

# **Malvern Joggers AGM**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Manor Park**

February 7, 2018

### **I. Minutes and matters arising from the last AGM**

After Club Night chip money – 1 in 4 pubs charge £10 – this works out at a few pence per member per year – committee would keep to this unless the pubs change their approach

MJ's 10k Race Chip Timing – Options have been investigated – manual system – team needed to come forward to action this otherwise chip timing will be used.

LIRF Training will be covered in annual summary

2 trained last year, one was unable to train to personal circumstances

### **II. Chairman's annual summary**

The MJ's are officially 15 years old this year. It is good to see many of those who started the club still enjoying the Wednesday runs and competing at all levels.

This club has always been about encouraging new runners and supporting existing members. It is not an elitist club and I trust it will never be so. There is a tremendous effort that goes on behind the scenes to organise club activities and keep the club running. I thank my committee members for all their hard work over the year. In particular, almost in isolation the sterling efforts of a small group dedicated to supporting our juniors most Sundays mornings come rain or shine. I would like in particular to thank Andrew, Annaelle and William for their support of the juniors.

Our Couch to 5K activities continue at full pace and it was particularly rewarding to see so many of last year's January to Easter group staying with the club and competing in races. I know Megz, Emily and Charly find it rewarding working with a team of helpers to make this life-changing opportunity possible for so many folk.

The Malvern parkrun is something the committee has long and hard looked into but have been frustrated by not being able to find a suitable venue, however I am pleased to report that finally the MJ's will be working in partnership with Upton

Rugby Club in providing a parkrun in Upton hopefully later this year. Steve Roode will be leading on this so if you want to get involved please contact Steve.

The London Marathon draw. This has been a contentious issue for the last two years in the selection of who has eligibility for the draw. Following tonight's meeting a voting option will be posted on the MJ's website until the end of March and you the members can decide how the future allocation takes place. In principal we have broken down the options to the number of places we have been allocated. For example, if it is one place we have the voting options of non-London/newbies only or the whole club in the draw. The options for two or more places will be posted on the website. Giving everyone time to consider the options. We are also proposing that from this year anyone winning the ballot will not be eligible to apply to the MJ's ballot in the future.

Jerry will be reporting on our finances, but in essence they remain healthy and allow us to subsidise the training fee for the Leader in Running Fitness course for any member who is willing to support the club as a run leader or Junior leader. I am pleased to announce that in addition to 3 LIRF places being available in 2018 we will also subsidise the fee for a coaching award. The expectation is that who ever applies and is successful in achieving this award will organise weekly training session to support MJ's in their aspirations, whether this is Marathon, track / circuit, C25K or some other training activity. Any MJ who wishes to apply for this opportunity has until the end of this month to submit their application to me outlining what training activity they will provide on completion of the course. In the event of multiple applications, the committee will decide on who should receive the award.

We have over the last few years got through a number of membership secretaries, we don't know why this is the case but following Megz, Catherine took over and now due to moving to Hereford in the very near future this post has become vacant. I thank both Megz and Catherine for their help and support. Applications were sought following the announcement of the AGM, and one person put their name forward. Therefore, I am happy to welcome Suzanne Brett to the committee as Membership Secretary.

As I announced in the first few lines of this report the Club is 15 years old, and in human terms an 'adolescent'. Growing up through adolescence is a time of change, surprise and at times frustration.

I was surprised for the first time in 2017 to receive an official complaint from a member of the public following a race in Worcester where a number of MJ's were by their use of language causing offence to others in the Foley Arms.

I did apologize on behalf of the club to the family concerned. All I would ask without passing any form of judgement on any member of the club, is that wearing club kit in a public place easily identifies the club in the worst possible light if the behaviour is deemed to be unacceptable by members of the public.

In terms of change the formation of a new running club in Malvern is not totally unexpected. For over fifteen years people have been enthused and inspired by their membership of the MJ's and quite naturally wish to do something different or seek new challenges and as such many MJs have joined Malvern Triathlon Club and also now the Malvern Buzzards. I wish the clubs good luck and hope in the future we can work together in some way to provide an even better healthy experience for folk in and around Malvern.

I talked last year about collaboration with local organisations and in addition to the parkrun in Upton mentioned earlier, our joint venture with Callow End saw the first 5k and junior race take place in September. This year the date has changed to July where we hope the MJ's and other local clubs will also support this run and fund-raising opportunity.

I know Julie is frustrated when trying to compile the Champions league by illegal race number swapping. I am acutely aware that a number of MJ's have undertaken these swaps and place themselves and those who lent out their race number in jeopardy from England Athletics on at least a year's ban from entering any race. This would be such a tragedy and ask those who cannot run an event not to allow your number to be used by someone else or for MJ's to approach anyone for a race entry unless the organisers agree to it. We are also aware of non-MJ's entering races and claiming their race reduction, if you know of someone doing this then remind them that membership is only £20 year!

