

Tuff Fitty Committee Meeting - 27th November 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)

Meeting Minutes

TG renewed the hosting of the website, £86.26 for 2 years. AT settled the invoice from the club account.

CH has e-mailed Mick Dicker regarding a wave at Worthing for the club championship, awaiting reply.

CPL has chased Kev and Chris regarding membership of BTF (for coaches insurance). Neither has a problem with it, so should both be members in due course.

CH has asked Gavin Sewell about track charge card, and has now got some printed up and ready to use at the next track session. Thanks to Gavin Sewell.

Membership renewal e-mail has been sent out after last meeting. Another reminder needs to be sent out soon to chase up the remaining ones.

CPL has followed up with Dom regarding the notice board at the leisure centre, and things are on going.

Committee agreed that minutes could be published, after minutes were agreed at committee meeting. Minutes to be published on the website. Last month's minutes were agreed, and to be published on the website.

Feedback from club awards night was largely good, setting the precedent for future events. Food was good, price was reasonable, the ticketing system and the time of year went down well. CPL suggested a slight change to the format, which would be to present awards between the three courses, and suggested that award winners could give a little acceptance speech if they would like to (to make it feel more like an awards night). The general thought was that the venue was good too, so would definitely be an option for future events – but it could be trickier if numbers increase. A formal record of thanks to Nicole Ewer, Catharine Western and Clive Patterson-Lett for organising.

CH has spoken to Marchy and James Oram regarding getting the STRUN going for 2018. Committee agreed this should go ahead (now that we have the club championship dates in), so CH to give the green light.

CPL has heard back from the pool, and secured extra time for the Frosty event. Now we will be in the water for 6.30am and last swimmer out at 9.30am, which should be another 3 waves. The event is now live, with 10 entries so far. CW has sent an e-mail to all past participants and local clubs. Some further promotion is required on Facebook. The local clubs have been given an option to use the race as a club race, but no interest so far – but can see the e-mail has been opened a lot of time. Most Tuffs aware that volunteering is the preference rather than racing. CPL suggested an incentive to volunteer, such as a bacon sandwich voucher or similar. It was pointed out that all the volunteers receive the memento. CH suggested that the incentive could be a free entry to a lido race, which the committee agreed would be a good idea.

A further suggestion was to include other clubs (e.g. scouts) with volunteering, but the general consensus was to just keep it within the club for now, as we should be able to secure enough

numbers through that means. It was reinforced that the Frosty event could secure the future of the club financially, so should be well supported by Tuff Fitty club members. CPL suggested that a dedicated e-mail could be sent explaining why the Frosty is important to the club, and that the committee should promote when possible at training / events.

CW to chase up whether the paramedics present last year are available this year too.

CW followed up regarding the Frosty 2018 memento. Race belts with gel loops come in at £4.50 each, and also followed up the protein ball company and they have offered a protein ball back at £1.20. AT suggested that the memento should include the year on them, as that seems to make them feel more valuable. CW to check whether some of the race belts can have the year on it, and some not.

TG suggested that the fliers printed out earlier in the year could be given in the bag. CH suggested that the fliers should be given to targeted people (i.e. people who live locally), which was accepted. Race instructions have been printed out and laminated, and water proof clipboards purchased.

JB suggested that a pre-event briefing could be given the day before, which the committee agreed would be a good idea.

23 people have accepted for the Row Row Row Christmas event so far on Facebook. There are 10 rowing machines, so there will be a couple of waves.

JB offered to marshal, which CW happily accepted.

The registration will be on the day, pay, then race.

CH has some medals for the last Christmas Cracker event and ordered some more.

Stew Smith and CH have met with Worthing Otters to discuss using them as a feeder club. Nicki Gatland is very keen to run a junior club as part of Tuff Fitty.

The suggestion is that Nicki will run junior club events in parallel, coming together at events such as the Lido. CH and Stew Smith to meet with Nicki to discuss further.

From the BTF's point of view, Tuff Fitty can take members from age 16 with no problems.

AT stated that the junior part of the club would have a different subscription rate. CH also pointed out that CRB (or the nowadays equivalent) checks would need to be done too.

One key viewpoint from the committee was that the identity of the adult club remains. Another was the possible time / cost commitment from the club and coaches (including the "back office" functions, such as maintaining the CRB checks). The hope is that it would be almost self-sufficient. WF noted that a benefit would be the ability to boost the numbers at the pool by having a junior section (especially with the new pool having 8 instead of 4 lanes). WF also noted that at other junior clubs, parents are expected to participate in the running of junior events (e.g. take the money, supervise the training sessions).

The general consensus from the committee was in agreement, given the reservations noted above.

CH has met with Kelly Wickins regarding StarMark. There is one more thing to do and we should be good to get the Bronze StarMark.

CH has tried to organise some swims at the Arundel Lido on the 23rd and 30th of December, but is waiting to hear back. Littlehampton pool is open on the 23rd, but the general consensus was in favour of the Arundel Lido swim.

AOB

CW and AT agreed the current membership list, which would be updated when members renew. Debbie Gatland has an additional list, which includes swimmers that have filled out ParQ forms (and are not necessarily club members).

TG thanked CPL for the Sausage Sizzler cycling event. There were a couple of logistical issues with a large numbers in groups, and suggested it could be an event that could be held a few months or every month. Also the Garmin route TG prepared didn't work well, so CPL suggested the route could be ridden next time in preparation.

CW is now looking at the Facebook groups (instead of forums), but noted that as membership is up

for renewal at the moment, the group members won't be finalised until the membership is (next year). The same will be done for the Tuff Fitty Strava group. If the Strava group is actually Tuff members only, then we could start thinking about introducing awards for notable achievements.

NE raised that Arunners have a shop on their website to handle all purchases (membership renewal, events, some kit, etc), which she suggested Tuff Fitty could adopt too. The general consensus was that this is a good idea, in line with modern culture. CW and TG to gather and present options to next committee meeting.

CPL stated that the kit order has been fulfilled and is now being processed.

CPL raised that the messaging for the club championship is not quite right, and people may misinterpret how that championship is being run (and might think they have enter all races). CPL also suggested that there should be a category above the Super Vets, which would be the over 60s, to recognise the whole membership. The general consensus was this is a good idea, with the name "Legends" suggested.

Next meeting:

8th January 2018