

Minutes of the Standing Committee of Airedale Athletics

at Idle Cricket Club, on Monday 7 April 2008

Present: Dave Armstrong, Diane Craven, Simon Forde, Chris Hainsworth, Barney Lerner, Hazel Maddocks, Terry Maddocks, Mike Moss, Jack Verity.

In attendance: Brian Elsey, Helen Freeman, Mick Jones, Janice Magennis, Tony Myers, Richard Phelps, Jen Willingham.

Apologies for absence: Rory Cunliffe, Graham Eastell, Graham Hird, Mick Brearley, Sue Birbeck, Paul Watts.

The meeting started at 8.05pm.

1. The previously circulated **minutes of the meeting** on 4 February 2008 were approved, with one addition:
 - a. Diane Craven should be added to the list of apologies.
2. **Matters arising**, not covered elsewhere in the agenda:
 - a. SF reported that preliminary, face-to-face discussions had been held with representatives from Skyrac. It appeared that to gain committee approval there, the Partnership would need to demonstrate some willingness to share the coaching load at Nunroyd Park (particularly if the Partnership wanted to piggyback on Skyrac's youth programme); and that the ability to enter collective, competitive teams was key. Peter Rawnsley from Skyrac was planning to raise the concept or partnerships at the next meeting of the 'Endurance Forum' of the Yorkshire-Humberside region of England Athletics.
3. Review of **progress within the Partnership**:

A 30-minute discussion was allocated to reflection (and clearing-of-the-air) on progress within the Partnership, on the basis of different critical comments having been passed recently.

 - Several people from St Bede's (MJ, DA, JV) argued that the Partnership should move towards a merger, with everything done centrally, even if local training bases at Esholt, Eccleshill, and elsewhere remained.
 - TeM pointed out that the collaboration had been presented to members strictly as a partnership, and specifically excluded a merger; so we had no mandate yet for such a move.
 - SF and CH argued that mergers tended not to be successful.
 - BL argued that some of the recent criticism was due to a lack of clarity of purpose and presentation; he argued that we should keep things simple, not present too many options to members, and do one thing at a time, and do it well. This opinion carried the favour of the meeting and it was agreed to concentrate in the coming months on:

1. Carrying out the planned questionnaire and census of the “semi-attached” Bradford 10k runners (HF, BL and SF)
2. Introducing a Fell Championships and trophy (DA) and a Road Championships
3. Encouraging the “82ers” squad to participate fully in the northern Track & Field League as a middle-distance track team
4. Produce an informational sheet for all “semi-attached” and full members presenting the range of training options that are offered within the Partnership (SF).

4. **Brief reports from the constituent clubs:**

- a. **Bradford-Airedale:** CH reported that the club had 20-25 active members. Current focus was on the Northern Track & Field League. CH would circulate a list of events, the dates of the 4 league meetings and would like to encourage maximum participation from across the partnership’s athletes.
- b. **Eccleshill:** TeM reported that the club had received a £271 grant for equipment to aid junior development; that the club had won its first ever silverware with the women’s team coming 3rd in Division 1 of the Peco XC League; and that there were plans to floodlight the tarmac track round Idle cricket pitch, which could allow winter 400m training possibilities.
- c. **St Bede’s:** MM reported that membership numbers were at 45 (plus 6 life members), and that efforts were being made to bring this back up to the 2007 levels of 60-plus paid members. The club had performed poorly in the Winter XC League and questions were being raised about whether to withdraw from this league. There had been no meetings of the club committee, though planning was advancing on the John Carr 5k series and Millennium Way Relay race.

5. **Brief reports from the Joint Committees:**

- a. **Social & Membership:** There had been no meetings of the Committee. SF invited the Committee to supply details by 30 April of two suitable events taking place in the period 15 May to 15 July, so that they could be advertised in a Newsletter to all members of the partnership clubs and the semi-attached runners. And that each two months the same process could take place.
- b. **Training & Performance (TAPCOM):** A meeting of a dozen coaches in the partnership had taken place immediately prior to the Standing Committee and the following had been decided:
 - i. Coaching development: 5 members wanted to take coaching Level 1 courses (Paul Birrane, Mick Brearley, Will Kerr, Rizwan Khan and Gareth Wood) and one wanted to take a Level 2 course (Richard Phelps). DC would submit applications and seek to get reimbursement for costs from BADG (Bradford Athletics Development Group)
 - ii. Youth provision: pending agreement from Skyrac, there would be two youth training bases: at Eccleshill for east and south Bradford and Nunroyd Park for north Bradford and NW Leeds. It was intended to provide a monthly rota so that from September coaches might once a month assist with one of the two weekly Nunroyd sessions. It

was hoped that Helen Love would be able to send her finishing Year 6 students from St Walburga's to one of these training bases from September.

