

Minutes of the Standing Committee

at the Shipley Catholic Club, on Monday 4 February 2008

Apologies for absence: none.

Present: Dave Armstrong, Rory Cunliffe, Simon Forde, Chris Hainsworth, Barney Lerner, Hazel Maddocks, Terry Maddocks, Mike Moss, Jack Verity, Paul Watts.

In attendance: Graham Eastell, Helen Freeman, Mick Jones, Janice Magennis, Tony Myers.

The meeting started at 8.05pm.

1. The **Partnership Agreement** was signed by Terry Maddocks (for Eccleshill) and countersigned by representatives of the founding partners (Chris Hainsworth for Bradford Airedale and Mike Moss for St Bede's). Each party retained an archival copy of this agreement which formally welcome Eccleshill Road Runners into the partnership.
2. The previously circulated **minutes of the meeting** on 3 December 2007 were approved.
3. **Matters arising**, not covered elsewhere in the agenda:
 - a. SF reported that preliminary, positive discussions had been held with Pete Rawnsley from Skyrac, to explore their joining the Partnership. Pete Rawnsley was favourable and took the matter to the Skyrac committee who had raised some practical matters for consideration. It was agreed that SF would continue detailed discussions with Skyrac.
 - b. MM reported on discussions with John Temperton from Athletics Services, and summarised the proposed steps towards affiliating Airedale Athletics, namely:
 - i. To affiliate Airedale Athletics within the Yorkshire-Humber region of England Athletics as an association (to cost £50 p.a)
 - ii. Prior to clubs' own renewals for 2009, the constituent clubs should agree to which disciplines they should affiliate (more crucially, for which disciplines they would then not affiliate). MM suggested the following possible scenario which we should reflect upon in future:
 1. Bradford Airedale could be the sole club to affiliate for 'senior track-and-field' competitions.
 2. We might identify one 'lead-club' as the sole affiliate for 'fell-running'.

3. Airedale Athletics might itself affiliate for 'cross-country' (on the basis that Eccleshill and St Bede's could still apply for acceptance by the organisers to compete in the Peco League and Winter League respectively).
 4. 'Road-running' affiliations would require further careful reflection.
- iii. Organisers of individual leagues or competitions were at liberty to accept or reject an application by Airedale Athletics to enter any competition.
 - iv. Later in 2008, Airedale Athletics would intend to seek affiliation as a competition club with England Athletics.

The meeting agreed to this course of action and agreed that the Partnership should apply immediately for affiliation to England Athletics as an association.

4. Brief reports from the constituent clubs:

- a. **Bradford-Airedale:** CH reported that Richard Taylor, their Youth Development Officer, had recently resigned. This meant there was no supervision for a group of about six youngsters at Horsfall, and the club was anxious to retain this group. CH emphasised that some club members felt the club were on the brink, and the Committee was having an emergency meeting on Monday 11th. It was agreed that a temporary working-group (comprising DA, SF, CH, JM and TM) would liaise during the intervening week to examine possible solutions.
- b. **Eccleshill:** HM reported that they had attracted several new lady runners. They planned to relaunch the Active Family initiative in the spring. They had attended a meeting of the East Bradford Sports Alliance at Valley Parade and had discussed with the convenor (Pam Hoyle) about establishing a Sportshall group at Hanson School.
- c. **St Bede's:** MM reported that membership numbers seemed to be increasing. However, the club had approached the Hosted Races Committee for assistance with provision of marshals for the John Carr 5k series in May.

5. Brief reports from the Joint Committees:

- a. **Social & Membership:** CH circulated about 40 copies of the Year Planner / Events Calendar for distribution among club members. He reported on the 'Out-and-back Chase and Social' organised by Eccleshill on 1 February at Idle CC, as a joint activity to foster integration between the clubs. This was successful, with 4-5 representatives from Bradford Airedale and St Bede's attending.
- b. **Training & Performance (TAPCOM):** In the absence of the chair, the following issues were nonetheless raised:

