

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MILOCARIAN ATHLETIC CLUB
HELD AT THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB, MARBLE ARCH, LONDON
ON MONDAY, 11 APRIL 2016 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 11 August 2015.

Read and approved.

4.Matters Arising:

a.Potential Committee Members. Both Steve Moody and Francis Pearce were approached, but declined, as did Ian Ward, Mark Appleton and Tony Dimmer.

b.Other matters arising are included in the agenda.

5.Succession Planning.

a.This remained the club's principal problem. The existing members of the committee were happy to carry on, but the fixtures secretary said that he was looking to hand over his role in October 2017. The chairman said that, if all else failed, he would take over as fixtures secretary.

b.A brief review of possible candidates did not turn up any likely candidates.

c.The chairman said that he would prepare notices to go in The Pennant, The Wish Stream and The Waggoner calling for new blood for the committee.

Afternote: the editors of The Pennant and the Sandhurst Trust newsletter had both agreed to publish a notice in their next issues. The Sandhurst Trust would also put in on its Facebook page.

d.The fixtures secretary would contact Sec. ASCB and the chairman would get in touch with Howard Long to see if either could suggest individuals or groups who might be willing to get involved. The treasurer would contact Frank Boland who should now be back in UK. Brig Ling would also be asked for advice if he came to the Runnymede Relays.

5.Treasurer's Report.

a.General. The club had about £3.4k in hand, split between the current account and the National Savings account, having made an operating surplus of just over £400 in the last year.

b.The 'Subs Exercise'. Twenty members paying historic rates of subs had not responded to the subs exercise, but payments had continued to be received from some of them at the old rate. The treasurer would compile a list of names and the committee would decide whether to repeat the process.

c.It was recognised that the biggest expenditure would always be the home match. If Sandhurst effectively hosted the event, the costs of the trophies, teas and insurance would remain bearable.

6. Chairman's Report. The chairman said that he had not yet written the report, but would eventually circulate it for approval by the committee before publishing it.

a. Although the recent season had not been quite as spectacularly successful as its immediate predecessor, he felt that the club had acquitted itself well and had always fielded a competitive team; he congratulated the fixtures secretary for his efforts .

b. This year's report would draw attention to the increasing number of individuals competing for the club – see 8. Club Champion, below.

c. The chairman would also include a paragraph on the subs exercise and how valuable it had been in re-establishing contact with long-standing members.

7. Home Match Planning.

a. Date/Venue. The fixtures secretary had had an undertaking from MAA RMAS that the event could take place at Sandhurst on 29 Oct 16 and would probably be held in conjunction with the RMAS Inter Coy race.

b. Competitors. All the clubs which habitually hosted the Milocarians would be invited, plus Sandhurst Joggers, Runnymede Runners and Orion and the fixtures secretary had already circulated the date. It was hoped that Sandhurst might enter an academy team too, but it was recognised that the companies would probably not want to release their better runners.

c. Admin.

i. Scoring The same scoring system would be used as last year with numbered tags issued to finishers and team envelopes with team members' names written on them. Names would be obtained from club access lists submitted to the fixtures secretary who already had the tags. The non-running branch of the Wood family had volunteered to compile the finish order and team results again.

ii. Timekeeping. Last year a electronic stop watch with print out had been borrowed from Sandhurst; the fixtures secretary would ask Sandhurst to provide a similar facility again.

iii. Staffing. It was hoped that committee members would all be available to assist with timing and scoring. The fixtures secretary would ask Gordon Howard if he and Elizabeth would come along to lend a hand.

iv. Medals. The treasurer had the details of the supplier and would order medals for the first three men and women, suitably inscribed.

v. Tea. Committee members' wives would be respectfully asked to produce cake and sandwiches as before and the fixtures secretary would confirm numbers, to include supporters and non-running members, in due course. The treasurer would ask the website manager if he will be available and able to contribute and the fixtures secretary would ask Elizabeth Howard to help too. The ladies of the Wyvern Club would be encouraged to bring cakes, but they would be seen as 'bonuses'. The chairman was confident that Birchalls would provide tea, urns and cups, as last year.

vi. Entry. All the clubs had had experience of the Sandhurst entry procedure, but the fixtures secretary would reiterate what would be required in his circular to them. Advance notice of car details and drivers/passengers would be needed and proof of identity to be produced on the day.

vii. Non-running Members. As part of the subs exercise, non-running members had been invited to the home match. The treasurer had a list of their email addresses and would extend an invitation to them and would stress the importance of conforming to the entry procedure. The treasurer and the fixtures secretary would need to co-ordinate their circulars to ensure consistency.

viii. Trophy/Engraving. Nick Wood currently had the trophy and the chairman would check that the engraving had been brought up to date.

