



North Devon Road Runners EGM
Tuesday 25th June 2019; 8.00pm

1. Apologies and Welcome

Simon Haywood, Sue O'Grady, Steve Rattigan, Zoe Smith, Angela Walter

Members Present

Bryan Abell, Sam Baker, Margaret Beades, Justin Beckley, Sheena Benbow, Bethan Bennett, Caroline Bennett, Zoe Betteridge, Trev Bryan, Jeff Butler, Lucy Foley-Norman, Ruth Henry, Jacky Hevingham, Marie Leworthy, Nick Moore, Becky Mountford, Joyce Mulholland, Alan Nicol, Carol Rattigan, Aaron Rinder, Karen Sandwell, Dave Smale, Katrina Smale, Jenny Stone, Alan Talmage, Bill Thorne, Michelle Williams

2. Agree draft minutes from AGM

There were no objections to the minutes for the AGM, which took place on the 25th April 2019 and therefore, these have been agreed.

Justin Beckley (JBE) showed members where club rules and previous committee meeting minutes could be found on the website (in the 'About' drop down menu on the top left hand side of the menu bar). There is also an AGM drop down menu which will contain the AGM and EGM minutes and supporting documentation in due course. JBE told members to please remember to sign in to the site as these documents are not available to the public domain. JBE said if anyone has any problems accessing these, to please inform JBE, Trev Bryan (TB) or any other Committee member.

3. Open Committee positions 2019/20

Social Secretary

JBE confirmed feedback from the survey monkey included members wanting social events including potentially the Christmas party. JBE asked all members present whether they had considered the Social Secretary role (as this had remained vacant following the AGM) and wanted to put themselves forward. There were no volunteers for this role.



JBE said he would send an email to all members but to let everyone know it means that social events will not take place as the current Committee members do not have the capacity to take these on in addition to their current roles.

Nick Moore (NM) asked if an outline of what the role entails could be included in the information to members. BA asked JBE to include a list of events the Social Secretary would be expected to do. JBE confirmed he had included a link in the original communication to the 'Meet the Committee' on the website but that he will add more detail in future communications.

A discussion took place about whether this could be a dual role to which JBE said this was a possibility. JBE also confirmed there is a member who potentially may organise the Christmas party but who would not be a Committee member / or take the role on fully.

JBE asked members present to think about it and approach Becky Mountford (BM) or other committee members if they are interested.

Arlington Race Director 2020

JBE confirmed that Zoe Smith (ZS), based on the success of the 2019 race wanted to continue supporting it as a club and would remain as Race Director for 2020 with the continued support of JBE and TB as per 2019. JBE confirmed Sam Baker (SB) was interested in taking on the role in the future and she may shadow ZS for the 2020 race and potentially be the Race Director for the 2021 event.

4. Election of the 2019/20 Open Committee Positions

ZS will remain as Race Director for 2020. There were no other changes to the current Committee.

1. General Rules (Tokens) :: Amendment to Club Rule: Rule 44

JBE informed members that TB would propose the proposed amendments to Rule 44 regarding tokens.

Firstly, TB gave an apology to members present to tell them that it had been highlighted to him that the words/phrases he had used at the AGM did not come across as intended and for some members had felt that he was insulting their intelligence - TB apologised for this and said it was never his intention. TB told members he would be happy for any members to speak to him or another Committee member if they were still unhappy.



TB discussed the proposed rule change with regard to the token reward system, telling members that the Committee members were happy with the way in which the token system was working. TB confirmed the system gives a clear indication of which members have assisted them and highlights who has contributed positively. TB confirmed that currently the tokens can be redeemed for NDRR race entry and now the Committee would like to extend the facility to enable members to redeem tokens against coach travel and the Annual Dinner.

TB asked the members present for feedback as to whether they thought the token system was working as it should and if not, if they had suggestions for an alternative system that could be put in place.

NM asked how long it took for the tokens to be rewarded to members to which TB confirmed they are added quickly after the event takes place, however, if anyone believes they are missing any, to please ask the relevant person who would be rewarding the tokens i.e. Race Director, Relay Captain.