- i. Coaching development: BL argued that it was clearly crucial (for youth development, and for the implementation of neighbourhood groups within the Development Plan) for the Partnership to identify as many new coaches as possible*, and to get them trained. MM noted that there were dedicated funds available through the Bradford Athletic Group (BAG). [* Mick Brearley, Gareth Wood and Will Kerr from St Bede's had all expressed such an interest.]
 - ii. Development of squads: a squad (membership by invitation of the Club Captain), known as the '82ers', had started regularly training together, particularly on Tuesdays at Horsfall, in the lead-up to the London Marathon. The squad regularly included three members from St Bede's, three from Eccleshill, plus the existing 'Thursday group' of Andrea Dennison, Mick Long and Richard Scott (Bingley). CH commended their use of Horsfall.
 - c. **Hosted Races**: TM reported on requests for volunteers for the John Carr and BMR Relay, the Bradford 10k, and also to assist the Three Peaks Race. SF argued that it was important to have a central database of available volunteers plus their specific skills.
 - d. **Development & Recruitment (DARCOM)**: see below.
6. **Brief reports from the Officers**:
- a. **Budget and finance**: It was agreed that the Partnership should set up a bank account. At a subsequent meeting PW would make a recommendation about how a 'launch kitty' could be established – either as a flat fee per club, or on a per capita basis. PW would further explore likely outgoings with MM in the context of discussions about affiliations and entries of collective teams in competitions.
 - b. **Membership**: BL agreed to present at the next meeting a combined register of members in a spreadsheet format, drawing on individual club's records.
 - c. **Teams**: JV reported on two Calderdale Way teams, which had been entered under St Bede's names, but included one runner from Bradford-Airedale. DA reported on the rejection by YVAA of an application to enter a collective team in the Grand Prix series. He recommended that we reapply in a year's time, but that during 2008 he encouraged Bradford-Airedale and Eccleshill not to affiliate with YVAA but to enter their runners under St Bede's auspices.
7. **Particular matters** for the present meeting:
- a. **Corporate crest for the Partnership**: four possible options were presented (a boar's head or sheep [drawn from local city arms], a bird of prey, a jester, and a

capital letter 'A' in various fonts). The meeting quickly formed a consensus in favour of the 'A' design and agreed that SF should commission a professional designer to produce a design comprising 'two intertwined capital 'A's with elements denoting movement (e.g. winged serifs)'.

- b. **Epilepsy Action Bradford 10k:** SF reported on the following:
 - i. The definitive route for the race was agreed, and the official measuring would be undertaken in late February.
 - ii. Council support was very strong, including help from the Centenary Square events team, access to the Town Hall, and promotion in sports facilities across the city from *b-Active*.
 - iii. Requirements for 50 volunteers from Airedale Athletics – 40 or more marshals and up to 10 helpers with the 'baggage drop' and controlling access to the fenced-off start-finish area. There would be a meeting led by the Police about 2 weeks prior to the event, to brief the marshals. TM would liaise with Epilepsy Action about a suitable time and place.
 - iv. The likelihood that the database of unattached runners wishing to get information from Airedale Athletics could be 700-strong. An introductory letter was being sent out to all these people. The text of a follow-up invitation to take part in supervised training, social events, and practice races would be finalised within a week between DA, HF, SF and TM. HF emphasised the importance of personal contacts and informality. SF argued that – while the hope was that about 30 would translate quickly into club members – the aim was to make the majority of the 700 'semi-attached' and entice them to club events on an *ad hoc* basis.
 - v. DA was meeting Epilepsy Action, Greens and Fitness First (Eccleshill, plus their city and Park Avenue branches) about the Corporate Challenge aspect of the event.
 - vi. DA proposed that Airedale Athletics provide a promotional stall at the end of the Bradford 10k, with appropriate staffing, brochures or leaflets.
8. **Detailed Action-Plan of a Joint Committee:** the action plan for 2008 of the (previously circulated) Development and Recruitment Committee was approved and the work of the committee commended. DA emphasised the following:
- a. HF would undertake an analysis of a recruitment strategy using the 'unattached runners database' for the Bradford 10k.
 - b. Jen Willingham and Gareth Wood would be focusing on links with the PCT (primary care trust of the NHS).

- c. BL and HF would work on membership data (collating information and analysing it – for rates of churn etc.) and identify action we should be taking.
- d. SF was responsible for international links – with northern Europe and the Commonwealth
- e. DA was focusing on forging ever-closer links with Greens' gym and Fitness First, and in developing corporate links, through 'business-in-the-community' work.
- f. There were a number of areas (neighbourhood fitness clubs; and youth policy) which had not been fleshed out, but it was agreed that we should wait until we had appropriate resources for attacking these issues.

9. **Any other business:**

- a. BL proposed that, due to the noise-levels at the Catholic Club, future meetings take place at Greens, Idle CC or another suitable venue. JA and GE agreed to explore the possibilities with Greens, and TM would do likewise with Idle CC.

10. **Next meetings:**

Joint Committees: Monday, 3 March and 5 May (or virtual meetings thereabouts, as proposed by the committee chair);

Standing Committee: Monday, 7 April (with special consideration of 'Youth Policy') and 2 June (with special consideration of the TAPCOM action plan for 2008)

Clubs' Members Committees (these 'default dates', or similar dates agreed by the committees themselves):

BAAC – Monday, 11 February; followed by 14 April and 9 June (with interim meetings on 2nd Mondays of the other months)

St Bede's – Tuesday, 19 February; followed by 22 April and 7 June

Eccleshill – Friday, 22 February; followed by 25 April and 20 June.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

Simon Forde, 6 February 2008.