



**Garden City Runners Main Committee Meeting**

**16 December 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, Tom Wackett (Men’s Captain), Helen Paine (Ladies’ Captain), Sean Bowen, Markus Allen (Welfare Officer – Guest)**

**Apologies: James Huish (Men’s Captain)**

1	<b>Apologies &amp; Check-in</b>	
2	<p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post lockdown social event – carried forward for now</li> <li>• Jane distributed most of the MWL medals, just 6 left.</li> <li>• 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 (Sue) as part of the transfer process.</li> <li>• Nigel has started to draft a set of policies and guidelines including claiming of expenses</li> <li>• Jane contacted Richard Bloom about the track. He does not currently need any help from GCR for maintenance etc. Sean confirmed that the track sessions are working well (and see AOB)</li> <li>• Karen asked the run leaders to promote the XC series. Lou reported that it was good to see a number of runners at XC who have come up through the beginners programme.</li> <li>• Jane contacted Terry about the Saturday 5ks not to be publicised as a club event.</li> <li>• Jane passed on thanks from the committee to Richard Somerset for all he has been doing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: All</b> to think about possible format of event</p> <p><b>Action: Jane</b> to distribute the last few</p> <p><b>Action: Nigel</b> to take this forward and make the choice of preferred bank</p> <p><b>Action: Nigel</b> to double-check that we will not incur any bank charges</p> <p><b>Action: Nigel</b> to circulate drafts to MC and flag up specific points he would like feedback/comments on</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festive 5 was combined with the XC on 13 December. The consensus was that it was impractical to make this a charity event especially as no entry fee.</li> <li>• Whether or not to make the Welwyn 10k a virtual event in 2021 will be agreed at the next MC meeting</li> <li>• Sue provided Louise with a list of members for follow up (see below)</li> <li>• Website overhaul: Jane shared club history with Louise who will pick this up in the new year</li> <li>• James contacted Hannah and Instagram links have been updated.</li> <li>• Tony has been looking into what more Wordpress can be used for</li> <li>• There are a small number of website related items to be followed up:</li> <li>• Jane sent a message to the run leaders thanking them for their commitment with special mention for Rob Cartwright</li> <li>• Jane informed Veronica Shadbolt that she may keep the half marathon trophy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: All</b> decision to be made at the Jan MC meeting about W10k format</p> <p><b>Action: Louise</b> to look at club history for website</p> <p><b>Action: Tony</b> to revisit feedback and contact the author if he had any queries</p> <p><b>Action: Tony</b> to contact Rebecca Barden to discuss how to involve the newsletter team</p> <p><b>Action: Tony</b> to hide the Gallery page for now</p> <p><b>Action: Tony</b> to look at what hits we get per page to see if there are any which are redundant</p>
3	<p><b>Reconnecting with ‘missing’ members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Louise reported that we had approx. 120 members who had not participated in any events/not been heard from. MC members had followed up with those they know and Louise contacted the remainder. This had been a very successful exercise and Louise shared the responses she had received. A review of the remaining 46 on the list resulted in just a handful of members unaccounted for.</li> <li>• All agreed this was very worthwhile and that once Maureen’s Monday club is reinstated post Covid this would help non running members reconnect.</li> </ul>	

