



Running Somewhere Else AGM

Thursday 20th June 2024

Meeting held at Somewhere Else Bar, Castle Street, Cirencester

Minutes and Actions

1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and talked through the agenda.

Apologies were noted from the following people:

Linda Edwards

Paul Coates

Caroline Coates

Vicki Mason

Phil Hudson

Carol Sworn

Andy Sworn

Felicity Crotty

Mel Dodd

Paul Robertson

Kirsty Pitts

Amanda Ball

Ben Chapman

2. Chair's Report

The first thing to say is that I'm very happy that the club has had another successful year. We currently have 137 members which is the highest number since the club started 17 years ago. We have also had a significant increase in attendance at our club sessions throughout this year – and consistently have a very good attendance at our Monday and Wednesday sessions.

All new members are welcomed to the club by Tracey as Membership secretary and Tracey manages the whole renewal process each year and registers us all with England Athletics. The renewal process now includes any policies that members need to read.

Last year I talked through briefly what each member of the committee does but this year I am going to update you on the committee as a whole. We very much work as a team in order to run the club. Committee members have their individual roles and responsibilities (available on the club website) but we all support each other across the board to cover everything required to keep the club running smoothly, to adhere to requirements from our governing bodies, to plan events, championship races, beginner courses etc. And to deal with the everyday questions or actions required such as session bookings, social arrangements, question from members and very importantly any health and safety issues or risks.



We hold regular committee meetings which take place approx. every 6 weeks and attendance is very good. We usually have a full attendance from the committee members and even sometimes use Zoom if someone unable to attend on person. Dave Witnall as Head Coach also attends these meetings (he is co-opted onto the committee which means he sits on the committee as a non-voting member). We have set agenda items that are covered at every meeting such as attendance numbers, member feedback, finances. We then discuss any current topics, new ideas, agree plans and take any decisions needed. This year we invited members to join us at one of our meetings - we didn't get many attend but hopefully this option will be taken forward and there will be another opportunity to attend in the near future.

By the beginning of this year we had made all of the updates and changes required by England Athletics to our policies and incorporated them into the annual joining process (we were praised by England Athletics for being so precise in our documentation) so this year has been less heavy on paperwork, although Caroline as Welfare Officer and Sarah Reynolds as Club Secretary constantly keep abreast of any requirements and review our documentation thoroughly to ensure we are up to date. This documentation also gets reviewed by other committee members.

Nadine did a great job of tidying up the content on our website earlier in the year and Ben has now taken on the technical support role for the site. As you know the site was down for a few weeks and the reason it took a while to get it back was that we were worried about malware trying to infiltrate our site and mess with the code so we needed to be careful in finding the issue and the fix.

As club Captain and Vice Captain, Elaine and Ben put in a lot of effort in choosing the championship races. They discuss the logistics with the rest of the committee and try to make sure that we can optimise the choices to enable more members to take part.

We took the decision earlier in the year to move to club race report from weekly to fortnightly and that has worked well, but it is still a pretty big job to compile the report. A decision was taken at the last committee meeting that we will remove this responsibility from the committee communications role and ask for volunteers within our membership base to produce the report. We'll cover that topic later in the meeting. This will enable the Communications Officer to focus more on club comms, both internal and external to the club.

We have had some fun social events over the past year, including the awards evening organised by Kev with some very tasty food provided by our Head Coach! Also known as Chef-Dave.

We now have a fairly full and varied social schedule up until the end of the year and many of our social events also incorporate a fundraising aspect. As always our members have been very generous this year with donations to our charity.

This time last year Dave Witnall took on the Head Coach role and he and his team continue to deliver well structured, well planned and well executed sessions on which we get lots of positive feedback from members. Dave also organised and ran our beginners course this year which was a resounding success with 16 of the beginners joining as new members. Carol, Sarah



Reynolds and Paul Robertson helped to both plan and execute the beginner sessions and we have had some fantastic feedback from the attendees. Dave holds regular meetings for the coaching team and Dave and I meet on a regular basis to discuss the coaching function and I also attend a few of the coaches meetings during the year.

As a club we are having continued success in the Gloucestershire AAA road race series and I was very proud to go along and see our medal winners pick up their awards for 2023. We also had the added amusement of Elaine posing with the lady mayor in her new RSE big bobble hat (that was Elaine wearing the hat, not the mayor!)

We have just had another successful Fairford 10k event – it is as popular as ever with both the participants and the spectators (and the marshals). I was glad to hand over the responsibility of Race Director to Kev this year who, along with his Fairford sub-committee did a sterling job in the organisation and running of the event. We really are grateful to the members who help to organise this event in the months running up to it.

A good (dare I say 'great' ?!) running club doesn't run itself and there are a bunch of people behind the scenes putting in time and effort and who really care, to make things run smoothly and also legally and in line with our governing bodies.

