

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MILOCARIAN ATHLETIC CLUB
HELD AT THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB, MARBLE ARCH, LONDON ON TUESDAY,
25 MARCH 2014, AT 11.00 HRS

1. Attendance:

Neil Wood (in the chair), Paul French and John McCarthy.

2. Apologies:

Mike Sumpter.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2012.

Read and approved.

4. Matters Arising:

a. Subs.

- i. The annual membership fee had been raised to £10 for new members with the introduction of the new membership form and this had gone smoothly. It was agreed that the current level of subs was appropriate and no further increase was needed.
- ii. Non-payers, such as John Foster, had been chased, but to no avail.

b. The Website.

- i. The Match Secretary felt that the photograph of the team, taken in the '90s, on the home page, should be updated and he would speak to the Secretary about finding a replacement.
- ii. The Chairman said that he would provide another article for the website, relating to the history of the Milocarian Trophy.
- iii. It was agreed that the website had been much improved since the last meeting and now worked well.

c. Serving Representatives.

It was agreed that the following members:

- i. RN Capt Dan Lewin RM
- ii. Army Maj Rob Poole
- iii. RAF Flt Lt Sam Wallington

would be approached at the Runnymede Relays and asked to become the serving representatives. Their proposed duties were set out in the minutes of the last meeting.

d. Engraving for the Milocarian Trophy.

See 12. below.

e. Re-introduction of the Club Championship.

Done, with some amendments to the format in the minutes.

f. Re-introduction of the Home Match.

Done.

g. Links with Headley Court.

It was agreed that a member of the committee should attend the London District cross country championships, usually held at Headley Court, as a matter of policy.

h. Publicity/Recruiting.

No change, except that, if the service representatives were willing, it would help if they distributed posters and fixture cards.

i. Archive Material.

The Chairman had reviewed the material held by the Secretary, but had not found anything of significance. He would write to the archivist at Sandhurst to see if any club records were held there.

5. Financial Position.

Little change from the previous meeting as outgoings had been fairly evenly balanced by subs and the odd donation. The only significant extra cost had been for the home match which amounted to about £150.

6. Home Match Wash-up.

a. It was agreed that the home match had gone very well, with the willing help of the Sandhurst staff and had been much-enjoyed by the competing clubs. The Chairman thanked the committee and their ladies for all their hard work.

b. It was felt that the quality and presentation of the tea to drink had been below par and that there should have been water available at the finish. The Chairman said that he was confident that he could obtain suitable tea making equipment, for future matches and that he would investigate the provision of a supply of water.

7. Next Home Match.

There would be a cadets' race at Sandhurst in October 2014 and it was agreed that it would be good to re-establish the home match at the beginning of the cross country season because the guest clubs would be less committed then. The Match Secretary would find out the date of the cadets' race, confirm with Sandhurst that the home match could be run concurrently and issue invitations to the clubs as soon as he could.

8. Constitution – Terms of Membership.

It was felt that the current membership terms, as set out in paragraph 4 of the constitution, did not meet the needs of the club. They did not allow for relatives of members to be invited to join, nor civilians whose athletic ability and support for the ethos of the club would make them assets. After debate, it was decided that an extra paragraph should be added to the membership terms as follows:

“6. The committee shall have the right to invite non-service people to become members by virtue of being relatives of existing members or of their athletic ability and support for the ethos of the club. Any invitation is to be endorsed unanimously by the committee and will then confer full membership rights.”

Subsequent paragraphs should be re-numbered accordingly.

9. Affiliation to UK Athletics.

a. The club is currently not affiliated to UK Athletics and there was debate regarding the pros and cons. It was agreed that the principal benefits of membership, insurance cover for runners and discounts for entries to open races, were not worth the fees – currently £8 per member per year, so about £800 for the club. One-off cover for the home match could be bought for about £50 and our habitual hosts are affiliated, thus Milocarian runners are insured at Ranelagh, Orion etc. It was agreed that lack of affiliation had not proved to be a drawback hitherto, thus no change would be made. This did not preclude the matter being reviewed at any time.

b. The status of the club in relation to the Joint Services Sports Board (JSSB) was also raised. The club had received grants from the board up until the late '90s when it was decided that the level of funds in hand no longer justified taking the money. It had been assumed that the club retained a formal link to the JSSB, but a long time had elapsed since this had been last confirmed. The Chairman undertook to contact the board in an effort to either confirm the club's affiliation or, if it had lapsed, to re-establish it.

10. Presentation of the Ploen Trophy.

It was agreed that the trophy should be presented at the Runnymede Relays, at Windsor, on 5 July 2014 and:

a. The Secretary and the Match Secretary would cross-check their records to verify the results before publication on the website.

b. The President should be invited to make the presentation, between 2.00 and 3.00pm.

c. That a glass, engraved goblet should be presented as a permanent memento for the winner and medals for second and third places: the Secretary is requested to obtain these, please.

d. That the Wyvern Society should be invited to the presentation.

11. The Runnymede Relays, 2014.

It was agreed that:

a. The club would enter 3 teams initially with the option of adding more should there be sufficient interest.

b. With those runners who have already declared an interest and sufficient support from Sandhurst, the club should be capable of winning the event.

c. The first team would consist of the best runners, no matter what their affiliations and the Match Secretary would endeavour to ensure that it was the strongest team available.

12 .Recording the Missing Winners on the Milocarian Schools' Trophy.

- a. The Chairman reported that he had arranged to have silver plates, for engraving, put on a spare plinth and he would give the plinth to the Match Secretary at Windsor.
- b. It was acknowledged that the engraving, recording several decades of competition, would be expensive and the Match Secretary said that he had already approached the Treasurer of the Wyvern Society for help towards the cost.
- c. It was agreed that the Sainsbury's Schools Games winners (The South East Region, 2012 and 2013) should be added to the plinth.

13. Extending the Season.

The Chairman reported on the MABAC League, a race series held in Surrey throughout the cross country season.

- a. It was an inter-club series and races attracting between 100 and 200 runners were held monthly, on Sunday mornings.
- b. There were no entry fees for the league, but each club had to undertake to help organise a round.
- c. The organising club had to secure the agreement of the landowner for the fixture to take place and provide course marking; registration, running the finish and providing the results are undertaken by the league's officials.
- d. The league would not be interested in a fixture at Sandhurst, owing to the security constraints.
- e. There are races scheduled for 6 April and 4 May 2014 and the Chairman said that he would try to attend one of them and a committee meeting that would take place in the next month or so, just to find out whether it would be worth the club becoming involved.
- f. The view of the meeting was that it would not be advisable to extend the fixture list into what would be the athletics season with additional matches in April and May. In previous years Sandhurst had not been able to turn out runners during this period. Teams would continue to be entered in the Runnymede Relays as the event was popular with a wide range of members.

13. Any Other Business.

- a. The Chairman said that he would draft a report on the year and circulate it for comment in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.35pm.

