**Birmingham Swifts Running Club**

**Committee Meeting Minutes October 2015**

Meeting held at Equator, Hurst Street, Birmingham

25th August 2015 – 19.17-20.27hrs

Present:

Chair: Tommy Hill (TH)

Secretary: Jay Lamb (JL)

Treasurer: Tom Garlick (TG)

Social Secretary: Chris Pratt (CP)

Race Secretary: Paul Leonard (PL) (from 20:15hrs)

**For action: orange text.**

**Apologies:**

Nil

**Minutes of last meeting.**

Accepted as read. Proposed by TG, Seconded by TH.

**Chair's Update. TH**

Since the last meeting, I have mainly been conducting my duties as chair including meeting with interested stakeholders, including theclubandspa. The new manager Tom Horton has confirmed their intention to continue our partnership, and are happy to publicise the Swifts both to their members and visitors and allow us to use their facilities for free in regards to local races like the Great Birmingham Run. There is also the possibility of discounted membership to both the gym and spa facilities, as well as a sports physiotherapist, although nothing has been agreed yet.

I have continued discussions with Birmingham LGBT, Birmingham Pride and Run Birmingham - including officially lending our support for the project. I have further meetings planned over the next few weeks. I am yet to hear regarding our application to affiliate to England Athletics, and will be following this up in the next fortnight.

Unfortunately ordering further kit has had to wait for funding from Birmingham Pride, but I was assured whilst on holiday that this has been an oversight and should be in our account now. If this is not the case, I shall be following this up.

I have also been continuing with my Run Leader role, and would like to thank those that have stepped forward whilst I have been away on holiday and directing at Perry Hall parkrun. As ever, I have been and meeting new and prospective members and introducing them to the Birmingham Swifts.

**Secretary Report:**

* Membership: 39 members on database (+4).
* Mailing List = 93 recipients (+6).
* Whatsapp = 25 participants (+3).
* Facebook = 95 members (+16).
* Twitter = 291 followers (+21). Following 254 (+8). 1053 tweets (+76)
* Minutes from previous meeting complete and amended as requested by Chair.
* Bournville Leafy 10k race attended & report..

**Treasurer’s Update. TG**

1. **Funding Application**
	1. Funding successful – cash now in bank £1,946
	2. Bank balance stands at £2,331
2. **Spend**
	1. Cheque posted for EA = £100
3. **AOB**
	1. Cheque to be written and countersigned for flag = £49.62
	2. Cheque to be written and countersigned stickers = £19.99

**Social Secretary’s Update. CP**

The Fox bar secured as social base.
2. Trial of complimentary food offering on Thursday nights at The Fox was successful and will be rolled out indefinitely.
3. Organised Big Hoot Challenge. Good attendance at event with more people joining afterwards
4. Initial investigations into club shop but more work to do. – *See agenda item.*
5. Met with TH and theclubandspa management. Relationship renewed with a new purpose, more of a partnership and good to now be liaising between committee and the management. Agreement to use the facilities on major events such as Half Marathon.
6. Next social events: Post Birmingham half, Bulls deep in Eden. Discussions with Andy over Xmas do and quiz night to take place – *Agreed 11/12/2015 for Xmas Do (private bar 18:00-22:00hrs) to co-incide with Pudding Run race on 13/12/15.*

**Race Secretary Update:**

Race attendance -

August saw the swifts attend the Badgers Atherstone 10K race with 6 attendees. Some fantastic times recorded despite the toughness of the course being quite hilly.

In September we travelled to Worcester for the City 10K where we had 8 attendees. Congratulations should go out to David for completing his ﬁrst 10K race.

In October we competed in the Bournville Leafy almost 10K with 7 attendees. Some super fast times on a multi terrain undulating course. Congratulations to Alastair for completing his ﬁrst race as a Swift.

All race times have been updated to the race results page available in Dropbox.

Race reports have been received now thanks to Aaron, David and Jay. All three reports have been uploaded onto the website. They just tidying up with the excerpt section which i will seek help from Tommy to sort.

Upcoming races -

November will see us attending the local Centurion Grand Prix Series for the ﬁrst of the 5 mile races in North Solihull.

December will see us attending Walsall for the Christmas Pudding Run which is either a 5 mile or

10 mile race so Swifts can choose which distance they wish to have a go at running. This will allow those that wish to run the 10 miles to do so with support from the swifts doing the 5 miles.

Details for both races have been added onto the website and Facebook events created for both.

Will discuss with Tommy future races for 2016 so we can gauge what kind of distances we want to cover each month to ﬁt in with any training plans that may be put into place.

**EA Affiliation update. TH**

* Application submitted – awaiting to hear back from EA.

**Pride funding bid**

* £1,946 received from Pride Trust.
* TH will organise purchase of laces and wristbands. JL to create database on Dropbox so we know who has received these (available to those who sign up as a member).
* TH/TG to contact members and confirm and place next Kit Order.
* £69.81 due to JL to cover cost of Flag/Stickers purchased for pride donated back to the club to fund a new “sail flag” – CP to organise design and purchase of this.
* CP to finalise designs for Posters / Postcards / Promotional materials and organise purchase.

