

MINUTES OF THE MILOCARIAN ATHLETIC CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

AT 11.30AM ON THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2019

Present: Neil Wood, in the chair, Paul French, cross country secretary, Mike Sumpter, webmaster.

1. Apologies for Absence: John McCarthy.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 22 August 2018. The chairman had produced the last meeting's minutes on 23 August 2018 and circulated them for approval before they were finalised, so the meeting agreed that they would be taken as read.

3. Matters Arising.

a. Succession Planning.

(1). The members agreed to carry on for a further year but would continue to try to find replacements for themselves while holding the fort for as long as they feel able.

(2). The cross-country secretary said that he made increasing use of Tom Rann as team captain and it was agreed that this provided valuable help and kept a good runner involved and committed to the club.

(3). The chairman said that he had had hopes of Gabi Shanahan taking a role and had kept in touch with her. Sadly, she has been very ill and although she was now recovering, it looked as though she and Nick might be moving to Scotland which would not work for us.

(4). The chairman had approached Ady Whitwam, at the Inter Services cross country, but he had said that he would be too busy to take on anything in his current job. However, he would be interested in taking a role, once he had left the service and would probably settle in the south east eventually because of his wife's job.

(5). The chairman suggested that David Brandfoot and Kelley Haniver might be approaching retirement and it would be worthwhile to make approaches to them. The cross-country secretary mentioned that Kelley Haniver had been posted from London District to Aldershot; he would follow up to find out who had replaced her at London District.

b. Membership/Recruitment.

(1). It was agreed that membership was stable and that the core of active runners seemed to be growing and its quality improving. Phil Niblock had just joined, and the cross-country secretary had had expressions of interest from two other runners recently. He would also follow up Andrew Reeves and his partner, Sarah Pemberton, who had said that they would join as second claim runners.

(2). The chairman expressed regret that the runners from the OTC seemed not to continue to turn out for the club once they had graduated. He recalled that the cross-country secretary had had some business cards printed with the club's details which had been issued to members of the OTC, formerly, to remind them to keep in touch. The cross-country secretary said that he still had the cards and would bring some with him to the home match.

(3). It was agreed that the cross-country secretary would have some more A3 posters printed and

distribute them to units with which the club had had contacts in the past, such as the Guards, Kings Troop, HQ the Household Cavalry. Kelley Haniver's replacement at London District might be able to help with names of the units' PE staff. Ideally the posters should be sent out before the start of the new cross-country season.

(4). The chairman said that he suspected that there had been a change of COs at LUOTC and he undertook to make contact in an effort to secure the new incumbent's support for the club.

c. AGM. It was acknowledged that the only opportunity to have an AGM would be after the home match, but members were usually anxious to get away once the presentations had been made. It was also agreed that nothing to be decided by the committee at the present meeting would need to have the consent of the membership, so no AGM would be held.

5. Treasurer's Report.

a. Stock. The chairman reported that he was holding 22 vests and 10 sweatshirts.

b. 2018/19 Outturn. The treasurer reported by telephone that the club had made a deficit of £61.45 in its last financial year.

c. Balance Sheet. The club's total worth, including stock and £842.36 in the bank, amounted to £2,995.73.

d. Raising Joining Fee. The chairman explained that the current £15 fee barely covered the cost of a vest and postage and he suggested that it should be raised to £20. He did not think there was any need to increase the annual fee, but it should stay at £10. This was agreed and the webmaster was requested to change the application form and any references on the website with immediate effect.

6. Chairman's Report for 2018/19.

a. The chairman said that the report had been done and circulated and he awaited responses. He added that probably the most important copies were those sent to Sandhurst and the LUOTC as they helped to remind them about the club before the start of the new season.

b. It was agreed that the report had become over long and the chairman agreed to shorten it in future by cutting out the terms and conditions that did not change year by year and referring readers to the website.

