

Tuff Fitty Committee Meeting - 30th October 2017

7.30pm – West Worthing Tennis Club

Committee members present: Clive Harvey (CH), James Brock (JB), Anthony Towers (AT), Tom Gray (TG), Clive Patterson-Lett (CPL), Nicole Ewer (NE), Catharine Western (CW), Wendy Frost (WF)

Actions raised from meeting

- TG to renew website hosting and report back at next meeting
- CPL to investigate holding a “club kit open evening” in the New Year
- NE to talk to Burlington Hotel manager to sort awards evening invoice out
- CH to get trophies engraved for awards night
- CW to check lead times for Frosty race belts and whether we could get a sponsor for the goodie bags
- CPL to chase up response to request for more pool time for Frosty
- CH to ask about Tuff wave at Worthing
- CW to publish newsletter (club champs, membership renewal, row row row Merry Christmas, Christmas breakfast run)
- CPL to ask Kev Pearson and Chris Levitt to renew their BTF membership
- CH to ask Gavin Sewell about track loyalty cards
- CW to send membership renewal e-mail to all current members
- CPL to follow up with Dom Amey about publications board at Littlehampton Pool
- Committee to agree minutes, and agree whether minutes should be publically published

Meeting Minutes

TG presented update on cross country - 5 men, 2 ladies. Bexhill to be promoted, TG can't make it. Lancing push at the end of November. Good comments made about the marquee.

CH presented STRUN. Keen to go ahead. Championship races dates to be decided first, then give it to Marchy / James Oram. Splashpoint 5k suggested as first race

CH talked about activity camp. Waiting for half ironman club champs date. Committee decided that the end of season date will remain, with a start of season considered. Warmwell worked well, but another location could work better as something different, based around a running race on Sunday or park run on Saturday. CH to take a look.

CW on run row run Christmas event. Paid up now, advertised on Facebook, but needs some more pushing during / after the awards night. Festive attire welcome, but we will make it clear that it has to be appropriate (for rowing in!) Bacon butties, mince pies, a veggie option and mulled wine as food options. We're responsible for the catering. £5 to enter. 2K run, 2k row, 2k run. Consensus is we won't need marshalls, just a flag at the turn around point (same turn around point for the both runs). Its marked as part of the park run anyway. 10 rowing machines, starting in waves, which will hopefully prevent queueing for machines. 1 or 2 people to do the timing. Safety briefing from CW's mum before the race. General consensus is we won't need race numbers.

General discussion whether “interested” response on Facebook could be removed – better would be “going” or “not going”. JB thinks it probably isn't possible on Facebook. Instead it was decided just to put explicit text in the event description so we know numbers.

TG presented website update. Instagram feed fixed. Club kit stock kit online and updated. Domain hosting is up for renewal for a 2 year cycle – Tom to update at next meeting.

CH update – coaches now have their jackets!

CPL presented current club kit order status – James Oram has pulled his order now (justifiably, after waiting for a long time), which has reduced the number of items. So now trying to fill extra numbers. Now at 8 items. Having available stock has may be a reason for reduced number of new orders, because people go for that instead, meaning 10 items isn't filled. Need to make clear: if you don't race in club kit, you don't qualify for club champs. General discussion on why club kit isn't selling. Sizing hasn't really been raised by an issue. Suggestion is that price is an issue, but quality is very good and no one complains about it. There is no delivery charge anymore, but Champion Systems require minimum 10 items order. They can do immediate delivery, but at 20% premium. CH suggested a club kit open evening – try on, see quality, place an order, plus could get rid of some of the stock. JB suggested a “Bring and Buy” kind of sale, as part of a social. CPL to look at organising this kind of event in the new year, with an event like this every time a new window opens. CPL reluctant to buy more stock kit, as we often sit on it for quite a while. CH to push the club kit rules when pushing the club championship. It hasn't been enforced as much this year, but should be for next year.

NE presented awards night organisation. Invoice received, which includes a charge for chair covers. NE and CPL agreed that they didn't ask for this, or that it was indicated as an extra charge. Consensus that the extra £145 was not worth it, and NE said she would go back to the organiser and get a new invoice without this extra cost. The organiser had also added two more people (58 instead of 56) on the invoice, so these would be removed too. The invoice issued is the full cost of the event, any drinks etc are purchased by the guests. If anyone extra says they can come, we can pay in cash on the night, but food order has to be placed 1 week before. CH reviewed the Terms and Conditions, signed and returned to NE. Decided that we will leave the DJ to sort music out, and Wardy to communicate with the DJ if he wants sound effects for his awards presentation. TG to see the organiser on the day regarding hooking up the video to their equipment. Awards are sorted now (swim, run, comeback, funny award). Some discussion about a cycling award being presented, but this wasn't agreed at the initial awards panel, so it was decided that one wouldn't be created now. Also, the coach of the year award would not be done this year. The consensus was if there was to be one, then it should be a closed ballot (survey, or vote by e-mail) from the members. CH / CW worked out that all the award winners will be there on the night, except a couple from the club champs. CH to get the trophies / awards – just missing the female award, which is with Tiff Orton. CH prepared the club champ results - 50 people in the males, 22 in the ladies club champs.