**Member definitions.**

Further discussion was held regarding membership definitions. It was agreed that we would have two advertised forms of member: Swift & Affiliated Swift.

The table details the benefits of each level of membership and includes further breakdown for us to help define members and see their progression through the club.

Swifts who have completed a membership form will have voting rights.

Supporters and Social Swifts are not required to complete a membership form as they do not run but may wish to do so. Runners (Active) will need to complete a form for insurance purposes and will have voting rights.

Any new non-Affiliated Swifts will be unable to purchase running tops or race in colours. Running tops may be included in the agreed affiliation fee – to be discussed at AGM.

Membership Cards (in addition to EA affiliation cards) to be considered for non-Affiliated members (which may help to prove membership where discounts eligible!)

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| **External View** | **Swift** |  | **Affiliated Swift** |
| **Internal View** | **Supporter** | **Social** | **Active** |  | **Supporter** | **Social** | **Active** | **Affiliated** | **Committee** |
| Supports | Can Participate | Can Participate | Can Participate |   | Can Participate | Can Participate | Can Participate | Can Participate | Can Participate |
| On Mailing List | Yes | Yes | Yes |   | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Attends Socials | No | Yes | Can Participate |   | No | Yes | Can Participate | Yes | Yes |
| Runner | No | No | Can Participate |   | No | No | Can Participate | Can Participate | Can Participate |
| Wears Swifts Colours In Races | No | No | No |   | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| On Member Database | No | No | Yes |   | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Voting Rights | Variable | Variable | Yes |   | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Pays Annual Fee | No | No | No |   | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Discounted Race Entry | No | No | No |   | Can Participate | Can Participate | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Coaching Sessions | No | No | No |   | Can Participate | Can Participate | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| EA Benefits (kit discount) | No | No | No |   | Can Participate | Can Participate | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Vote in Committee meetings | No | No | No |   | No | No | No | No | Yes |

**Run Birmingham**

A new Club Forum is being established by EA. First meeting 21/10/2015 19:00hrs Alexander Stadium. TH attending. Other committee members welcome. Steve B will be representing us at the Activate Steering Group same evening.

Penny Barber hopes to meet with us to discuss second year of Activate and what she may be able to offer us / What we can help with. Date to be agreed.

**Running Calendar**

Pending – TH & PL to meet and create.

**Starting Out Sessions**

Proposed a new Starting Out group post Birmingham Half Marathon: to commence 31/10/2015.

**Webmaster:**

Tom Hayes has been approached for this position and agreed. It has been made clear this is a non-committee role and that all changes to the website need to be agreed with a committee member.

**Swifts online shop:**

JL/CP to meet to investigate this further with a view to having relevant merchandise available to members, purchase of which helps club funds.

**Update/Progress on SWOT – Objectives. All**

1. **Increase membership to 50 people by the 2016 AGM.**

*Membership stands at 39. 4 recent runners pending.*

1. **Affiliate to England Athletics by October 2015.**

*Application pending..*

1. **Create a running calendar by July/August committee meeting (including races, training plans and Starting Out).**

*Pending as discussed – new target: November 2015.*

1. **Increase attendance at Birmingham Pride to 30 people for 2016 parade.**

*For action 2016.*

1. **Deliver a second weekday session by March 2016.**

*AS discussed August 2015.*

1. **Increase attendance for Great Birmingham series: 15 people for half marathon 2015; 25 people for 10k 2016**

*Half Marathon runners identified: Darren, Jay, Tommy, Paul L, Geoffrey, James, Alastair, Joe, Neessah, Blaine, Steve, Paul, Christopher, Tom G, Dean, Anton. (16) Half Marathon target EXCEEDED. 10K promotion in early 2016?*

1. **Agree a social base for the club by end of August 2015.**

*The Fox, Lower Essex Street is now agreed as our social base.*

1. **Have eleven or more people attend each social event in 2015.**

*Attendees at The Big Hoot Challenge = 11 plus additional support post challenge. Largest and most successful social to date.*

1. **Attend four different Parkruns per year as a club, and to volunteer as a club once per year.**

*Pending racing calendar – dates to be agreed.*

1. **Hold an event celebrating achievements of the club by the 2016 AGM.**

*To be held at The Fox. Event to be planned in the New Year.*

**Any Other Business:**

* Run Leader Timetable to be updated by TH.
* AGM & Club Celebration Events to be discussed next meeting.
* Pride in Sport attendance 09/04/2015 agreed.
* Concerns over some homophobia within the group regarding lesbians and use of a predominantly lesbian bar as our social base was tabled. All committee to promote awareness and challenge this to educate within the group.
* JL to email LiRF’s to confirm group support of TH as our CiRF nomination.

**Date and time of next meeting:**

**Monday – 16/11/2015 19:00-21:00hrs**

CP to confirm if we can use The Fox at this time.