

Birmingham Swifts
Additional committee meeting.
Called by Tommy Hill - Chair.
To discuss the use of facilities at theclubandspa.

Held at The Fox, Lower Essex Street.
16/10/2016.

Present:

Chair - Tommy Hill
Secretary - Jay Lamb
Treasurer - Tom Garlick
Social & Welfare secretary - Chris Pratt
Race Secretary - Aaron Lloyd McArthur
Promotional Secretary - Alex Ainley

Meeting opened with TH recounting details of discussion with Janine Yousif, current manager of theclubandspa on Thursday 13/10/2016 as detailed below:

“Hi Janine,

Thanks for meeting on Thursday morning. So I can discuss this with our committee further, I just wanted to confirm what we'd discussed:

- Future use of theclubandspa on Thursdays by Birmingham Swifts members will be charged at £5 per person per visit, beginning Thursday 13 October 2016. This has been reduced from the standard day rate of £15, and includes all amenities, such as sauna. This reduction would mean theclubandspa would not be making money from the transaction.
- theclubandspa members wish to keep the exclusive nature of the club.
- The Birmingham Swifts started in the city with knowledge that the city is the 10th most deprived city in England, with over half the population in the most deprived wards, and that 20-25% of the LGBT community in the city earn less than £15,000pa.
- One third of Birmingham Swifts members only exercise with the club. One third pay an affiliation fee to the Birmingham Swifts, but this is kept minimal so to attract as many people as possible. This fee is currently £20 per year.
- The Birmingham Swifts recognise that theclubandspa is a business and is open to the idea to being charged. Members only require locker, changing and shower facilities for Thursday runs.
- Previous offers that runs are advertisers to theclubandspa members still stand.

Because we were only notified of the charge 11 hours before our run, we took the decision

to meet elsewhere on Thursday in order for the committee to discuss things adequately. We will notify you of any decision we make.

Regards,

Tommy Hill
Chair, Birmingham Swifts”

TH noted we have had no further communication back from theclubandspa.

Committee agreed that the right decision was made on 13/10/2016 not to offer the £5 charge to members at such short notice and in the interests of maintaining equitable access to our current Thursday night social run, that we would not agree to paying a £5 charge per member or offering this to members at this time as an option.

Offering paid facilities could create two tiers of access to the Swifts run and post-race social, potentially putting off or alienating members who could not afford to pay.

The LGBT centre have very kindly offered limited changing facilities and bag drop on Thursday nights in the immediate term. It is acknowledged that shower facilities are not available for group access at the LGBT centre, though historically, Birmingham Swifts managed in this way as the club developed.

Committee discussed possible options with other local gyms or hotels with spa facilities (therefore changing areas) and determined that:

-We would be willing to consider a charge as a club or per member but that £5 per week is too expensive. (Monthly gym subscriptions can be as low as £17.99 in the City Centre.)

-We should consider ideas and options from any sources we may have or suggestions from members that may assist us in finding a new run base. These should be communicated with TH ASAP.

-We should Contact city centre gyms and hotels with facilities, explaining who we are, who we offer our free runs to, our current situation and that we would be willing to meet to discuss what they may be able to offer and for what return. TH/CP to draft a letter to send out ASAP.

-We will continue to hold our Thursday social run from the LGBT centre (warm up / cool down at the Pagoda) with bag drop facilities offered. TH to communicate with run leaders. AA to create message to members on Facebook Page/Group - see below.

-We will continue to encourage a post-race social at The Fox but CP will ask Andy to postpone providing food until we can establish how the uptake of the social gathering is

without the option of showering / changing post-run. Numbers at the post-run social to be recorded over coming weeks (JL).

-This information will be communicated to members via the Facebook Page / Group but in order to maintain amicable relations with theclubandspa who have provided us with free facilities for around eighteen months, we will aim to keep announcement posts closed to (potentially negative) responses from members. AA to update Facebook.

-Mailing list to be updated by JL for use as communications tool as required.

-We will advise theclubandspa of our decisions and thank them for use of their facilities to date. TH will also communicate with their head office.

Next meeting as previously agreed: 02/11/2016 19:00hrs at Chairs residence.