- c. **Hosted Races:** TeM reported that there had been no formal meetings. But DC reported that John Carr registrations were currently at 240 per race. Moreover, committee members were busy preparing the Bradford 10k (see below).
 - d. **Development & Recruitment (DARCOM):** DA reported as follows:
 - i. Membership targets: DA asked for confirmation that each club wished to set clear membership targets for monitoring each year. This was agreed; though for Bradford-Airedale some preliminary discussions should be undertaken in this regard.
 - ii. Questionnaires/census: HF agreed to circulate details to "semi-attached" members (details from SF) and lapsed club members (details via BL from club secretaries – GH, HM, and TeM respectively). If returns were too large she might seek assistance with their analysis. Any postage costs would be borne by the Partnership.
 - iii. Beginners' Group: the committee envisaged a large number of beginners and novices from the Bradford 10k group, and there may need to be special provision for them. SF added that there were significant clusters of Bradford 10k runners in areas such as Craven, Clayton to Queensbury, and west Leeds (Armley to Calverley).
 - iv. Corporate development: Both Shipley Green's (gym) and Fitness First were keen participants in the Bradford 10k.
 - v. NHS development: DA reported that preparations by Gareth Wood and JW were continuing.
6. **Brief reports from the Officers:**
- a. **Budget and finance:** It was agreed that each club should send PW £100 to act as an initial float for the Partnership.
 - b. **Membership:** BL was waiting for detailed spreadsheets on members from St Bede's and Bradford-Airedale.
 - c. **Teams:** JV reported:
 - i. Bradford Millennium Way Relay (15 June): JV intended to enter several collective teams in this event, which was permissible since we were the event organiser.
 - ii. St Ives Trail Race (18 June): JV wanted to encourage a large participation from the partnership in this mob-match event against Bingley and a third club. The greater the numbers the higher our chances. A collective team had been approved by Bingley.
7. **Particular matters** for the present meeting:
- a. **Corporate crest for the Partnership:** Due to lack of time, this item was deferred to the following meeting.
 - b. **Epilepsy Action Bradford 10k:** SF reported on the following:
 - i. The absolute requirement for, potentially, 67 marshals from our ranks was problematic (the tally being 30 volunteers but may rise towards 40 by the time of the event). The meeting suggested that TeM discuss critically whether such numbers

were essential; in the meantime SF would contact other local clubs to seek additional marshals. No preliminary meeting with the police was now envisaged.

- ii. Greens and Fitness First would have promotional stalls at the end of the Bradford 10k, and goody-bags for finishers. It was proposed that we supply a leaflet for these goody-bags, advertising our training sessions.
- iii. SF reported on likely overall numbers (currently at 230 and expected to be over 500, which was the breakeven figure for Epilepsy Action). Almost one half of the runners were signing up for Airedale Athletics information; though, about 10% were members of other clubs outside the Partnership. Over 90% supplied email addresses.

8. **Any other business:**

- a. MM reported that under the new race-levy scheme almost 67% of income was returned by England Athletics as grants, and that was available for endurance running activities.

9. **Next meetings:**

Joint Committees:

TAPCOM: Monday, 19 May – Shipley Greens at 7.30pm;

DARCOM: Monday, 2 June – Idle CC at 7pm

Other joint committees: TBA

Standing Committee: Monday, 2 June and 6 October - Idle CC at 8pm

Board of Oversight: Monday, 2 June - Idle CC at 7pm

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

BAAC: Mondays, 14 April and 9 June (with interim meetings on 2nd Mondays of the other months)

St Bede's: Tuesdays, 22 April and 7 June

Eccleshill: Fridays, 25 April and 20 June.

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

Simon Forde, 30 April 2008.