Annual General Meeting of the West Sussex Fun Run League

Held at Steyning Athletics Club, Sunday 24th November 2019, 10:00am.

Minutes

Thanks to Steve Jones for opening the clubhouse and providing refreshments.

Present: Representatives from all 18 member clubs and Carolin Hartfield (CRC) and Neil Rabone (WS). Also present; Ray Chick, Treasurer; Victoria Saunders, Chair; Phil McErlain, Statistician; Jill Renson, Secretary/website and Mike Airey (PHH).

1. Introduction of all reps and welcome to any new reps

A formal introduction of all reps present with a warm welcome to all; thanks to Maureen Stephens (WDH) and Martin Loose (GRR) deputising for Darren and Bryan respectively who were unable to attend. Thank you to all reps for your work over the year.

1. 3 Forts Marathon.

Mike Airey gave a short talk giving a little history on the 3 Forts Marathon. He was asking clubs if they’d be willing to ‘take ownership’ of a marshal point for next year’s event to be held on 3rd May 2020.

1. Matters arising from the previous AGM and half-year meeting

Jill was able to confirm that we now have wsfrlreps@googlegroups.com set up which can be used to send emails to all reps. Any rep not receiving emails should contact Jill. Also, anyone who’d like to be added or taken off the list to contact Jill.

More information has been added to the website giving history of the League and listing past winners of the annual awards.

Hove Hornets reported that they used an app to record numbers which other clubs were interested in. <https://www.sportstimingsolutions.co.uk/proscore.php> this made processing results even quicker and easier.

We then had a lengthy debate on the use of headphones at WSFRL events. EA guidelines are somewhat ambiguous regarding when headphones are allowed and which types are acceptable. After much discussion, it was agreed, that for simplicity NO runner should wear any type of headphones at our events. Club reps are asked to ensure that their members are aware of this ban and that repeat offenders may be penalised (i.e. removed from the results).

1. Review of the year

Phil McErlain (Statistician) produced a comprehensive set of figures with accompanying notes showing a modest increase in numbers in all categories except that of non-league senior men and an increase in the ratio of men to women now at 1:1.4 of men to women. Thank you to Phil for all the number crunching throughout the year.

2019 had 18 athletes from 10 different clubs who completed all 17 races in the season. Well done to all of them.

1. League Administration

All clubs confirmed membership Crawley Run Crew are looking forward to holding an event for the first time in February

Communication is even easier now using wsfrlreps@googlegroups.com . Please let Jill know of any changes and they can be updated immediately throughout the year. There will still be a Word Document downloadable from the website and another circulated to reps with phone numbers. Please let Jill know if you don’t want your email details on the website.

Race fees for 2020: As agreed at the half yearly meeting fees will remain unchanged for 2020. The higher entry on the day fee for seniors is to encourage entries in advance. Lewes expressed concern that £1 for juniors would not be sustainable. The League feels that we should encourage all juniors to run and the senior race should make enough profit to cover any loss made. It was recommended that Lewes may need to provide more helpers to take large numbers of junior entries on the day.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Senior WSFRL | Senior non-league | Junior WSFRL | Junior non-league |
| In advance | £3 | £7 | £1 | £1 |
| On the day | £10 | £12 | £1 | £1 |

Please note ‘senior’ refers to the senior race and ‘junior’ refers to the junior race regardless of age.

This is the maximum permitted, not the minimum.

Scoring System. It was agreed that the system we use should remain.

Chris Rowe (Worthing Harriers) continues working to update the Smart Rrs programs. He is very helpful where clubs experience difficulties. There has been a glitch with transferring club entries to the main Smart Rrs program; this only seems to be an issue when both juniors and seniors are entered on the same page. Clubs entering both are asked to use two separate Club Entries form. Thanks again to Chris for all the help given.

1. League Finances

Ray Chick (treasurer) had prepared and circulated the League Accounts and brought along the bank statements for inspection. These were accepted by all and voted unanimously to accept the proposed level of club membership fees of £84 for 2020. Ray has now sent out an email with an invoice attached if your treasurer needs one. If you haven’t already paid your subs for next year the deadline is the end of January 2019. Please contact Ray if you need payment details. Thank you Ray for your input.

1. Election of Officers

No one had volunteered to stand for any of the roles and although the present incumbents hadn’t been consulted they were thanked and re-elected by unanimous vote. Thanks to Victoria, Ray, Phil and Jill for their work as Chairman, Treasurer, Statistician, Secretary and Website manager.