JBE confirmed that two members have paid for their entries Braunton 2020 race entry using tokens.

Feedback included that it felt to some members as though they were in a 'Big Brother' environment. Jenny Stone (JS) asked whether members can opt out of the system as she felt as though she was being watched. TB confirmed that this was possible - the member would need to let the relevant Race Director / Relay Captain know for each race / event that they did not want to be awarded tokens.

Caroline Bennett (CB) asked whether the token system had increased the amount of volunteering by members confirming that she volunteers because she wants to rather than to be rewarded with tokens. CB said there will always be people who never help out and probably won't ever help, even if we have a system in place. TB confirmed that before the token system, we didn't have anything in place to see how many people were contributing and to measure this and therefore, needed a system to formalise it. CB questioned whether we needed a system at all as she believed the club was becoming too management orientated and as though we were using a business model and she was worried it was putting people off helping at races.

JBE told members that feedback from previous AGMs included members saying Race Directors etc were always using a 'stick' and telling members at club nights, "you need to volunteer or we will have to cancel the race" and so by introducing the token system we wanted to reward members who helped and encourage members who had not previously helped to volunteer. JBE said it was never our intention for it to feel as though it is a 'Big



Brother' environment. JBE said it was not possible to pay volunteers but that we wanted to give something back to those members that gave up their time in order to ensure the races went ahead and to say thank you. JBE said that part of the proposal tonight was to be able to offer the option of using tokens for coach transport / Annual Dinner places.

BA said he does understand that the system was intended to say thank you to members, however, said that the perception to some members was that people can see which members have tokens and how many and which members do not have any. TB confirmed this information was not accessible to club members.

It was discussed whether this was one of the reasons for some members recently transferring to other running clubs. Michelle Williams (MW) said they have the same problem for Park Run with regard to getting volunteers and that it wouldn't go ahead without marshals / volunteers. MW also said there are people who attend Park Run every week and do not help and there are people that attend on a regular basis only to help and therefore do not run. MW said she doesn't think the token system is why people have transferred to other clubs.

TB confirmed the reward system was intended to be a way in which we could thank members and that the proposed rule amendment would mean members could use their tokens for coach entry / Annual Dinner places in addition to NDRR race entry and therefore could be rewarded in various ways.

It was discussed that some members felt 'targeted'. TB confirmed members should never feel that way which was a decision the committee made when they first introduced the system - it was a way of thanking members who helped, not creating a 'blacklist' of members that didn't / were unable to help.

CB raised the London Marathon ballot club rule saying more conditions were potentially going to be added which complicated it to which JBE confirmed we had tried to simplify it but it had been open to interpretation which is why it had been reviewed.

JBE confirmed that since the token system had been in place, he as Race Director had seen a marked difference in looking for volunteers and not needing to send emails to members asking for help. JBE confirmed that with more than a week to go, both Braunton 2019 and Arlington Court Canter 2019 had a full capacity of volunteers. JBE said we cannot be certain that this is due to the token system, however, it is since this system has been in place. JBE confirmed for Braunton 2019, 14 members and non-members used their tokens for race entry and so this is a little thank you to those people. CB said she was made to feel bad that she is unable to volunteer due to family commitments etc. In response to this, TB said he currently has the same feeling as there is feedback with regard to Committee members not attending



club nights, however, he works away from home on a regular basis. TB told CB this point would be discussed during the 'Club Cohesion' agenda item.

TB asked members to vote on whether the token system is kept in place. JBE proposed this, seconded by MW. The majority of members present voted to keep the system.

A discussion took place around re-branding the system to confirm we want to thank our volunteers. CB suggested calling the tokens thank you points. A vote took place regarding re-naming the tokens, the majority of members present were in agreement.

A discussion also took place discussing awarding points to those members who provide and organise food for the NDRR relay to which TB confirmed this can be at the discretion of the Relay Captain.

