



Annual General Meeting 2018-19

MINUTES

Sunday 14 April 2019

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mark Potter, Mark Newlands, David O'Sullivan, David Thompson, Barbara Morrison, Brendon Quirke, Janette Gwilliam, Julie Davison, Tony Plowman, Clive Start, Annie van Herck.

APOLOGIES

Ken Howell, Robyn Blackford.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes have been on the club website for most of the year, while a printed copy was provided at this meeting.

The Chair recapped the big decision from last year's AGM: Changing our name to Hutt Valley Runners, disaffiliation from Athletics New Zealand, zero membership fee, and other minor changes to the club's constitution.

Motion to accept the minutes from AGM 2018: Janette Gwilliam

Seconded: Annie van Herck

Accepted

ANNUAL REPORTS

President's Report

The club had big changes since the last AGM and these will continue to influence us into future years. The committee is still working on rebranding, particularly around website redevelopment.

This year's membership is 42, up from 33 last year. We picked up several regular new members from the Resolution Run promotion in February. Our Away Runs, such as Colonial Knob next weekend, have proved to be a great way to attract new members.

We need to continue to promote the club, and investing in the website redesign will be key, along with more events like the Resolution Run. This will help us build our community profile, and therefore membership numbers.

Club has provided a sponsorship of \$1,000 this year for a teenage racewalker called Daniel Du Toit. This has supported him to attend the Athletics New Zealand Australian Junior Championships Youth Development Tour to Sydney, which he won. He has since been selected to represent New Zealand in the Oceania U18 Athletics Championship in Townsville, at the end of June. <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/daniel-du-toit-race-walker/updates>. Daniel will be talking about his progress at the Pelorus Event prize giving later this year. The committee will be looking into having a formal process for further sponsorship ongoing in the future

Pelorus Race was a great success in 2018, our experience in running the event was highlighted last year. The redesigned course made it easier to run with less marshalling particularly around traffic management. In shifting the date into late November we hoped the weather would be better, which it was. All this contributed to creating a feeling of a real family event, which is the feedback we got from the surveys we got back from entrants. We need to build on this into the future. I'm very proud of the event we created in 2018, and of the efforts of everyone in the club who made it such a great experience. We have seen the costs creep up, as you'll see later. But much of this was around one off costs, which we didn't get grant funding for. This level of expenditure won't be needed in this coming year's event. Marketing of the event is not easy, and we are looking to change this with social media going to be a bigger part. It is more effective but can prove tricky to get right.

Thanks to all our volunteers, they are the biggest asset of the club, and that's one reason why we should look to increasing membership into the future.

Discussion

Barbara talked about the sponsorship of racewalker, Daniel Du Toit who is aged 16, and that he won in Australia. He will come in November to our race to explain how the sponsorship has helped him. Barb will request some photos of Daniel, after suggestion by Julie.

Dave O'Sullivan reflected on a recent Away Run with Wellington Marathon Clinic. They were interested in our changes, particularly in zero membership fees and website redesign.

Mark Potter discussed the general decline of people joining sports clubs. It is important for clubs to add value for members. We need to continue with this focus.

Race Director's Report

Race numbers were down in 2018. Not able to say if the shift in date affected numbers. It could be that the Rimutaka Incline two weeks before was a contribution to this or just a new date and course takes time to bed in. The awarding of medals was very popular. We had

lots of feedback that this was a real draw for people doing the event. I strongly recommend this continue.

Our sponsors again were very good, including the main funder the Pelorus Trust. The only exception to this was Happyhire. I think they aren't really coming to the party and we aren't getting any value from the relationship in my view. We may look to change into the future.

This year's event is confirmed for 24 November. We need to email soon every member they need to plan to be available that day as that is now an explicit requirement of membership. Thanks again to all who helped, the event wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the efforts of a lot of people giving generously of their time to make the event work.

Discussion

Julie asked if we could use 'truck trailer' toilets, rather than portaloos, and whether it was possible to get a grant for this. Tony Plowman suggested we could investigate a 'water' sponsor. Maybe one of the local bottled water firms.