1. Looking forward to 2019

A draft calendar for 2020 had been circulated; there are a couple of minor alterations the new calendar will be put on the website shortly. Crawley Run Crew will send out full details of their event in the New Year. It was pointed out that from the middle of June to the middle of July there are 5 events in a 4 week period although this was deemed acceptable.

1. AOB

Making our events as environmentally friendly as possible. Areas to look at include recyclable cups, now widely available - or even runners carrying their own [collapsible] cups; material other than tyvek for numbers, although there isn’t currently a suitable replacement race organisers need to make suppliers aware that there is a strong demand; reusing tape to mark the course (or use flour instead); reusable cable ties for signs.

Communication with race HQ during an event and marshal instructions. It was highlighted that there were two events this year where a runner had become unwell during the run and experienced a long delay before help arrived, this was attributed to lack of communication with race HQ and in one case the marshal was unsure of their exact location. Race organisers could issue marshals with a lanyard detailing what to do in case of emergency including exact location and contact details. Chichester hires radios with a central controller who can issue guidance. Anyone interested please ask Jill for details.

The hypothetical question ‘Where do we stand, insurance wise, if there is an incident which hasn’t been covered in the risk assessment?’ was raised. Ray followed this up with Zurich Insurance who gave the following reply:

“In the event of a potential incident, the claims department will review all the relevant documentation related to risk management. Provided that you had shown a reasonable duty of care in your approach (all the obvious risks have been identified and controlled where necessary) then I can confirm the cover would remain valid, even in the eventuality of an odd incident that was not specifically risk assessed for.

This is however on the basis that you are the negligent party. If the organisation has no link to the cause of the claim then you would not be liable and therefore unable to claim.”

The point was then raised about a small number of runners who stayed with a runner who was unwell, after the sweeper had asked them if they were going to continue, they then decided that they would finish the race and subsequently got lost as the course makers had been removed and marshals had been stood down. Runners are to be reminded that if they say they are not going to continue they mustn’t then change their mind. If anyone stays to help an injured runner they will still be credited with finishing the race (for ‘Completers’)

Haywards Heath again asked about first aid cover as theirs is expensive. The League is not responsible for organising first aid for each race and Race Organisers should investigate different companies to ensure they get the necessary cover at the right price. If any race organiser wants to compare prices Jill has the contact details for Emergency Medical Services based in Sussex who would be happy to discuss your needs.

Burgess Hill asked if entry forms could have BACs details included. It was decided that we wouldn’t do this as individuals will start using them which causes extra work for race organisers.

Race organisers are also asked to look at the start of their races to avoid bottlenecks and confusion.

1. Date of Half Year Meeting

Half way through the calendar would take us to the Round Hill Romp; Wednesday evening isn’t suitable so the next race is the Hove Hornets race. Matt Lambert is going to see if a room is available for us to use. The next race is the Seven Stiles so we would be able to have the meeting at Steyning as we did this year although Jill won’t be there.

1. Pesentation of Awards

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| WSFRL 2019 season winners |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Senior scoresThe Norman Crook Trophy |  |  |  | Junior scoresThe Ray Chick Award |  |  |
| 1 | Lewes AC | 1992 |  | 1 | Worthing Harriers | 715 |  |
| 2 | Hove Hornets | 1978 |  | 2 | Arunners | 444 |  |
| 3 | Portslade Hedgehoppers | 1964 |  | 3 | Saints & Sinners | 345 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Senior Improvement (scores) |  | Junior Improvement (scores) |  |
| 1 | Haywards Heath | 385 |  | 1 | Worthing Harriers | 231 |  |
| 2 | Lancing Eagles | 335 |  | 2 | Lancing Eagles | 137 |  |
| 3 | Steyning | 223 |  | 3 | Worthing Striders | 94 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Senior Improvement participation |  | Junior Improvement Participation |
| 1 | Haywards Heath | 51 | 61% | 1 | Worthing Harriers | 14 | 175% |
| 2 | Steyning | 34 | 37% | 2 | Lancing Eagles | 24 | 133% |
| 3 | Lancing | 139 | 35% | 3 | Lewes  | 6 | 60% |

Thanks again to Steve Jones (Steyning) for the use of their clubhouse and providing refreshments.