BA agreed in principal regarding supporting the allocation of points to what task but suggested taking it out of the rules and publishing a list available to members e.g. to earn 5 points, a member will marshal at an NDRR race. MW supported this as members would be able to see how much they needed to volunteer throughout the year to earn enough points to be able to enter a race.

JBE raised the point that we want consistency between races for our members who are giving up their time - i.e. a similar amount of volunteer hours at one race should earn the same amount of tokens as volunteering at another race, which is why the list had been created as a guideline.

TB said the committee proposed to improve the system by including the ability to redeem 'thankyou points' for coach travel and the NDRR Christmas party. TB confirmed the amount of points needed would be not be known until each booking was made as costs were unknown at present and would vary.

Rule 44 - Current wording (first paragraph):

Members will have the ability to earn tokens, redeemable against North Devon Road Runner hosted races, through their active participation in volunteering. Tokens may be earned at North Devon Road Runner hosted races, Beginners Courses, Winter Handicaps and Club Relays.

Rule 44 - Proposed wording (first paragraph):



Members will have the ability to earn tokens, redeemable against North Devon Road Runner hosted races, Coach Transport and the Annual Dinner through their active participation in volunteering. Tokens may be earned at North Devon Road Runner hosted races, Beginners Courses, Winter Handicaps and Club Relays.

This was proposed by TB, BA seconded. All members present were in agreement.

JBE said to members that this is not an 'us and them scenario', this is their club and we all have a personal investment in this, saying that they had voted the Committee in, in order to act in their best interests.

2. London Ballot :: Amendment to Club Rule: Note # Rules 32 (c) and (e) only

JBE confirmed that a member had suggested making an amendment to Rule 32c at the AGM to include members being required to race at, at least one of the Summer relays (as part of the '*completed three races in club colours*'). This was discussed at the AGM and was to be continued at the EGM, however, JBE confirmed that the member has since withdrawn this suggestion.

JBE said that the original proposed amendment remained.

Rule 32c - Current wording:

The member must have proof, at the discretion of the Management Committee, that they have completed three races in club colours and a member must have accumulated a minimum of 10 tokens in the calendar year preceding the application for the London Marathon place.

Rule 32c - Proposed wording:

The member must be able to provide proof that they have completed three races in club colours and must have accumulated a minimum of 10 tokens in the period from January to the ballot-draw-date for the London Marathon ballot place in question.

JBE confirmed that this wasn't a proposed change to the content but to the wording.

This was proposed by JBE, Jacky Hevingham (JH) seconded. The majority of members present agreed (one member not in agreement).

JBE moved on to say that there was a proposed amendment to Rule 32e meaning that tokens would be deducted from the member's balance before the ballot took place, these would be



refunded if the member was unsuccessful in securing the London Marathon place. The proposed amendment also includes that the member is required to register via the club website.

Rule 32e - Current wording:

In the event of you securing the club place, 10 tokens will be redeemed against your available total.

Rule 32e - Proposed wording:

To apply for the club ballot place, you must register for the ballot event entry on the club website and pay with 10 tokens. In the event of you NOT securing the club place, the 10 tokens will be returned to you.

This was proposed by JBE, BA seconded. The majority of members present agreed (one member not in agreement).

3. General Rules (Barnstaple Marathon) :: Amendment to Club Rule 45

JBE said we had received feedback to say that some members accumulate a high number of tokens but under the current rules, in order to enter the Barnstaple Marathon they are still required to supply a non-NDRR member. This did not seem fair when the member had volunteered throughout the year, which was reflected by their token balance. JBE said the Committee had proposed wording to discuss at the AGM (however due to time constraints this was not reviewed at that time) which would mean active volunteers are exempt from this requirement. JBE confirmed this wording was reviewed after the AGM and it was considered by the Committee that with the proposed wording, there was potential for a member, who had sufficient token balance to buy a place by credit / debit card in 2019 and would not be required to provide a non-NDRR volunteer or lose their tokens. The same member could then use their tokens to buy a place for the 2020 marathon / ½ marathon without marshalling at any other event during 2020 and still not have to provide a non-NDRR volunteer. JBE confirmed that the wording had therefore been re-drafted as follows.

