including qualifying criteria on their entry forms and that as a committee we need to ensure they are aware. Confirmed age category for males and females changes at 40. Discussed if same runner can win masters and age category and agreed it can be the same athlete. Also agreed age is counted on day of race, not calendar year. MT will ensure races aware. SS asked if full time students can also qualify, as they have in the past. Agreed. Stur half is final DCC race and entry form was scrutinised during discussion. Not all questions have been asked from what was seen on-line.

County Champs medals. SR asked if all medals have been distributed now, SS advised almost caught up but does depend on promptness of results being available. Results are needed before engraving can be done. MT suggested that list of county champs entrants for each race would be useful. Agreed timing companies would need to facilitate so race organisers will need to request that.

Puddletown Plod. IB confirmed she will contact race organiser to discuss before approaching UKA.

Date of next meeting 5th September 2022 7pm via Zoom

Meeting closed 20:29.