Annual General Meeting of the West Sussex Fun Run League

Held at the Steyning Athletics Club Sunday 14th November 2021 10:00am

Minutes

Representatives from 17 clubs, apologies from Anne Miners (Arena 80AC) Also present; Victoria Saunders, Chairperson; Ray Chick, Treasurer; Phil McErlain, Statistician, Jill Renson, Secretary and Sophie Goodall-Smith from the Environment Agency specialising in sustainability and reducing unnecessary single use plastics in sport (and member of Portslade Hedgehoppers)

1. Introduction of all reps and welcome to any new members
2. Thanks to Steve Jones (Steyning) for arranging the use of the clubhouse.
3. Goring Road Runners positive news for the first WSFRL race of 2022.

Martin Stone (GRR) was pleased to announce that the Hangover 5 will take place on Jan 1st 2022 as the first race for 2 years. As covid is still a threat there will be several changes to how the event is run. There will be no junior race, no entries on the day, no showers, and no changing. Club reps will be sent the race briefing by email in advance.

GRR have organised their own insurance through the Association of Running Clubs (ARC). As GRR are a small club, with only a small membership, the cost was just £55 to join the ARC and £25 for the race insurance. It is understood that membership is on a sliding scale so larger clubs will have a higher membership fee.

The entry fee for this race will be £7. GRR are asking for all entries to be sent to them, by email, by December 17th

Crawley Run Crew are to be the second race of the season. Henry Harris said that the Crew are looking forward to holding their first ever event on 20th February. Planning is well underway, looking to be finalised in the next couple of weeks when details including cost will be sent out to all. They are looking to insure through the Trail Running Association.

Lewes AC will be holding their race on Easter Monday, 18th April. Julie Deakin is race organiser. As this is a much bigger event they will be looking to introduce chip timing and have a 15 minute starting window to reduce congestion at the start. The entry fee, to be confirmed, is likely to be £6.

1. Insurance is no longer available through our previous supplier, Zurich as the League itself does not insure events but acts as a third party for individual clubs. Ray Chick contacted various other insurers but all had the same response. The best offer he was able to find was for £2,825 – more than double the previous amount, which isn’t really a viable option. If we were to go with this quote for 2022 all clubs would have to pay £50 to the League to cover this year but for 2023 they would all need to pay around £180.

Clubs are asked to look into arranging their own insurance and report back by the end of January. ALL CLUBS TO ACTION

1. Fees for 2022 Victoria was able to report that most clubs had a preference to keep the entry fee structure as simple as possible and to keep in-advance fees to £3 if possible. Due to insurance costs and increasing costs of holding an event such as venue hire and first aid provision club reps agreed to raise the cap for race fees as follows. Clubs are reminded that these figures are the maximum and they are free to set their own fees up to the maximum.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Senior race |  | Junior race |  |
|  | WSFRL | Non-league | WSFRL | Non-league |
| In advance | £7 | £15 | £1 | £1 |
| On the day | £15 | £20 | £1 | £1 |

Reps were reminded that these races are not to boost club funds but should cover costs, clubs are encouraged to make a donation to a local charity if there is a surplus. It was suggested that clubs making a larger profit could make a donation to those with higher costs to help them break even without having to raise entry fees.

1. Covid Arrangements. Most clubs were feeling positive about the return of the League. As the future threat level of the pandemic is unknown clubs will have to make appropriate arrangements for their events. We suggest that as each club holds an event information relating to insurance and procedures is shared on an on-going basis.
2. 40th Anniversary. It was agreed that as the first WSFRL event was held in 1983, we should celebrate the anniversary in 2023. Luke (CRC) and Rob (WS) agreed to form a small committee to come up with ideas of how we should celebrate and report back at the next meeting.
3. 2022 Race Calendar. Jill has a draft calendar (attached) although many clubs are still to confirm dates and times of their events
4. Treasurers Report. As there have been no races in since January 2019 the League bank account has had no transactions except for a £10 Ray made to keep the account open. As previously discussed clubs are being asked to arrange insurance for their own events. There is a healthy balance so no subs were asked for at this time.

From the beginning of this month we will be charged £5 per month plus a fee for every cheque drawn or deposited so we need to change to a new provider ASAP

Ray has been at the head of the League for many years and has decided that he will stand down with immediate effect so the League needs to find a new Treasurer (first job; source a new bank account provider) No one at the meeting stepped forward so Victoria will try to coerce a new Treasurer from the Horsham Joggers

Thanks were given to Ray for all his work over many years.

1. Election of Officers. Phil and Jill are happy to continue as statistician and secretary respectively. Already mentioned Ray has now stepped down as Treasurer so there is a vacancy if anyone is able to give a few hours. Victoria is also planning on stepping down as Chairperson during 2022. Camilla Bishop (Steyning) has agreed to look at what is required.
2. There was a request from a FF member to start races earlier. The meeting noted that some races this year would indeed be starting earlier. However, it was noted that course set up usually takes several hours. For races not in mid-summer, start times are therefore dictated by daylight hours. Unlike commercial race organisers who can pay staff to work unsocial hours, clubs need to keep timings reasonable for volunteers.
3. AOB. Sophie Goodall-Smith from the Environment Agency and member of PHH spoke about how the League could make small changes to their races by avoiding single use plastics as in numbers and cups. She is very enthusiastic about all sports becoming more sustainable for the future. Club race organisers and reps can contact her for more information.
4. Next meeting is to be held 30th January at 10:00M (Steve has to confirm availability of the club house) as there are many items outstanding – insurance, race dates and on-going Covid arrangements.

After the meeting Ann Miners contacted me to say that Arena 80 have decided to withdraw membership of the League.