Rule 45 - Current wording:

Those members wishing to run the Barnstaple Marathon and ½ marathon shall provide a non-NDRR volunteer of 18+ years to assist with the event.

Rule 45 - Revised Proposed wording:



Those members wishing to run the Barnstaple Marathon and ½ Marathon shall provide a non-NDRR volunteer of 18+ years to assist with the event, unless the member has a sufficient token balance (i.e. ½ Marathon = 20 tokens / Full Marathon = 30 tokens), in which case, the member must pay using their token balance as payment, without the need to supply a non-NDRR marshal. Non-members registered on our system and with sufficient tokens will also be able to use their token balance as payment.

This was proposed by JBE, NM and SW seconded. The majority of members present agreed (one member abstained).

Alan Nicol (AN) said we are telling someone who is a member of the NDRR that they can't run in a club race which he doesn't agree with to which a discussion followed.

JBE told members it had always been hard to fulfil the marshal requirements in order to run the event and added that some running clubs do not allow any members to run their club races but said we do not want to be that strict. JBE confirmed that this race has the biggest requirement for volunteers / marshals and we need help from our members otherwise the event cannot go ahead.

CB said she agreed with AN and said there is limited point in putting on a big event if we don't let members run it and suggested stopping the event if each year we struggle to support it. CB said this would ease the pressure on members and enable better support for our other races, suggesting it's too big an event for a small club.

JBE said if this happened, there was a strong possibility the club could not move forward in its current function due to the running costs - he confirmed, as discussed at the AGM, the costs for hiring the Tarka Tennis Centre etc are funded by races. JBE said if we were to cancel the Marathon (half and full), we would lose over £7,000 in profit. CB asked about changing venues from Tarka Centre as she thought there must be cheaper venues available. JBE confirmed this is an area the Committee are looking into currently.

JBE confirmed that the running costs for the club included replacement of club items, for example, signage, hi-viz jackets, tables, hire of the Braunton Athletics Club. JBE said we could stop organising a race/s but the benefits of being a member would be at risk.

Katrina Smale (KSM), said that the club has lost members meaning there are less marshals available, however, JBE confirmed that club membership had increased. CB said she knows there are some members who are not renewing their membership when it expires.



AN said he thought this club has the best marshals, however, he thinks there are marshal points with too many marshals. TB said that in some situations, some people only want to marshal with a friend and we don't want to split them up. In addition to this, there are Health and Safety requirements - at road crossings etc. TB told members he had joined some forums and found that the UK is unique with regard to clubs holding races and managing these with free volunteers - in America, it is a business to make profits and the volunteers are paid. TB said that we want to hold races to give the club presence, attract people and to contribute to the community including making charitable donations. TB said the funds we make helps to do this and enables us to pay the running costs for the club.

A discussion followed regarding keeping races and what had happened in the past - for example, the Nightmare at Arlington having to be stopped as there were not any volunteers to fill the Race Director role following the previous RD's resignation. Following this, the Arlington Court Canter was at risk until Adam Davie took on the RD role in 2018 followed by Zoe Smith in 2019.

A second vote took place - JBE proposed the amendment to the rule change as above, BA seconded. The majority of members present agreed (one member abstained).

EGM Rule Change Proposals:

1. Proposed amendments to Rules 14 (Surplus funds) and Rule 15 (Closing dates for accounts)

JBE told members, that it had been brought to the Committee's attention, since the AGM took place, that there is potential conflict to two of our current rules which require review and therefore the following amendment is proposed in order for the club to continue making charitable donations e.g. The Devon Air Ambulance, CHSW, ChemoHero.

Rule 14 - Current wording:

The club shall be deemed as non-profit making and as such any surplus income or gains shall be reinvested into the club. Surpluses or assets cannot be distributed to its members or to third parties.