CW / CPL update on Frosty. Ready to go live. Price increase £2.50, so prizes are more substantial – glass tankards. Price increase fully covers cost of better prizes and better spread across Frosty and Frostbite winners (1,2,3 for both race). Goodie bag will be a race belt with Tuff Fitty's logo on it. Minimum order is 300, but we could use them for other events as prizes. CH suggested checking the Lead time for belts. CW put forward suggestion to include a water bottle with the belt (£2.50 for each bottle). After some discussion the consensus was that the water bottle would be excessive, so we would go with the belts with race toggles and gel loops. Suggestion was to contact someone (e.g. Grant Smalley with his protein balls) to sponsor the goodie bag prizes (along with the usual chocolate bar!). CW to investigate.

CPL explained there would be change of route for Frostbite to finish in the same location as Frosty. CPL has updated the map / race instructions to reflect the change. Gavin Sewell has created large, laminated versions of each to print out for the event. Pro forma created for marshalling points and given to Debbie Gatland, with slots being filled in as marshals volunteer. Extra provision for ferrying results from finish line. Gazebo to be used as finish line. Negotiations with pool at beginning of Oct very positive (starting time 6.30 instead of 7 running till 10). Waiting for confirmation came through much later with a point blank refusal to change in time. CPL has written back to ask for justification (explaining positive points of Tuff Fitty use of pool) of decision – waiting to hear back. If extra pool time isn't given and maximum number of entrants if reached, then we can just close entry early if necessary.

CW explained proposal that Frosty should be before Frostbite. AT expressed some concerns about processing results and space in the swimming pool reception area. CH suggested that prize giving for Frostbite could be straight after race instead. CPL gave reasons for swapping the order was

that the waiting time for all prize winners would be less and prize giving could be done together with everyone. Also the Frostbite is seen as the more accessible event, and the later time might encourage more first timers to enter. AT suggested electronic timing. CPL explained this could substantially increase the entry price. After some discussion, general consensus was that we would try the new running order and allow extra provision for processing results (e.g. a separate results recorder / laptop and using defined race numbers for each race).

CPL suggested that we could offer "club waves", the example of Brighton Tri Club was given, and they could run it as their own club aquathlon race. Consensus was to offer this when event goes live.

JB to look at doing the sponsored advert on Facebook as per last year.

CPL briefed the committee about format of club championship for 2018. Suggested that the club championship format could be changed to encourage a better club mentality, with three one-off distance races - sprint, standard, middle. Prizes for 1,2,3 male / female, 1st vet / super vet (male / female). CPL has seen good examples of this done by other clubs, and attracts a great atmosphere. For future means that lots of prizes are given out at the club awards night.

Suggested events (as discussed at the AGM):

- Steyning sprint, Worthing standard, Weymouth middle distance.

Weymouth is close to Littlehampton and the right time of year. Swashbuckler and outlaw were suggested as better priced options, but the time of year they were held meant it could clash with the other races. Weymouth is a race that has published its dates early and the events chosen have been selected to allow members to possibly do all the races.

As a concept, the committee agreed this was a good idea.

For the events put forward, the committee agreed with each of them.

For events, the committee agreed that the events selected were appropriate.

CPL questioned whether we could get a Tuff wave at Worthing. CH to follow up with Mick Dicker.

Club champs to be published in newsletter, website. Caveat – has to be in Club Kit!

Starmark – An accreditation award. Shows that our club is run well. No extra cost to get accreditation. Bronze requires one level 1 coach, but all coaches have to members of the BTF for insurance purposes. Kev Pearson nor Chris Levitt are listed as members on BTF website. CPL to talk to them otherwise Saturday swims are not insured properly. Committee agreed that it would be good to go for Starmark. After bronze we can go for full accreditation.

At AGM a Track Run card was raised. Won't include a freebie, but would help people with not having to carry lots of loose change. CH to speak to Gavin Sewell to get some cards printed.

TG talked about the new Facebook groups. After some discussion it was agreed that the groups would be closed to members only – such that it was seen as a benefit of membership. Certain events can be public when required to encourage potential new members to attend. CW mentioned this could be done for the Strava groups too. This would happen after the membership renewal is done.

AT / CW discussed the membership renewal. CW to get consolidated list of new members and sent out renewal e-mail. CW to send membership list to AT. AT raised that the new members should get a special renewal e-mail describing they don't have to renew.

AOB

JB raised that the committee poster is out of date at the Littlehampton pool. CPL says action was with him, and he has spoken to Dom Amey about putting something generic together. CPL to follow up.

CH asked AT if anything regular for finance should be on agenda. AT didn't think this was necessary, with questions from committee raised as necessary.

CPL raised the regular club cycling ride. Thanks were given to Chris Levitt for trying the 12 week

Sunday ride. Numbers have not been good in recent weeks. WF said that they were trying to ensure someone could always be there to run a route or perhaps set up a rota with 5 – 6 people. CW suggested the Facebook groups could be used in the future to advertise them.

CW asked if breakfast run had been booked. CH said it had been done for 16th December.

WF raised that when Facebook posts went up about swimming, the swim numbers were higher. JB agreed to continue with Facebook advertising for swims.

CH raised Arundel Lido had not published their Christmas dates yet, but once they have he would try and organise some Christmas run / swims or cycle / swims.

CPL asked if the minutes are published. They currently are not. AT said that if they are to be published, they need to be approved at the following meeting first.

Next meeting:

27th November 2017