



Garden City Runners Main Committee Meeting

21 October 2020, 8:00pm on Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Jane Molloy (Chair), Louise Smith (Vice Chair), Karen Atkinson (Secretary), Sue Fletcher (Membership Secretary), Nigel Cavill (Treasurer), Tony Harden, James Huish (Men's Captain), Tom Wackett (Men's Captain), Helen Paine (Ladies' Captain), Sean Bowen

1	Apologies & Check-in	
2	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainjackets – this idea has moved on since last meeting and has been very popular with members. Thank you to Nigel for organising. • Post lockdown social event – carried forward for now • Karen updated the welfare officers on the committee decision to just DBS check coaches and leaders. • Jane has distributed most of the MWL medals, just 16 left. • Nigel has looked at the pros and cons of different banks. Barclays service has been poor. Nat West and Lloyds look better options. Jane would like the transfer to be as easy as possible and to include adding the third signatory as part of the transfer process. • Sue Fletcher will be the club's third bank signatory/ • Nigel has started to draft a set of policies and guidelines including claiming of expenses • James has not heard anything further from Malcolm about a possible virtual XC league but as we are now doing our own there is no need to follow up • The track has re-opened. Thanks to Nigel, Sean and Dave in particular for making this happen. • Karen has simplified the booking system for Tuesday group running. 	<p>Action: All to think about possible format of event</p> <p>Action: Jane to distribute the last few</p> <p>Action: Nigel to take this forward and make the choice of preferred bank</p> <p>Action: Nigel to double-check that we will not incur any bank charges</p> <p>Action: Nigel to circulate drafts to MC and flag up specific points he would like feedback/comments on</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen has fed back to Ross at Ridgeway Academy that we won't be returning yet. • Louise has introduced Jane to Catherine (Welwyn Festival). Jane has made contact and mentioned that we have £500 donation to hand over. • We didn't win the HSP most inspiring club award but it was a good opportunity to reflect on our achievements during lockdown. 	
3	<p>Feedback/update on recent club activity and any actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane commented that there has been a lot of club activity: more running groups, track re-opening, the handicap, cross country, the fortnightly 5ks plus lots being reported in the newsletter and Tony has been updating the website. • <i>Track re-opening</i> – Sean reported that the first two sessions were a great success. The concern that the late start might mean numbers are low has not been an issue and it is possible that the later start has attracted new members to track. Feedback has all been positive. Splitting into smaller groups has worked well. Nigel noted that members are being very disciplined regarding the Covid requirements. We are signed up until Christmas. We need to keep an eye on the risk of ice on the track as the weather gets colder. Jane has been in touch with Richard Bloom at HPX and will follow up with him to find out about ongoing maintenance and see if there are any opportunities for our two clubs to collaborate. • <i>XC Race 1</i> – Sue reported that it went very well with 75 runners attending. At the next race it is possible that the slower runners will set off in the middle so that they do not end up finishing after most people have gone home Louise asked if we should be promoting the XC races to new members. This was seen as a good idea but be mindful that XC is challenging and might not suit members who are new to running. All agreed that the run leaders are best placed to promote XC to group participants. • <i>Terry's 5K</i> – these events have been publicised as GCR activities but as they are invitation only it was agreed that they can't be and are therefore private, not club events. Changing the way they are promoted on Facebook and reported in the Newsletters would help clarify the position for 	<p>Action: Jane to follow up with Richard Bloom</p> <p>Action: Karen to ask run leaders to promote XC</p>