Rule 14 - Proposed wording:

The club shall be deemed as non-profit making and as such any surplus income or gains shall be reinvested into the club. Surpluses or assets cannot be distributed to its members or to



third parties, other than UK registered charities, approved by the relevant Race Director and the Committee.

This was proposed by JBE, BA seconded. All members present were in agreement.

Rule 15

JBE confirmed that due to the club changing status to a Limited Company, the date the account are now due has to be changed from the current date of the 31st January and therefore the rule needs to be amended to reflect this.

Rule 15 - Current wording:

The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Club and shall make up the annual statement of accounts and balance sheet of the Club to the 31st of January each year which shall after an independent examination be printed and circulated amongst the members at the Annual General Meeting. All payments made for or on behalf of the Club shall be made by cheque, debit card, credit card or via online banking, such payments to be made on behalf of the Club by the Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary, or by such officers of the Club as the Management Committee shall determine.

Rule 15 - Proposed wording:

The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the club and shall make up the annual statement of accounts and balance sheet of the club to the 31st March each year, which will be presented to members at the Annual General Meeting. Thereafter, verified statements will be made available to members. All payments made for or on behalf of the Club shall be made by cheque, debit card, credit card or via online banking, such payments to be made on behalf of the club by the Treasurer, Vice Treasurer or another person authorised by the Treasurer.

This was proposed by JBE, CR seconded. All members present were in agreement. .

Follow-up from AGM:

1. Ltd Company details publicised:

JBE told members, following the discussion and request at the AGM, the following wording was proposed regarding North Devon Road Runners Ltd to be communicated in the "About Us" and "Meet the Committee" sections of the website. JBE confirmed in addition to this, the website footer would be updated to include the Company number and Ltd status. JBE



confirmed that the club postal address had already been updated in the “Contact Us” section of the website.

Proposed wording:

North Devon Road Runners Ltd (Company number 11489338) is a non-profit Community Sports Association (CSA) with limited liability and is registered C/O Hayne Associates at 66 Whittingham Road, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 9LL. For correspondence the registered postal address is North Devon Road Runners Ltd, PO Box 396, Barnstaple EX32 2HN

The company is formed of directors fulfilling the following duties at North Devon Road Runners Ltd and having been voted in at the club’s Annual General Meeting each year namely; The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Race Directors (Braunton 10, Hartland Hartbreaker, Arlington Court Canter and Barnstaple Marathon & ½ Marathon), Coaching & Beginners Representative.

After each AGM it is the management committee’s responsibility to ensure that director’s names reflected at Companies House, reflect that of the incoming incumbents and that retired persons are removed.

BA requested an amend to the proposed wording whereby Director’s roles are not listed; the majority of members present supported this - the newly proposed wording is as follows:

North Devon Road Runners Ltd (Company number 11489338) is a non-profit Community Sports Association (CSA) with limited liability and is registered C/O Hayne Associates at 66 Whittingham Road, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 9LL. For correspondence the registered postal address is North Devon Road Runners Ltd, PO Box 396, Barnstaple EX32 2HN

The company is formed of directors fulfilling the duties at North Devon Road Runners Ltd and having been voted in at the club’s Annual General Meeting each year.

After each AGM it is the management committee’s responsibility to ensure that director’s names reflected at Companies House, reflect that of the incoming incumbents and that retired persons are removed.

In addition to this, BA said that the wording should be included in the rules as raised at the AGM - and requested an additional clause to Rule 4.

This was proposed by JBE and BA seconded - including the amended text as above and adding a clause to Rule 4. All members present were in agreement.



JBE re-iterated, for clarity, that this information would be included in the “About Us” and “Meet the Committee” sections of the website. In addition to this, the website footer will be updated to include the Company number and Ltd status.

Any other business (at the discretion of the Chair)

1. Club Cohesion :: General Discussion

JBE confirmed that the survey that had been sent to all members resulted in 46 responses.

Tuesday club nights

JBE told members that in response to the question “How have you found your experience of North Devon Road Runners so far?” resulted in mostly positive feedback including that members are very happy but would like to see structured sessions on a Tuesday JBE said that there was an indication of some members feeling dejected, in addition to references with regard to Committee members not attending club nights.

