

## **NORTH DEVON ATHLETICS CLUB**

**Committee Meeting  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2011  
In the Clubhouse  
1915 hours**

**Present:** Sue Richards (Chair), Alan Richards, Steve Choules, Paul Hill, Chris Norman, Terry Gaunt, Gary Gahan, Robbie Overney, Rob Linskill, Eric Richards, Chris Lidstone, Mark Brace, Kate Moore, Graham Berry

**Also in attendance:** Ryan Norman, Gill St.Barbe, Colin Petty

**Apologies:** Ben Cox, Rebecca Hill

Before the main meeting Gary Gahan tendered his resignation from the committee with immediate effect, and as manager for the Women's Southern team from the end of the season.

- 1. Matters Arising:** Matters arising was deferred until the next meeting in September.
- 2. Liaison between coaches/committee:** Some of the coaches felt that regular meetings were unnecessary but KM was concerned that they did not talk enough! She suggested that everyone have a quick conversation before the evening started. It was suggested that a wall planner could be used to indicate what each group was likely to be doing although some coaches thought that the athletes might then pick and choose what sessions to attend. It was decided that the coaches would meet before the main committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm mainly to discuss the movement of athletes between groups. It was also obvious that there was a lack of communication between the committee and the coaches as not all coaches were in receipt of the minutes and missing out on important information and dates. The committee agreed that all coaches should be sent email copies of the minutes and also there would be a hard copy in the clubhouse and a copy uploaded to the website. There would also now be a standard agenda item for 'coaches issues'.

- 3. Progression through the groups:** It was agreed that there was no formal structure for moving between the groups. This was mainly due to the small number of coaching groups and the large numbers of young children wanting to move up. It is still the case that many of the youngsters have not competed for the club and it was unfair to progress those that have no intention of competing as these children are blocking those others on waiting lists. It was decided that as from next April 2012, memberships would only be renewed for those athletes that had competed in the previous year at either track or cross country. It was also agreed that only children that want to compete in the Sportshall competition will be allowed to train on a Friday at Pilton as it would be impossible to take all those registered in one go. TG to write letter to every member explaining the position.
- 4. Recruitment of more coaches and volunteers:** More volunteers are required to help at sessions. Advertisements for parent helpers to be placed in local press, on the website and in the newsletter. Colin Petty to do a poster advert. If we could recruit more parent help it might lead to more coaches?
- 5. Welfare:** In light of what had been discussed during the meeting Kate retracted her earlier resignation and agreed to stay on as the Welfare Officer. She is about to attend a level 3 Child Protection Course. Chris Norman volunteered his services to assist in this role. TG noted that Ben Cox had also emailed to say he was willing to help out. The committee was grateful of Ben's offer but decided that as Chris was at the club most nights and most athletes knew him then he was best placed for the job at the moment. It was hoped that Ben would agree to go through his child protection manual with Kate and Chris and offer his support.
- 6. Team Managers:** Kate decided to stay on as Team Manager for Sportshall. Ryan and Gill would still be attending although Ryan would be there in an officiating capacity. Gary had earlier indicated that after the end of the summer season he would no longer continue to be team manager for the Women's Southern team. Graham said that it may be likely that both men and women's leagues would be changing next year so a replace manager would be dealt with at a later stage if one was still needed.

- 7. Athletes:** Robbie attended on behalf of the athletes. He said that most of the athletes felt that there was not enough interaction between the groups. Mark suggested that with the other coaches' agreement he could run a drills, plyo, speed set on an occasional Wednesday that anyone from any group could attend. The committee agreed a fun night would also be arranged for Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> August so that all age groups could have an evening of odd distance races and mixed age group relays, ice creams would be supplied! Paul Hill recommended holding a club day early in the season next year, TG to put on the agenda for Feb/Mar 2012.

It was concerning to hear from Robbie that some athletes found it uncomfortable asking other coaches for advice for fear of upsetting their own coach. It was agreed that athletes should speak to their own coach in the first instance out of courtesy. Should an athlete have any repercussion from that then the matter should be reported back to Sue Richards.

Robbie asked on behalf of the athletes whether there would be anyone that would be willing to be a club physio as many had succumbed to injury problems this season. Mark Brace said that Maria Sullivan (Litchdon Street?) had always in the past treated NDAC athletes at a reduced rate.

- 8. Any Other Business:** The coaches meeting to decide this years awards will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September. All last years trophies winners to be asked to return them as soon as possible.

The Xmas dinner has been provisionally booked for 9<sup>th</sup> December. The committee agreed to subsidise the event again this year and tickets will be £12.50 per head.

Two speakers are now working for the PA system.

The next Devon league is at home on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Kitchen rota needs to go up on the door. Paul Hill will stock up the sweets.

Davey Platt has now paid his membership fees.

- 9. Date of next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at 7.15pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 in the clubhouse (coaches meeting held first).