8. Club Champion.

a. It had been another close-run season with the outcome dependant on placings in the last race, at BA. Felix Keating became club champion for a second successive year, but only by 2 points from Nick Bennett. Eight points covered the top four in the table, all of whom scored over 100 points.

b. The chairman currently held the Ploen Trophy and would get it engraved before it was presented to Felix at the home match.

c. The treasurer would obtain the glass goblet, suitably engraved, for Felix to keep and the medals for second and third places in the club championship.

d. The chairman expressed his delight at the number of individual runners who had represented the club during the season. There had been a total of 37 scorers in the championship table of which 11 had been ladies. Also, the club had been able to enter strong male and female teams at Ranelagh's 2016 Ellis Trophy meeting, something that had not been achieved for a very long time.

e. In recognition of the increasing number of lady runners, The Wyvern Club had kindly offered to contribute a trophy, to be known as The Wyvern Cup, for the lady with the highest points score in the season. The fixtures secretary would have it suitably engraved for presentation to Hannah Jarvis at the home match.

9. AGM. It was agreed that an AGM should be held after the home match with the aim of involving new members as much as possible and any non-running members who come as supporters too. The chairman would circulate a draft agenda for comment.

10. Race Programme for 2015/16. It was agreed that a programme of 8 fixtures would be planned, incorporating the home match and then visits to the customary host clubs. Ranelagh's June fixture would be publicised, for individual entry, as preparation for the Runnymede Relays, however, it would not count towards the club championship and nor would the Orion 10 mile race. The fixtures secretary would get race cards printed once he had confirmed dates of the fixtures.

11. Membership/Recruiting. The fixtures secretary emphasised the importance of obtaining email addresses from any and all runners who turned out for the club, so that contact could be maintained with them. The fixtures secretary would contact Jack Stamp, at The Keep, to see if he would distribute some fliers around the patch.

12. Trophies.

a. The Milocarian Trophy. This was won by the South West team in September 2015, at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester and the chairman will attend this year's finals in Loughborough.

b. The Milocarian Cup.

i. This was awarded by the chairman to the Millfield School 4 x 800 girls' relay team whose winning run was reckoned to be the most noteworthy girls' team achievement of the Achilles Schools' relay championships, held at Iffley Road, Oxford, in May 2015.

ii. This year's championships will be held at Iffley Road on 5 May 2016.

c. The Terry Lewins Trophy. The club won its own trophy, at the home match, in October, for the third time in a row and the cup is in the keeping of Nick Wood.

d.The Ploen Trophy. Held by the chairman – the winner does not get to keep it because postings would cause problems keeping track of it. The chairman undertook to have it engraved with the new champion's name soon.

e.The Wyvern Cup. This is a new trophy to be presented for the first time in 2016, to the club's leading lady runner which has been donated by The Wyvern Club, of former pupils of King Alfred's School, at Ploen. Currently, the cup is held by the fixtures secretary who would have it engraved in preparation for the home match. The Wyvern Club's continuing support for the Milocarians is much appreciated.

13.Schools Games – Change of Sponsor.

a.The chairman informed the meeting that Sainsbury's had ended its sponsorship of the schools' games with effect from the 2015 event. Currently, the Youth Sport Trust retained the contract to organise the games, but had not yet found a new sponsor, however, the Dept of Culture, Media and Sport had undertaken to support the event until a new sponsor was found. Nevertheless, the fact that the 2016 event would be staged at Loughborough did point to there being less money available.

b.The transfer document, drawn up to allocate the Milocarian Trophy to the athletics element of the schools games, contained a clause requiring the agreement to be re-negotiated should the sponsor change. The chairman invoked the clause after the 2015 event and had come to agreed terms with the chief executive of the Youth Sport Trust, Alison Oliver, that the trophy would continue to be awarded to the winning athletics team for subsequent games for as long as the Youth Sport Trust continued to be responsible for organising the games.

14.Affiliation to UK Athletics.

a.The club had renewed its affiliation for a further year. The fixtures secretary had spoken to most of the club secretaries on our fixture list and the general opinion was that non-registered runners could compete in our scheduled matches. The Runnymede Relays were regarded by the host club as a charity event and outside the bounds of registration.

b.Thames Hare&Hounds explained that they had a two tier system whereby the runners who formed the club's league teams were registered, but the remaining members, who ran for fun in inter-club matches, were not.

c.The committee decided that it would not be necessary to get into detailed discussions with UK Athletics regarding individual registration. It was also agreed that the club would pay for public liability cover for the home match because UK Athletics's group policy would not cover unregistered runners.

d.It was concluded that the club should continue to affiliate and would treat individual cases on their merits. However, the assumption would be that members would not be registered with UK Athletics unless they asked to be and paid the subscription themselves.

15.Leafletting the Keep. See 11., above.

16.Any Other Business.

a.Guests at the Home Match. It was hoped that long-standing club members, such as Derrick Frost, would try to attend the home match and it was agreed that the net could be cast wider to include Malcolm Tozer, who had arranged the allocation of the Milocarian Trophy to the schools'

games and Alison Oliver, the chief executive of the Youth Sport Trust. The fixtures secretary would approach Malcolm Tozer and the chairman would get in touch with Alison Oliver.

b. Attendance at district and service level cross country races had been both useful and enjoyable: it was agreed that members of the committee would try to visit as many as possible during the coming season.

c. OTC Participation in District Championships. The fixtures secretary would speak to the RSM of London University OTC and suggest that a team of cadets should be entered in the 2016 event as it would give them useful competitive experience.

d. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

17. Date of Next Meeting. TBN.