There is a lot of action and activity which happens within the club and the fact that it usually happens without you knowing or seeing is testament to the amount of effort and commitment put into running this club. From a committee (and coaches) perspective, as always our members enjoyment, success and safety are our top priorities.

3. Announcement of charity fundraising totals for 2023-24

Sarah Page, as Fundraising Officer, confirmed that we have raised a total of £4,010 for our Club charity this year, which is TIC+. A cheque presentation ceremony will be arranged over the next few weeks to give the cheque to TIC. This is the highest amount we have ever raised in one year.

This money has been raised in a variety of ways including an end of season BBQ and raffle, yoga and cakes, Christmas hamper, diary draw, skittles and a contribution from the Fairford 10K profits.

Shortly after this meeting, we will ask for members suggestions for a club charity for next year and then we will hold a vote.

Sharon Smith asked if we might consider supporting two charities next year, because we are raising so much money. This prompted a discussion that we have done some ad-hoc fundraising for other charitable causes during the year, eg Neil Russell, and we also hold the Food Bank run when we donate items to the local food bank. We are considering holding this twice per year.

Action to take forward to committee – discuss the pros and cons of supporting two charities



4. Presentation of accounts

Martin Sherriff, as Treasurer, presented the club accounts for the year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. He explained that RSE holds three accounts. The ‘main’ account which has all the memberships and club expenses, the ‘charity’ account where all charity donations and transactions take place, and the ‘fairford’ account where all transactions related to the 10K take place.

Current balances (at today’s date)

Main account: £7,702.91

Charity account: £4,010.24

Fairford account: £3,000.00

Main account:

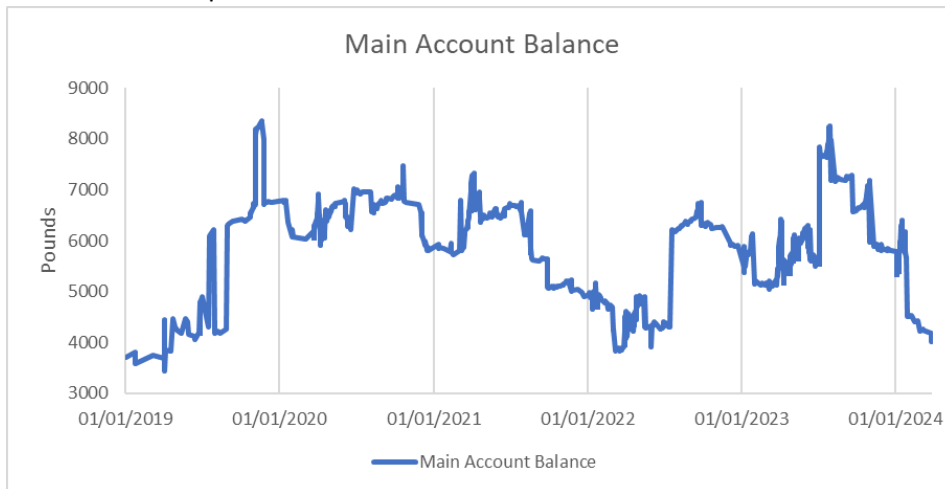
2023/24	Values
Start balance	6,041.53
End balance	3950.02
Difference	-2091.51

2022/23	Values
Start balance	4,619.38
End balance	6041.53
Difference	1422.15

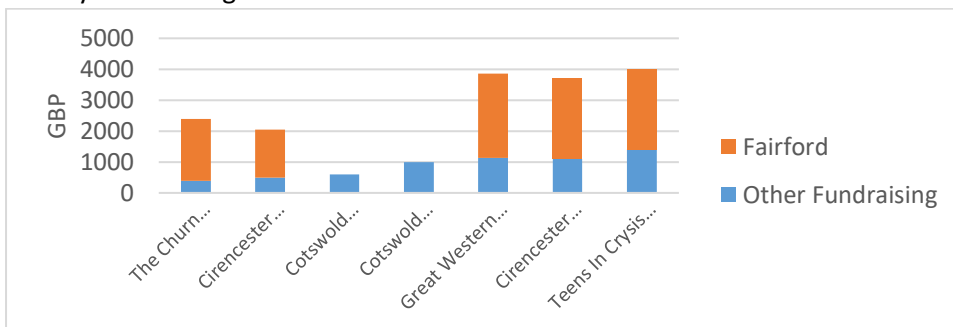
Category	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)
Membership	3,211.00	
Fairford Profit Split	2044.24	
England Athletics		-2190.00
Awards Night		-1721.91
Vests		-659.04
Coach to Suilhull		-600.00
Coaches Expenses		-592.47
Neil Russel Talk		-296.10
General Expenses		-275.27
Misc		-232.05
Gifts/donations		-222.03
Cash prize		-200.00
Internet		-192.88
Insurance		-165.00
Total	5255.24	-7346.75
Difference	(2,091.51)	



Main account – spend over time



Charity Fundraising – Over the Years



The accounts have been independently examined and declared to be accurate.