CB said that she is the only person that runs at her speed so she joined a slower group which is great socially but does not run at her speed, however, the next group up is too fast and so she doesn't have an appropriate group to run with.

JBE asked members whether they want to see organised groups based on ability, which we can publicise in advance. CB suggested having one route with a leader and sweeper whereby all members take part in the same route.

Ruth Henry said she liked the idea of everyone running together and that it would improve the running ability for all members as the slower runners learn from the fast runners and it's good for the faster runners to support by looping back and therefore it would feel like a whole club.

A discussion took place about all members having their own individual targets and how we enable everyone to do the distance and run at the speed suited to them / what they want to achieve. AT confirmed that in previous years there had been posters e.g. ten minute, twelve minute miles to help members find a group to run with but this only lasted 4-6 weeks as the general opinion at the time, was that this method was too regimented. AT said that he has



started a book of various routes starting from Tarka Tennis which was available to all members on a Tuesday night.

After discussion how local clubs organise their runs, two suggestions were made: 1) There is one route for all members whereby the faster runners loop back during the run and 2) There are one or two routes available but groups run depending on their ability.

CB said that runners are needed to lead / sweep and one person to run in the middle of the group. BA suggested an out and back - whereby you turn around to go back to the club after 30 minutes. BA added that the run held in Sandy Lane, Braunton last Summer was a success.

JBE told members we can trial these ideas with their support and asked how would we gather the information required - the route / leader. JBE said either or himself or TB would be able to post this information to the website / social media if they are given the relevant information.

It was agreed that we would offer one run a month (for 12 months as a trial) whereby one runner would choose the route / confirm the details to JBE / TB for advertising purposes and look after the group on the night. JBE, BT and JB offered to take this on for one run each; more volunteers would be needed in order for the club to provide an organised run each month.

JBE told members the reason for needing someone to 'own' the run is that historically once everyone has had 'their turn' it isn't continued but is then raised at the next AGM as an issue. JBE said that members need to take ownership as well.

JBE confirmed to members that the Improvers group had been introduced as it had been recognised that beginners were 'lost' after completing the 0-5k and this enabled them to continue their running and further their distances. The beginners celebration evening was mentioned as being a success although a change of venue could improve future events.

SW raised Tuesday nights as a concern for new runners walking in and not knowing anyone as she said it can be daunting. To help this, SW suggested asking a couple of members to stand in the foyer (saying this shouldn't just be expected of Committee members but other members as well) in order to welcome new people and put them in a group to run with. JBE confirmed this was part of the reason for the Mens and Womens Representatives - these roles were not only to organise and manage the relays but for new people / current members to talk to. SW suggested putting the NDRR roller banner in the foyer and confirmed she was happy to volunteer to be a point of contact. JH volunteered to help with this but not on a weekly basis.



JBE told members that feedback was positive with regard to the Parkrun takeover and suggested continuing with this, for example on the first Saturday of every month, confirming that the Committee would contact SW about this in her role as Parkrun Race Director.

To summarise, JBE said we would use the route book and plan what route would be used (appropriate for the season) and one volunteer would 'lead' the group once a month (this could include trail runs elsewhere e.g. Sandy Lane) The idea would be for everyone to run together with the faster runners looping back and if anyone wanted to cut the route short, they could go back to club in smaller groups. The members were in agreement with this idea.

Each week on a Tuesday, SW, JH and others (volunteers welcome!) will stand in the foyer and welcome new runners / help them find a suitable group to run with. The NDRR roller banner will be placed prominently in the foyer.

Thursday club nights

JBE moved on to Thursday training sessions and said that this could be the most inclusive scenario for the club. JBE told members the feedback for the coaches was brilliant and it was commented on how dedicated they are. BA offered to run a Thursday session on a Tuesday night to encourage more members to take part and to enable members to participate in training sessions, who are normally unable to attend on a Thursday.

