

Minutes of Meeting Amber Valley and Erewash Athletic Club

Committee Meeting: 7:30 Monday 7th August 2023
Community Room, Ilkeston Fire Station

1. Apologies for Absence

Janine Bonser ("JB"), Damian Banks ("DB"), Vicki Shore ("VS") and Claire Brackenbury ("CB")

The following committee members were present: Jayesh Dave ("JD"), Julie Feeney ("JF"), Rich Woodward ("RW"), Dan Humphrey ("DH") and Sarah Turner ("ST").

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Minutes approved by the committee.

3. Previous Actions and Matters Arising

Credit email from EA

DB was away but RW recalled seeing an email confirming that we were able to offset a credit against a future invoice. JD confirmed that was correct and this was resolved.

Athlete assistance

The former athlete met with JD and JB a few weeks back and it was a productive meeting. She will now put together a proposal and what she can deliver, and to whom, and then that proposal will come back to the committee.

ACTION: JD to report back on progress.

Issue with Officials at YDL

RW confirmed that he had not received anything further and it's probably now too late to do anything. The committee discussed this issue and decided that it may be wise, next season, to provide TMs and officials with some training on what to expect, and what to do, if things are not 100%.

The Portacabin

Dealt with under future proofing.

Competition process for 2024

This will be put on hold until the back end of this year/early next year.

Leaflet

DH confirmed that he had managed to source the image from Becky Moss, who had previously purchased it. The leaflet has been created and DH has put it on as many 'Spotted' groups as he can. Take-up is not coming through yet, but it was agreed that the more the club is known, the better.

Card reader and 3rd account

Dealt with under finance.

Club Championships

Dealt with under Club Championships.

Awards' night

Dealt with under social events.

Coaches' proposal

Dealt with under payment for coaches' vote.

Course for Geoff

RW confirmed that they'd seen GL at Loughborough on Saturday and he looked happy. JD confirmed that he had also heard it was a worthwhile retreat. For the avoidance of doubt, the committee had decided that the course was worthwhile and had agreed the funding between meetings.

4. FG development and future proofing

FG development

JD has been in contact with Tom at Derby Uni, and he is set to visit shortly to see the facility. In short, the idea is that for £25 per hour and a quarter, we'd get access to the long jump pits and gym. They have staff at the gym so the athletes would not be unsupervised.

JD wants it self-funding so the athletes going cover the costs – at £25, as long as a group is 7 strong, costs should be covered.

The idea is to start with Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and see how it goes.

ACTION: JB to report back on progress.

JD has also booked the tennis centre from September and has sought all 3 courts so that we have enough room for both groups. RSP have agreed to clear the third sector if they use it for something else.

RW also wanted to put on record that, come October, strictly the upper-TG should be moving to the FG full time. DH suggested we keep them for a month, so they get Sportshall practice. RW agreed that was a good idea and JD also suggested on occasion a coach brings others up for practice.

ACTION: RW to send JB a list of the year 8s so that they know who they will get.

Future proofing

Firstly, we now have a key to the kit cupboard and its ours. We do need to tidy it up though. JD had seen the office space, but it wasn't great and probably best to concentrate on the Portacabin.

On that issue, JD has seen about 3 different councillors about this. They have all agreed that it would be fine, and it looks like we might get £500 grants from each. Further, JD spoke to the Duke of Rutland's solicitor, and, after a long chat, he has agreed to the cabin. In fact, it's been suggested we seek to a donation rather than paying for one.

Next steps are for JD to speak to Mike at RSP and work out how this will work – where it will be based, what it will look like etc. We won't have a toilet or running water but we should have electricity so we can make drinks.

ACTION: JD to provide an update latterly on progress.

5. Payment for coaches' vote

JD said he had spoken to those not attending and the votes were Yes: 1; No: 2. He said that, although he had his own views, as chair he needed to put forward the pros and cons. On the plus side, JD said that athletes benefited from their coaches being there and coaches picked up additional knowledge from other coaches attending these types of events.

On the negative side, JD said this had been discussed in the past and the idea of a criteria would be very hard to determine. It could open a pandora's box where everybody is claiming for travel (for example, a parent coach may argue that they are attending as a coach and therefore travel should be paid).

He also mentioned that ST was keen to go for a third option; a Yes but with a yet to be agreed criteria.

In the end, the vote went Yes: 1 (+1 with criteria to be agreed); No: 6; Abstained: 1.

ACTION: Committee will still consider if there are alternative ways to help but the vote is as set out above.

6. Finance

Card Reader

RW and DH confirmed that the card reader is working well. RW said he couldn't find the wi-fi so was hotspotting off his phone. Not a problem but maybe need to investigate.

DB was not present, but he had sent an email about the problems he was having with HSBC. JD is to try and resolve.

ACTION: JD to try and sort out issues with HSBC.

RPW confirmed that we have, as at today, £6.2k in the normal account; £11.8k in the savings account so the club has c£18k.

7. Inter Counties

RW said he'd seen the latest inter counties team and he was personally disappointed that AVEAC athletes were about a third of Derby's. JF said that all were picked on scores/times and that one of the issues for AVEAC was the lack of middle-distance runners.

They were a discussion about getting more involved in Derbyshire Athletics and JD is to speak to some people he has earmarked. JF explained that DA will be losing some key people soon and, if not replaced, its not known how they will continue the job.

ACTION: JD to speak to proposed applicants.

8. Fixture reports

RW asked what the plan was now that JoeM had decided to step away from the report writing. It's understood that he will some but not all. JD suggested we focus on TM's doing it. We can discuss closer to the events.

DH said he kept a spreadsheet of scores which meant working out records and the like were easier. Will share with ST.

9. Recruitment

JD is to speak to CK about the website and moving this forward. RW said it would be good for 2 reasons: (1) the induction section is wrong and perhaps scares people off (2) we could run the membership renewals through the website.

ACTION: JD to speak to CK.

10. Kit & other equipment requirements

The only equipment request was for new boards from Joe. This was agreed though a form will need to be submitted to DB.

DH said that we need to take a Saturday off to tidy the garage and get rid of all the damaged and old equipment. It was agreed this would be 26th August. RW to publicise on Facebook. JD to email coaches and other volunteers. RW stated we can work on the kit cupboard on the same day as well.

ACTION: RW to publicise and JD to get volunteers on board.

11. Social Events

DH said he'd spoken to the Festival Inn about presentation evening. They had availability on 20, 21 & 27 October. He will do a survey for dates and then look to book.

Spoken to Spondon Trophies about the presentation medals. They have them but the same ones have increased by £250! JD felt it was important that the medals were good as the athletes had earned them.

Regarding the Xmas meal, DH has enquired with coaches and asked about dates. Will confirm soon when everyone has replied.

ACTION: DH to provide update on presentation evening and Xmas meal.

12. Club Championships

JD has booked the venue for the 23rd from 9 to 3. The football/hockey courts are booked as well so we shouldn't have any interference.

DH is working on external options: inflatables, food vans etc. If we do go for this, however, we will need to do it during the events as parents have indicated to DH they will leave after the close of the champs at 3.

The committee discussed the possibility of having a senior competition – 100m, long jump and shot. It was felt that the hour break at 12ish would be a good time to do this. JF to work it in and she'll provide to ST and RW the sign-up form.

ACTION: RW is to email winners from last year and get the trophies back. RW and JD to speak to Kate Rooney and Jess Turner about turning up to present awards.

13. A.O.B

No further business.

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 11th September 2023 at 19:30pm