	<p>members. Jane agreed to make contact with Terry and also to refer to the insurance position if these are private events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fortnightly Saturday 5Ks</i> – these are going well and are popular. • All acknowledged the great job Rich Somerset has been doing and agreed that a message of thanks from MC would be a good idea. 	<p>Action: Jane to contact Terry</p> <p>Action: Jane to send Rich a message of thanks and appreciation</p>
4	<p>Future Events - what's possible and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Festive 5</i> - Jane has spoken to Martha who is doubtful that F5 could happen in its usual format. Reasons included the likelihood of us not getting a licence for a road race from the council and the possible reputation damage to the club. Helen fed back that based on experience doing recent ATW events there would not be enough space at Stanborough Green for social distancing. Martha is happy to be RD if a suitable alternative event can be found. F5 is a fundraiser and Martha also asked if an alternative could be organised as a fundraising event. Various ideas were discussed including doing a virtual race or using the track (F5000m). Piggybacking on the December 13th XC event with the option of wearing fancy dress and making a donation was a popular suggestion and will be followed up first. • <i>Welwyn 10K</i> – Louise has discussed with Craig the possibility of having a virtual race for 2021. Other events (eg Stevenage 10k and Standalone 10k) have run successful virtual events and raised funds for charity. Helen's feedback on Standalone was very positive and had c.800 runners. Louise recommended that we would still ask HRJ Foreman Laws to be a sponsor providing, say, £1000 and all runners would get a participation medal. Re 2020 - £856 has been received from Races online of which £500 will be donated to Welwyn charities having held back an amount to cover deferred entries. 	<p>Action: Sean to speak to Martha, Rich and Peter about combining F5 with XC on 13/12/20</p> <p>Action: All decision to be made at the Jan/Feb MC meeting about W10k format</p>
5	<p>Membership update and communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue reported that we have 356 members and we continue to gain a couple a week. EA membership is also up this year. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent exercise to remove non members from the GCR Facebook group has reduced Facebook members from over 500 to 284. Jane, Sue and Karen are all potentially communicating with new members and we may need to refine this process in the future. Louise suggested that we could all look to informally check in with members who haven't been active for the last six months or so. Louise will start the process by looking at the current members' list. 	<p>Action: Sue to send Louise a current members' list</p>
6	<p>Website overhaul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tony confirmed that he is happy to update the website in response to changes emailed him. The more detail the better. Tony has recently updated the Training and Covid pages to reflect the club's current activities. MC feedback was that the website looked good and was clearly set out. The main concern was that some of it is quite out of date. There was some discussion about how to solve this and it was agreed that each page could have an 'owner' who was responsible for that page and for sending Tony any updates. The suggested allocation of some of the pages is: <i>Home</i> – not allocated yet <i>Training (and Covid short term)</i> – Karen (group runs)/Martha(intervals)/Sean (track) <i>The Club</i> – Louise <i>Races</i> – James <i>Membership</i> - Sue <i>News</i> – newsletter editorial team <i>Gallery</i> – hide this page for now Nigel noted that there is a link on the club Instagram account which is not to do with GCR. 	<p>Action: Tony to revisit feedback and contact the author if he had any queries</p> <p>Action: Jane to share the club history information received from Dick Meredith with Louise</p> <p>Action: Tony to contact Rebecca Barden to discuss how to involve the newsletter team</p> <p>Action: Tony to hide the Gallery page for now</p> <p>Action: James to contact Hannah and ask her to update the Instagram links</p> <p>Action: Tony to look at what hits we get per page to see if there are any which are redundant</p> <p>Action: Tony to consider whether we can get more out of Wordpress</p>

7.	<p>Training Runs / Run Leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen reported that we now have 14 active run leaders and a new rota up to the end of the year. We have five different groups going out every Tuesday. • Karen suggested that the MC thank the run leaders for everything they have been doing in recent months to help keep the club running with a special thanks to Rob Cartwright who has stepped up on many occasions. 	<p>Action: Jane to send a message to the run leaders</p>
8	<p>Finance Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigel reported that we have made a cash surplus for the first six months of £2850 even without hosting any races and including the cost of the medals. • Jane noted that we have been selling club kit at below cost as the price does not include VAT or delivery. We need to decide whether to put the price up or subsidise the cost to members. 	<p>Carry forward to next meeting</p>
9	<p>Race Committee update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James reported that RC had met and a decision had been made to cancel the 2020 Avery league. For 2021, the best case is that the league will go ahead with a quarterly review and revisions if needed. 	
10	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronica Shadbolt had been in touch with Jane regarding a half marathon trophy she has. Sean confirmed that it had been previously decided that the current holder of trophies could retain them if the award had been discontinued. 	<p>Action: Jane to tell Veronica she can keep the trophy</p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 16 December 2020 – 8.00pm on Zoom</p>	
	<p>The meeting ended at 10.15pm</p>	