Finally, many MJ's have commented to me that they are very happy with the running of the club but also on occasions I have received comments such as the club does not provide Marathon Training groups or supports track training. Whilst I hope the new coaching opportunity will somewhat answer those comments. I sincerely ask for MJ's to come forward and volunteer to support the running of our club, the committee members are fully stretched in undertaking their roles for which I and all of the club should commend their freely given time and support. Quite often we receive comments such as why don't you do this and try that. Whilst we acknowledge these comments we do need 'fresh blood' to support us and move the club forward with new ideas, new activities and new events. So please step forward. Your club needs you.

Thank you that concludes my report for 2017.

### **III. Accounts and reports from committee members**

*Jerry*

The latest unaudited accounts are for the year ended 31/12/2017. A copy of which is attached to this report.

#### **Summary & Forecast**

The net funds held by the club at the end of the year are £3,912. This is an unexpected increase over last year and the club has also shown a slight excess of income over expenditure of £137. A loss had been expected due to last years' decision not to increase membership fees and instead fund the increase in England Athletics (EA's) cost from club funds.

The reason the loss did not occur was:

- **a surge in membership in the second half of 2017**
- **lower expenditure on LIRF training than planned; and**
- **No bills from MSJ (Venue Costs) or the Herefordshire AAA (cross country fees.)**

The total cost of these is estimated at around £600 and will be budgeted for next year.

The healthy state of the clubs funds means that the committee have decided to leave the membership fee unchanged and the club will continue to absorb EA's fees increase from surplus funds. It is estimated this will cost the club an additional £200 for next year (2018).

Further surplus funds will be used to provide training and the club will fund 3 LIRF training courses this year and will also fund the training of a club coach. The total training cost is expected to be £1000.

#### **Notes to the Accounts**

##### **Junior Joggers:**

The Junior Joggers accounts are maintained separately. Income and expenditure is accounted for within the main account on a summary basis when it is reported to

me. The Juniors made a small loss (£14.00) for the year, but still carried forward a cash surplus from previous years of £67.00

#### **Income Highlights:**

- **Senior Membership: The club has enjoyed another record membership with 222 first claim members. An increase of nearly 40 on last year.**
- **Race income: This years' race was also a record entry with record income and was full before the night. The net race profit was £549**
- **Misc. Income: £190 of the £936 shown is true income - £140 refund for LIRF training from the sports partnership from our couch to 5k programme and £50 from the club payback scheme from the Worcester 10km run. The remaining £746 was raised from the Pubathalon Collection and was fully donated to the club charities.**

#### **Expenditure Highlights:**

- **Cost of Kit Sold: Kit is treated is usually treated as sold at cost. However, this year we made an exceptional write down of £402 for old kit that was sold off considerably below cost. The value, at cost of current Club Kit stock held is estimated to be £1294.00**
- **Charitable Donation: £1000 was donated to this years' Club Charities – Heartstart Malvern and Prostrate Cancer (£746 raised from the Pubathalon and £244 from Race Profits)**
- **Race Costs: These were similar to last year, but with some increases in venue costs. Catering was provided again by the Bridge Foundation. Although they are not our official charity the £400 cost includes a donation element**
- **Social Events : The club provided a £533 subsidy to the cost of the Christmas Party and spent a further £322 on other social events (BBQ, Yacht Handicap, club night food.)**

*Paul*

Hi Guys, I'd like to thank you all for your support and race reports over the last year, especially Julie who send me one or two most weeks.

As you may remember mine is a temporary role to cover for Annie Robsons maternity leave... How's that going Annie?? Is it right the kids start big school in September ;)

You may have noticed a change to the membership forms this year, this is all down to Data Protection, we now as club have to ask you permission to use your photos in the paper or website, so we ask you to sign to give your consent once a year, I then will get a list and if your name is on that list, I will not publish photos of you. All I would ask is if you don't want to be featured when group photos are taken is to step aside otherwise the others in that photo won't get featured either.

If you are doing a local race believe me 99% of the time I will track you down ;) However its sometimes tricky if it's an unaffiliated race that doesn't list the names of the clubs just the runners or if it's a race further afield. If so please drop us a few lines and a photo and I will endeavour to get it published. I need to send the article in by Monday evening and although I send upto 6 photos at a time not everything I send gets published, but we are very lucky other sports clubs in the area are very jealous of the coverage we get and long may it continue.

