

NEWCASTLE FRONTRUNNERS EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 16th May 2018, 8.15-9.30pm
Gosforth Civic Theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne



MINUTES

1. Welcome and housekeeping

Claire Bruce welcomed members for attending, and commented on the remarkable growth of the club and new sessions available to members.

A video compilation of the year so far was then played.

Tom Gorman gave an outline of the meeting agenda. Peter Hopkins then explained the process leading up to the EGM: agreement by the committee that the club's policies - particularly the constitution and code of conduct required reviewing, call for review group participants and subsequent discussions and drafting by the review group, further review by the committee with amendments, circulation of the draft documents and a call for questions/queries from members.

The participants of the review group were thanked for their significant efforts and diligence.

2. Adoption of an amended constitution

Tom Gorman gave an overview of the main changes to the constitution which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Many of the changes were to reflect current or best practice, to increase safeguards around committee roles and running of the club, and extend some of the timescales associated with code of conduct appeals.

Tom then outlined three queries submitted by members (changes in yellow highlight):

- a) To reinstate a clause proposed by the review group, but removed by the committee, to not allow members of the executive to be in a relationship. The committee had spent much time discussing this and agreed that whilst this could further strengthen safeguards, that as a small club it would be too limiting a step given this clause would have been enacted at least twice within the club's short history already and would be difficult to enforce. Instead the committee had favoured inserting a new clause to stipulate that all committee members should follow Charity Commission guidance on good governance.

- b) To change the wording on eligibility to membership, which the committee supported:

7. Members

- a) Membership shall be open to anyone aged 16 or over that has **an interest in/wishes to run with NFR**, who supports the objects of the Club, and who agrees to abide by this constitution, the Code of Conduct and other policies which the club has or may choose to adopt. All applications will be considered equally with no application refused on reasonable grounds, however this is not a guarantee of acceptance in to the club.
- c) To amend incorrect grammar, which the committee supported:

11. Management

- a) Committee members shall not benefit **by virtue of their position, they shall be equally eligible to the benefits that NFR provides as any ordinary Member.**

The meeting was then asked if they would be happy to consider amendments to the prior circulated draft constitution following submission of queries by members, which was unanimously in supported.

The meeting was then asked to vote on amendments b and c which were both supported by a significant majority.

The meeting was then asked to vote on the amended constitution which had been previously circulated and to include the further amendments b and c above. This was carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of an amended code of conduct

Tom Gorman presented an outline of the amended code of conduct which had been changed significantly to include more detail reflecting experience from use, and to ensure independence, fairness, and confidentiality during the processes.

Three queries from members had been received (changes in yellow highlight):

- a) To add wording so that the committee shall have the ability to seek external input during a code of conduct process, which the committee supported and proposed the following change:

10. Principles for dealing with breaches of this code of conduct:

When the club's resources cannot meet the needs of an investigation, we reserve the right to seek third party advice/assistance/authorities.

- b) A change the wording of 'need to know' to make it clearer, which the committee supported and proposed the following change:

10. Principles for dealing with breaches of this code of conduct:

Need to know (i.e. If you tell people something on a need-to-know basis, you only tell them the facts they need to know at the time they need to know them, and nothing more.)

- c) A change to the wording of victimisation, to provide further clarity, which the committee supported and proposed the following change:

Appendix 3

Victimisation (i.e. to treat someone in an intentionally unfair way) and Victims (i.e. someone or something that has been hurt, damaged, or has suffered, either because of the actions of someone or something else).

Members then spoke - one to explain that many of the changes were to reflect on how the policy had been found to work with past use, and another queried who would choose members of an appeals panel. Tom Gorman explained that the secretary with input from the appellant, would choose an appeal panel from the ordinary membership.

The meeting was then asked to vote on amendments a - c which were all supported by a significant majority.

The meeting was then asked to vote on the amended code of conduct which had been previously circulated and to include the further amendments a - c above. This was carried by a significant majority.

The review group were thanked again by Tom Gorman for their efforts.

4. LGBT5k Festival of Running update

Robbie Seaman provided members with an update and a call for volunteers.

5. Socials and international trip update

Pau Obrador gave an update on the upcoming socials and details of the October international trip to Brussels.

6. Yoga sessions

Peter Hopkins highlighted the success of the first yoga session and explained that he would be contacting the membership soon regarding upcoming sessions.

7. Members online portal/data protection

Tom Gorman explained that a new members' portal is in development and would provide functions to allow members to see and keep their data up to date, alongside providing some additional functionality.

8. Closing remarks

Claire Bruce thanked members for attending and for participating in such an important meeting. She highlighted the positive impact of the club and the many opportunities for getting more involved.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.