Tony Plowman also suggested a 'cupless' event. Maybe providing a collapsible cup in the race pack that participants carry themselves, or another mechanism. At very least moving to paper cups to make the event more 'green'. This led to a more general discussion making the event more 'green', with a stronger focus on recycling and reducing waste. Mark Potter reassured that the race committee is already sensitive to this, and has it on agenda. They have already been looking at eliminating plastic bags for race packs.

Race Accounts

The Race Accounts in 2017 were inflated by \$12,000 due to accounting change and the way we manage the race and club accounts.

Grants from the Pelorus Trust were up for this year's race. Race expenses increased, which mostly were around the rebranding, social media and signage. The refund of grant funds was explained, in that we apply a specific item and if an approved expense is not used, then the funds must be returned. This a normal Pelorus Trust process.

This year's race will likely have reduced expenses as rebranding expenses won't reoccur for signage etc, and we are planning on getting the grant process underway much earlier. Mark Newlands also suggested that to save money, some of the physical advertising be reduced or eliminated, as well as a review of the prize money - as this is a large expense not covered by grants.

Club Accounts & Overall Financial Position

In our general club accounts, major expenditure related to the rebranding, indemnity insurance for the race (not covered by grant monies), a security upgrade to our website, the youth scholarship, hireage of Huia Pool meeting room, and our Storage One unit cost going up 34%. These contributed to a loss of \$5,400 over the financial year. Other expenses were roughly the same, including catering, which has been variable in the past.

This is in line with the recent years as we trend to oscillate around the same overall position, with an increase one year then dropping back down the next. The challenge for the club in the next year is to get the race to pay for itself - to cover expenses - and obtain a profit.

Discussion

Mark Potter highlighted that the majority of this year's loss was mostly from rebranding, and this will continue for a while, as website work remains. Also noting that cash reserves of \$24k is a healthy position to be in.

Brendon Quirke speculated whether bulk purchase of race items may help to make savings.

Annie van Herck thought the club is overly generous in paying for the cafe costs on Away Runs. She suggested this money could be reprioritised for something else. This led to wider discussion, with the general feeling that current reserves current payment for cafes is about right, but this should be looked at in future if losses continue.

There was a discussion about the social aspects of the club. David O'Sullivan felt we need to acknowledge the social side more, both before, during, and after our runs. There was general agreement with this.

Motion to accept the Annual Report: Tony Plowman
Seconded: Janette Gwilliam
Accepted

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All existing officer holders are happy to continue in their current positions, and their nominations recognised. Were no other nominations. Nomination were:

President: Mark Potter
Secretary: Janette Gwilliam
Treasurer: Mark Newlands

Motion to elect officers as nominated: Tony Plowman
Seconded: Julie Davison
Accepted

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The committee proposed to continue with zero dollar fees membership, with existing members required to rejoin to confirm continued membership. Only condition being an explicit agreement to volunteer for work to support our Pelorus Event.

Motion to agree membership fee of \$0 for 19/20: Mark Potter
Seconded: Mark Newlands
Accepted

GENERAL BUSINESS

No formal items tabled. General discussion on:

Away Runs

David O'Sullivan shared discussion at our recent Miramar Peninsula Away Run with Wellington Marathon Clinic. They are very interested in our changes and want to come and chat sometime about it. They wanted to have more runs together. This was a popular idea.

New ideas for Away Runs and trips were discussed. Ideas mentioned were: Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Colonial Knob, Mt Kaukau (including Rose hosting at her house), Raumati Beach, Queen Elizabeth Park, Ring of Fire, Three Peaks. Asked for anyone with any suggestion to put up ideas to the committee, who will sort out which will be viable for most members this coming year.

Website Redesign

Mark Potter showed a mockup of a website concept current being worked on. There was positive feelings towards it, although a few commented about being very 'blue'.

Meeting closed at 9:45am.