7. Home Match Planning. It was agreed that it should follow the well-tried and tested format and that everybody would be available to lend a hand. The cross country secretary had already established that Gordon and Elizabeth would be available and that would be a great help. The Master at Arms (MAA) in Academy HQ would still be in post and providing continuity.

a. Date. 26 Oct 19,

b. Venue. Sandhurst.

c. The cross country secretary confirmed that the club would be expected to piggyback on the inter-company race, as usual and that he would be aiming to field at least 7 competing clubs. He had contacted BA, Bank, Hercules, Thames, Kingston & Poly, Ranelagh, Runnymede Reading Roadrunners and Sandhurst Joggers. He would also approach Orion and perhaps Datchett Dashers who always do well at Runnymede.

d. Admin. No change – the round ground pavilion would be essential and the PE staff had managed to ensure that we had had power and water, last year and that would be needed again. And the wives are respectfully requested to provide the teas. Birchalls had been booked to supply

the tea urns, cups and contents.

e. Scoring/Timekeeping.

(1). Again, no change; it had seemed to be very effective last year and quick enough so that competitors did not drift away before the presentations. The chairman had booked the Farnham family to do the scoring again and print out stopwatches would have to be borrowed from Sandhurst, as usual.

(2). Feedback from the scorers indicated that the numbered tags and team envelopes with runners' names on, compiled from the access lists simplified scoring and should be used again. A couple of posts would be needed, to support the MILO FINISH banner, like last year. The chairman would bring the banner and cable ties to secure it.

f. Medals:

i. The list of awards and the wording should be the same as last year (with a change of date, as appropriate). Usual requirement, first three ladies and first three men and Terry Lewins trophy to the male winning team and the Wyvern Cup to the ladies.

ii. Also, medals for the winning male and female cadets: the cross-country secretary was requested to clear with Sandhurst that these could be presented at a suitable juncture. Last year's procedure had worked very well.

iii. The chairman said that he did not know whether Gen. Spacey would be there and he would ring him to check. It was agreed that the cross country secretary would invite Brig Ling and he would be able to act as stand in if necessary.

Afternote: Gen Spacey confirmed to the chairman that he had put the date in his diary and would be at Sandhurst to present the prizes.

g. Teas. See d. Admin, above.

h. Entry. The regular clubs and guests were familiar with the system now, so no change there and the cross-country secretary would get the details from the clubs and consolidate them for Sandhurst.

i. Non-runners. The treasurer is requested to circulate non-running members to invite them to the race. The cross-country secretary would extend the usual invitation to the Wyvern Club to come as supporters in exchange for cakes.

j. Trophy/Engraving. The Terry Lewins Trophy had been taken in for engraving and the chairman would bring it with him on the day. The cross-country secretary would do the same for the Milocarian AC Ladies Trophy.

k. Guests. The chairman suggested that there might be a new CO LUOTC and if so, he would invite him; he would also ask Gp Capt John Lawler, the chairman of RAF athletics in an effort to re-establish the RAF connection.

l. Insurance. The chairman would fix the public liability insurance, as usual. When the cross-country secretary meets the Sandhurst staff to tie up the details, he can assure them that the cover will be in force on race day.

m. Kit. The chairman would bring vests and sweatshirts with him to the race and the cross-country secretary was requested to put a paragraph advertising the sweatshirts in one of his instructions. The cost is £15 by hand or £18 posted.

8. Club Champions.

a. Rory Jordan had taken the men's title and was a worthy winner.

b. The chairman reported that he had got the Ploen trophy and would get it engraved in time for it

to be presented at the home match.

c. The treasurer would be requested to order a bowl, suitably engraved, like last year's for Rory to keep.

d. Celia Waring had won the Wyvern Cup for the ladies' championship; she would have the cup from last year and the cross country secretary was requested to ask Celia to have the trophy engraved.

e. There was debate about what Celia should be given as a permanent memento of her win, as she already had a sweatshirt. It was decided that she should be presented with a 'gold' medal, larger than the usual ones given to race winners, with the reverse face engraved MILOCARIAN AC, LADIES 2018/19 CHAMPION and her name. The treasurer was requested to make the necessary arrangements when ordering the trophies for the home match.

f. The cross country secretary confirmed that a total of 41 runners had contested the championship this year, a bit down on the previous year, but the quality was very good.