4	<p><b>Festive Events Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>XC Datchworth</i> – this was a successful event with 82 runners turning out</li> <li>• Nigel asked if we were intending to give medals – Jane confirmed there will be participation medals and category trophies which will be awarded once the series is over</li> <li>• Feedback: Helen asked that the directions for future events be made clearer in particular the location of parking and that there needs to be enough parking space available especially as we are not permitted to car share</li> <li>• Feedback: Helen noted that social distancing was not easy at the start of the race although chip timing meant that runners could start straight away which helped. Sue noted that there were runners bunched together at the end after the race had finished</li> <li>• Feedback: Louise felt that the start was a bit rushed and she was not in her expected cohort of six. However, chip timing meant that the groups of six going off in waves was not necessary as it had been in previous races.</li> <li>• Feedback: Sue reported that Rich Sidlin had confirmed that Races Online were not charging for the event.</li> <li>• <i>GCR Quiz 18 December</i> – there are 21 entries so far. The quiz is being put together by the McCullums – a big thank you to them. Karen suggested people are reminded that they can make a donation to our chosen charity Isabel Hospice even if they cannot make the quiz.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Jane/Sue</b> to pass feedback to Rich Somerset about parking and to stress that we need a bigger start area for the next race in January</p> <p><b>Action: Jane</b> to remind members about the quiz and making a donation on Facebook</p>
5	<p><b>Developing and Recognising Run Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen reported that EA have now relaunched the LiRF course as online modules with local/small group activities rather than a full day at a set location. This gives us the opportunity to work together and develop the run leaders as a team. We could do our own LiRF relaunch early in the new year with the aim of getting all our leaders qualified and build in some reward and incentives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Karen</b> to share thinking and draft comms with the other run leaders on MC (Jane, Louise, Helen, Tony)</p>
6	<p><b>Kit Update and Future Pricing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigel confirmed that the new rain jackets should arrive by Friday. Once they have arrived Nigel will announce the collection point. Members have been told that they need to pay for the jackets before collection and have been provided with the bank account details.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our club vests and t-shirts are being sold to members for £20. For vests, this does not cover costs which Nigel has calculated as £25.54 inc VAT and delivery.</li> <li>• Three options were discussed: increase the price to cover all costs, increase to partially cover shortfall or keep the price as it is.</li> <li>• Helen and Louise recalled that the £20 price was set to encourage members to buy the new vests when we changed the design a few years ago.</li> <li>• It was agreed that: The price would be kept at £20 because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- you can't race without a vest and a higher price may dis-incentivise new runners who may not want to enter many GCR races</li> <li>- it is a form of marketing for the club</li> <li>- it is a benefit that all members are being offered</li> <li>- it is only a couple of hundred pounds a year and the club can afford it</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All agreed that other items of kit such as jackets should be paid for in full.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Karen</b> do some words to make it clearer on Membership and Races pages on website that members can buy a vest at a discounted price and need to be worn for club races</p>
7.	<p><b>Update/recommendations from Herts Sports Clubs Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane and Sue attended a number of difference sessions</li> <li>• Jane – club leadership/teams – this included role profiles and descriptions. EA have role templates for various roles. Are we missing any?</li> <li>• Jane – inclusivity. 26% people in Hertfordshire are registered as disabled – are we as a club sensitive to these issues? Can we/should we do more?</li> <li>• Louise suggested that the forum of local club Chairs might be a good place to discuss these issues and share experience/ideas.</li> <li>• Sue sessions – funding – diversity – mental health</li> <li>• There was a debate about what we currently do as a club to find out about members' health including mental health (very little apart from on the beginners courses) and what could we do if we had more information? How do we manage members' expectations if we ask them to provide this information? Do we have the capability? How can we share this information with the run leaders/coaches so they are aware?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Jane</b> to review and see if we are missing anything or has any concerns</p> <p><b>Action: Jane</b> to organise next Chairs' forum early 2021</p> <p><b>Action: All</b> Carry forward and pick up specific points in future meetings</p> <p><b>Action: Karen</b> to look at embedding a version of the LiRF questionnaire on membermojo for members to complete</p>

8	<p><b>Membership Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sue reported that we have 365 members including 135 EA members.</li> <li>• Sue raised the issue of a member who has not paid despite repeated reminders. All agreed that if they do not respond then Sue should delete them as a member and they should not be accepted as a Facebook member either.</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigel reported that the club finances are still healthy. The bank balance is slightly lower than at the last report but this is mainly due to payments on jackets £2039 and £500 Welwyn Festival donation. The payment for jackets will be recovered from members.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>Race Committee update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not met.</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigel confirmed that we will be returning to Gosling track in January and the track fee will remain the same. Nigel will contact Gosling next week to confirm bookings. We are due credits for 6 sessions (lockdown and Christmas).</li> <li>• Tony has had difficulty accessing email accounts. Access can only be granted by Rich Sidlin.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Tony</b> to contact Rich Sidlin to resolve</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 27 January 2021 – 8.00pm on Zoom</p>	
	<p><b>The meeting ended at 10.15pm</b></p>	