**Skipton AC Annual General Meeting: 10th December 2021 (Broughton Road Bowling Club)**

Just prior to the meeting we presented cheques to Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue (UWFR) and to Sue Ryder Manorlands for money raised respectively at our Fancy Dress run 8th December and the Bolton Abbey Runs 14th November. Thanks to the representatives from these organisations for attending. Thanks to members for supporting these events / charities.

**Refreshments** were interspersed throughout the meeting

**The meeting was opened by CR at 19:30**

There were 20 **apologies** for absence and CR thanked people for being in touch. **Present** at the meeting were: CR, SM(1), MT, JB, KR, AR, SB, HS, TB, DF, HS, DL, JS, SM(2), SH, RS & PN

**Notes** from the virtual **AGM** 25-01-2021 (in place of usual meeting at year end 2020) had an **action** to arrange a first aid course. CR spoke to Rob Jones at Craven Leisure and he quoted for a multi evening course which was concluded to be inappropriate for the club and individual needs. Further research needed (perhaps ask our contacts at UWFR). Remains an ongoing **action**.

**Reports**

**Financial:** TC compiled the draft accounts (30th November) which were available at the meeting to members. TC reported (in absentia) that there has been a small increase in club funds. Activities (and therefore transactions) have been covid curtailed. The ratio of membership income to subscription expenditure remains similar. Website expenses were £0 last year because the fees for both years are included in this year’s accounts. The club holds sufficient funds in the bank and building society accounts.

**Membership:** JC compiled a breakdown of membership by age and sex. The club has 94 members which is a reduction from 124 last year. JC (in absentia) reported a slightly higher number of female members than males. Several members at the start of our 2021 year said they would not renew their membership as they did not anticipate doing any racing. It was noted (CR) that we fall short currently of the 100 members needed to qualify for a guaranteed London Marathon club place. KR reported re-reading the relevant communications and believes that for the upcoming and next London Marathon the previous membership will apply.

**Correspondence:** KR reported the nature of the communications received from England Athletics including the club support emails which are all forwarded to members. KR handles the club affiliation with EA and confirmed that the individual affiliation will remain at £16. The London Marathon place situation will be informed on most probably in February.

**Juniors:** HS reported that there are now 30 junior members with around 7 to 15 regulars. Juniors have been taking part in the BOFRA races and have had good successes. HR, JD, CR, AD and JH have been coaching / helping regularly. A new delivery of kit for juniors is hope to be delivered by Xmas! Additional help from adult club members would be greatly appreciated.

**Wednesday runs:** DL / SM report that the ‘pub’ runs are a great success with 12-15 people each time but a large pool of people regularly taking part. These runs are carried out with a great spirit, are a credit to the club and for newcomers a good way in to get to know people. Run leaders welcome.

**Election of Officers / Committee Members:** Post holders during 2021 had confirmed they wished to carry on in post and no members said they wished to put themselves forward as alternatives. All continue for 2022.

**Chair:** CR reported that we may be a small club but we punch above our weight; quality if not quantity! We are taking part in a huge number and range of events and are visible by our successes and our representation throughout the field of entrants. CR thanked all the club officers and committee members and those who put time and energy into organising. CR thanked RG for her weekly updates of results and of the upcoming runs.

* KR said thank-you to CR for all she does

**Discussion points**

**Membership**

* **Fees:** There was discussion around having a ‘non-competitive’ club only membership for those who want to run but not compete and therefore not need EA registration. The members present decided there would be a £20 membership tier for people who wish this. Other membership fees will remain the same.
  + The discussion opened out to include a process to record new runner information and to have a tighter approach to ensuring people join the club after c. 3 runs on club nights.
* **Increasing membership numbers / diversity of membership:** Discussions were lively with many good ideas. The members present identified several themes. We can:
  + Work with Broughton Road Community Centre and Skipton Building Society to encourage participation by Muslim women;
    - Encouraging diversity of membership was noted as being about aiming for a range of ethnicities. It was also noted that the current membership is somewhat ‘middle aged’ and a younger profile should be an aim and participation in the club and in parkrun is not necessarily by the socio-economically less advantaged.
  + Have a takeover or two at parkrun to make ourselves more visible to the range of runners there;
  + Contact members from the last few years who are no longer members to see if they wish to re-join;
  + Have some ‘advertising’ material to highlight what club membership will give people;
  + Encourage our better runners to organise sessions to which people somewhat quicker than the regular attendees at club nights can be accommodated;
    - There will be a meeting in February to discuss which of these to concentrate on and how and by who.

**Communications**

* Facebook, Email, WhatsApp, Website. The pros and cons of each were discussed and effectively we continue as we have been doing. As with any modern communications, we need to help each other to ensure that all members have access to information about club activities but there is a recognition that comms are never perfect.

**Coaching**

* CR thanked all those who currently coach. There are a few people whose status is lapsed (due to lack of safeguarding course availability).
* The intervals by HR have been well attended and successful. CR to ask HR if she will do two sessions per month. HS is also willing but there is the challenge of her and the other coaches being tied up with Juniors. CR asked for extra assistance on Tuesdays.
* CR reminded that funds are available to support people to take coaching courses.

**Dates for Diary 2022**

* AR has organised the **parkrun league** which is proving excellent.
* JB reported that the 2022 **club championship** will begin after the parkrun league.
* DL is booking the Scales bunk barn for the **Keswick Mountain Festival**.
* SM says that **relay** dates are not yet known.

CR **closed** the meeting c. 22:00 and thanked everyone for attending and DL for organising the use of the Bowling Club.