9. 2019/20 Programme.

a. The cross-country secretary said that he would try to arrange one match per month throughout the season and would approach the usual clubs to confirm the dates of their fixtures. It would be difficult to set a date for a race at BA because the club was currently having problems planning fixtures. A second date with, for instance, Thames might be substituted if BA could not make a commitment.

b. Fixture cards would be produced once race dates had been finalised.

c. The chairman suggested that, now Orion had dropped out of the calendar and BA had become doubtful, it might be worth trying to add another club to the list of 'usual suspects', to bring some variety to the programme. No candidates immediately sprang to mind, but the chairman would keep a watching brief.

10. Website.

a. The chairman thanked the webmaster for his efforts in keeping the website up to date and looking attractive. He added that he felt that it was easy to use and responsive and invited the user to rummage around in it.

b. The webmaster said that he had created a home match page, accessible via a link from the home page, that would set out all the details; he would circulate a draft for comment shortly after the meeting.

11. Club Trophies on Loan.

a. Achilles Relays: Millfield had won the Milocarian Trophy for a record-breaking performance in the girls' open 3 x 800m relay and the chairman had sent a letter of congratulations to the headmaster. The standard was good, and the event quite well supported but numbers were definitely down on previous years. The chairman said that the exam schedule was so remorseless these days that schools were reluctant to spare pupils and staff to take part in events such as this. He added that all credit should go to Berkhamsted School that organises the relays and puts a lot of staff effort into running them on the day. He had written to the school and thanked the headmaster for his school's continuing support.

b. School's Games: The Milocarian Cup was won, at Loughborough, in September 2018, by 'The South', but the cup is kept at Loughborough by Youth Sport Trust which is responsible for its security

and insurance.

c. Terry Lewins Cup).

d. Ploen Trophy) Both trophies had been engraved and were held by the chairman.

e. Milocarian AC Ladies Trophy. Held by the cross-country secretary.

12. Schools Games.

a. The South Region's athletics team had won the Milocarian Cup at Loughborough in 2018. The standard of performance was as impressive as ever with several records being broken. After an association of nearly 7 years, the club was now quite well-known in and around the Youth Sport Trust and its support was appreciated.

b. The sad trend of declining participation in the games had continued; in 2018 only five regions participated and there had been no representation from Wales and Scotland because they had not been prepared to pay for teams to take part. This of course, would reduce opportunities for participation for promising young athletes.

c. The chairman had recently been told that there would not be a Schools Games in 2019, as the event would be moving to a biennial schedule. Money was, inevitably, the cause, but the timing could not be worse. The Tokyo Olympics take place in 2020 and in Rio, a significant number of medals was won by graduates of the Schools Games; a year's hiatus will have a detrimental effect on team selection for Tokyo.

d. The chairman and cross country secretary had lobbied about this, but it is hard to reverse what had already become a trend.

13. Affiliation.

a. The club rules required members to be first claim to the Milos, but the chairman felt that was now unrealistic because the club does not have the access to service runners that it used to have nor the influence to get them to turn out for us.

b. Because the club did not register individual members with UKA, there would be no confusion if a runner registered elsewhere competed as a Milo. In fact, the club would be unlikely to be able to field the better runners if it could not run them as second claim.

c. The meeting agreed that the club rules should be amended to allow members to be second claim to the club and the change highlighted on the website. However, alterations to the club's rules should constitutionally only be made at an AGM and by a two thirds majority of the members. This would be very hard to arrange; thus, the proposed change would have to be made "pending confirmation". In the meantime, the club would continue to recruit and be represented by runners irrespective of any other club affiliations they may have. A sub para might be added to the club rules as follows:

10.e) "In recognition of the level at which the club now competes and pending confirmation by a two thirds majority of the membership, the club will follow a general policy of recruiting and running members who are first claim to other clubs while acknowledging that such runners will only represent Milocarian AC when they can make themselves available."

14. Publicity. This had already been covered under 3.b.Membership/Recruitment, above.

15. AOB.

a. The cross-country secretary reported that the London District cross country championships would be held at Tweesledown on 28 November 2019 and he would encourage the London UOTC to take part again.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.50.