Members agreed this was a good idea; BA agreed he would send some dates / details through to JBE to advertise.

JBE told members feedback for the Thursday training sessions is positive and that the reasons for members not attending were due to work commitments etc rather than being due to the content of the sessions.

Communication

JBE told members one of the survey questions asked whether it is thought that the Committee communicate efficiently to which the general answers were average to good. JBE told members we try to communicate using every possible method including the website, social media (the official Facebook NDRR page and a Discussion Group which is less structured), Strava, email and the noticeboard at Tarka Tennis.

Committee Presence



JBE told members in response to what members like and what can be improved, feedback had been received with regard to the lack of Committee presence on club nights. JBE confirmed that his personal circumstances had meant he had been unable to run for the past few months but that he did attend club nights during 2018. JBE said that other than one Committee member who has a long term injury (although has continued to support the club in her Committee role), as far as he is aware, all other Committee members attend the club.

JBE added that he has a personal commitment to the club and even though he has not been running in recent months, still attends the club on a Tuesday night and will continue to do and said if anyone has any questions or suggestions to please come and speak to him.

JBE confirmed that the new Committee members would be updated on the noticeboard at Tarka Tennis and told members the reason for the delay was to wait for the EGM and confirm details regarding the Arlington Race Director and Social Secretary roles.

Social events

JBE told members that there had been lots of feedback regarding social events that members would like arranged by the club. JBE added that a survey was sent to members last year focussing only on social events and based on those results, events were organised including the Summer Social 2018, whereby only three members attended. This was followed by only six people signing up for the coach (as requested by members) to attend the Weston Christmas run in December 2018. JBE told members we are listening to what they want and will continue to do so but this needs to be supported by member involvement.

Other feedback / further discussion

JBE told members that the feedback regarding the relays had been positive and participant numbers had increased over the past two years.

A discussion took place regarding members transferring to other clubs, mainly Fremington Trailblazers - CB said that they run together as a group as they can often be seen running at weekends. NM said that the club began initially as a group of friends / group of people within a community and he thinks that continues to show even though the club has grown in numbers.

CR said that what she loves about our club is the fact you can "come and go as you want". CR said she has seen the club go through peaks and troughs, as other clubs do and said it does happen.



Sheena Benbow asked why we had not been able to hold the relays at Tarka Tennis to which CR it was with relation to the number of runners / people that the relays now attract and the Tennis Club's capacity to manage this. JBE agreed it was very frustrating and confirmed that we are not being closed minded about changing venues, telling members we are looking at other opportunities including potentially the gig club. JBE confirmed if this is something that is possible, an EGM would be called.

JBE told members that he is not bigger than the club and will stand down with a moment's notice saying that the most important thing is that members feel that he and the Committee are serving the club and giving members what they want - and listening to them. JBE said that hopefully we had started to improve club cohesion in tonight's discussion but asked members if there was anything they were unhappy about.

JBE confirmed everything that had been discussed would be included in the EGM meeting minutes and would be sent to members in due course. JBE confirmed this would include the Survey Monkey results.

JBE told members if they had any questions or queries following the meeting or in the future to please contact himself or a Committee member.

2. **Doone Run**

JBE told members we had received a request from a member as to whether we as a club can support the Doone Run in 2019 as we have supported the race in the past (not in a Race Director position). The member has asked if we would be willing to support this from a structural point of view - using our entry system and equipment but we would not be required to be involved with the organisation of the race itself. JBE said that ZS had supported this as long as it did not interfere with the Barnstaple Half / Full Marathon and therefore the end of October would be a more favourable time to hold the race.

JBE asked members for their thoughts on this and whether or not they supported having a discussion or whether they would prefer at this stage, that we said we could not be involved. A discussion took place about how the race would be branded and therefore the possible positive / negative impact on the club. One member suggested asking for marshals for Barnstaple Half / Full Marathon in return for our assistance.

Following the discussion, JBE proposed having a conversation to discuss further. BA seconded. The majority of members present were in agreement. JBE said we would feedback to members before making any decisions.



Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Approved