5. Constitution changes

Sarah Reynolds, as Club Secretary, has circulated the proposed changes to the constitution to all members ahead of the meeting. She explained that, other than some minor grammatical changes, the key changes being proposed are:

- Updating the procedure for contacting next of kin to mirror our current process (since moving to RunTogether)
- Updating the club awards section to remove the 'club handicap' awards because we no longer hold that race
- Adding clarification that members eligible for the club London Marathon place must be first claim athletes

There were no objections to the changes and these were approved.

The Club Secretary will make these changes and upload the updated version to the club website before the end of June.



6. Election of committee for 2024-25

One nomination per candidate has been received prior to the AGM. A seconder is required during the meeting.

Committee Position	Candidate	First Nominator	Second Nominator
Chairperson	Pauline Tilbury	Jo Wood	Rachel Bodey
Vice Chair	Nadine Brown	Kirsty Pitts	Ellie Witnall
Membership Secretary	Tracey Pitts	Caroline Joynes-Creed	Becca Wilson
Club Secretary	Sarah Reynolds	Katy Miller	Sarah Page
Treasurer	Sarah Page	Linda Edwards	Martin Sherriff
Club Captain	Elaine Chapman	Cathy Steer	Katy Miller
Club Vice Captain	Ben Chapman	Elliott Gardiner	Tracey Pitts
Welfare Officer	Caroline Terry	Kate Potter	Kevin Joynes-Creed
Communications Officer	Ellie Witnall	Sallie Clatworthy	Elaine Chapman
Fundraising Officer	No Candidate		
Social Secretary	Kevin Joynes-Creed	Libby Butler	Becca Wilson

There have been no nominations received for the Fundraising Officer role. The constitution does not stipulate that this role must be filled, but it would be good to have someone in the role. The Chair will invite nominations following this meeting. The Chair commented that it would be great to welcome a new person to the Committee.

Action: The Chair will communicate to members that the Fundraising Officer position remains vacant and will invite nominations.

7. Members items

a. WhatsApp Community

Amanda Ball has suggested that we consider using WhatsApp Communities, where different 'streams' can be created and members can choose which streams to follow, eg races, equipment, social runs etc. The Committee will take this as an action to consider.

b. Spond App

Vicki Mason has suggested that we consider using the Spond App. This is an app that is used by several other sports clubs in the area that allows administration of club run attendance, addition of events and races (and everyone can see who's going), and a messaging facility which may reduce whatsapp traffic.

The Committee noted that two people are suggesting ways to reduce whatsapp overwhelm, so they will look into both of these suggestions as alternatives to our current solution.



c. Feedback from members

Paul and Caroline Coates sent a message to thank the club for their continued support and warm wishes since Paul's diagnosis. Paul is doing well. We are now on our new regime of 5 days on chemo, 23 days off. Paul has low immunity and is unwell for the first 2 weeks and we then have 2 weeks to enjoy being out and about. Any support to help Paul restore some normality and improve his fitness and independence would be appreciated.

Phil Hudson sent a message which said, as a new runner I've enjoyed the structured Wednesday's and Monday evenings and away days have been a particular highlight. I must add that the friendly welcome from all members has been amazing. I'm also pleased to see more RSE runners coming to parkrun – the team at Ciren PR are keen to support local running clubs.

8. AOB or items to take to the committee

a. RSE race report

The Chair explained that the Committee had voted that the race report will no longer be part of the Communications Officer role. The Committee will put a message out to members asking for a volunteer or volunteers to take this on.

The race report process is partially automated (with a form for members to submit) but it takes a lot of time, approximately 2-3 hours in its current format. There are a number of options available to us: stop publishing a race report, simplify the race report, move reporting to whatsapp community and/or social media, use a blog on the website etc. This is still to be decided and will be discussed with any volunteers that come forward.

Sharon Smith feels that the race report keeps the club together, inspires others, teaches us about races and keeps us up to date. Becca Wilson says that she sees most things on strava or whatsapp and perhaps it's not needed. Katy Miller suggested that we share photos of races at the club awards do. Ellie Witnall suggested that (if permission is given) photos could be shared on RSE's social media feeds.

Action: Chair to ask for volunteers to take on the race report

Action: Committee to discuss (with any volunteers) the future of the race report format

b. RunTogether App

The Chair thanked Kevin Joynes-Creed for his ongoing administration of the Run Together app, adding events and locations on to it for members to book on to.

No other AOB items were tabled.

9. Closure

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 20.32.