***Comment by Graham*** – Praise for Paul's work and the coverage in the paper

*Steve*

2017 was the busiest year for Kit sales ever with a total sales of £2679.

In that we did sell off over £400 worth of old stock at a reduced rate.

We did see a slight rise in kit prices that was passed on by our suppliers WASP and A star printing, but we still sell at cost price and don't hike our prices to the members.

Recently we saw the introduction of the new Hoodie and I am currently looking into new kit at 2 other suppliers Ron Hill Specials and Gloucester Sports – I have placed a trial order in with Ron Hill specials and expect the delivery of kit shortly, if this is acceptable we may even see a lowering of future kit prices

*Emily*

The first and main thing for me to do is thank the run group leaders. Those who do it week in week out, and those who try to hide when they see me coming on a Wednesday, but step up and help out when needed. On any given Wednesday we have at least 10 groups going out, sometimes more. We have adjusted the pace advertised based on feedback when needed, and I always welcome that feedback from anyone who feels they would like something to change. However, there is only so much I can do as the coordinator, and I can't create or advertise a group when nobody is willing to lead. Currently the 8min/fast group needs a leader and I most definitely cannot do that one myself.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help cover illness/injury or at the moment parent's evenings... Please message me if you are willing to go on the list, particularly heading into summer runs when people are often away.

*Julie*

By request of the membership, some changes to the Champions League took place in 2017. The number of races was reduced to a more manageable 2 a month over 11 months from January to the end of November and a separate male and female scoring system was introduced. Also, the idea of a Joker was established where a runner could double their points in one race during the year - the rules attached to this are on the website. However, only 19% of the total women participants played their Jokers and 13% of the men.

There were 52 male participants in 2017 and 37 female, and the combined numbers were down on 2016 by 17. Croome Capability Canter attracted the most female runners with 14 whereas the Worcestershire Beacon Race attracted the most men with 18 runners. Races are selected to include all abilities with distances ranging from 5k to half marathon, and include road, off-road, multi-terrain, hilly and flat and I would like very much to see a broader cross section of the membership taking part. If anyone has any ideas on how to advertise this to a wider audience or how to encourage more runners to take part in what is fundamentally a fun league, I'd be happy to take your suggestions on board.

Again this year, I have listened to the membership and included a race in November from the Herefordshire Cross Country League and have plans to include the Worcestershire County Cross Country Championships in January 2019 to encourage participation in this event. This is an occasion not only for individuals but also as a team. For both these events, only 1st claim members of Malvern Joggers will be eligible for points on the Champions League.

Just a reminder that all paid up members from 2017 will receive points on the 2018 Champions League for races taking place in January and February only. From March 2018, only paid up members of Malvern Joggers will receive points on the Champions League until they pay their membership.

All the rules regarding the League can be found on the Malvern Joggers website.

Also in 2017, I've been updating the Race Diary on the website with local events every month rather than every 2 months, so I hope you've found this source of reference useful.

Thank you to everyone for your support in 2017 and for all those who took part in the Champions League.

*Sam*

The new website was launched April 2017 with a new Design and Structure. Since its launch, we have received 6,246 visitors. The website's primary usage was Summer Run checks, however it's use has shifted during the winter months and usage has fallen.

We have re-introduced the news back into the website to communicate key message to members without Facebook.

Generally, I have received good feedback from members about the website and I would like to say thank you to Julie for updating the races diary, Paul for updating the gallery and Charly for updating the news section.

I always value feedback and comments from members about improving and introduction of new features.

**IV. Election of committee members**

Covered in Chairman's annual summary

**V. London Marathon. Allocation of places**

Covered in Chairman's annual summary

**VI. Selection of MJs' Charity 2018**

Two options – Stroke/Citizen advice bureau

Annie – Citizen Advice Bureau

Charity, not government funded

Pregnant, offered advice about exit deal

Working with local GP and Councils

Advice about debt, disability and employment

3500 clients in the Malvern Hills area

£500,000 paid service – Volunteer run (45) and Staff (5)

Support local people to change their lives

Malvern Joggers and Citizen Advice Bureau – partnership 4k for youngsters organised by trustees

Question about the funding –

Local or regional – ringfenced to Malvern Town

Split the charities question –

Local and National

39 in the room (+25 people online – stroke association)

10 people – citizen advice bureau

19 people – stroke association

Carl referenced the option of supporting Stroke this year and then Citizen Advice Bureau the following year

Proposed to members and acceptable to members

## **VII. AOB**

Medals for 10k – MJ

Split feedback from members

Cheapest option

Ideas about prosecco for ladies

Venue of the Christmas party

Polls about venues - Website

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Minutes submitted by: Sam Marshall

Minutes approved by: Carl Flint

Dated: