

RIOT AGM

2nd JULY 2020 – 7pm

FUTURE PLANS – CHAIRMAN: MARTIN MUSTOE

We have had to hit the ground running, pardon the pun, due to the nature of where the club found itself. Very much the focus over the coming months will be getting the committee structure firmed up so everyone is happy in their roles, and confident they know what is expected of them. This may mean making a few tweaks here and there, but on the whole, I think we have the right set up. As well as the new committee members bedding down in their roles, we need to start the process of looking at our sub-committee roles. These were laid out in the RIOT 2.0 document and at the moment comprise of a Website Officer, RIOT Junior Lead, C25K Lead, Club Captain, Swimming/Cycling Lead, Run Leaders/Tail Runners, Data Analyst, Challenge and Events Subgroup and Social Secretary. We are very much restricted by the current pandemic in terms of what we do, but hopefully we can start searching to fill these roles soon.

One thing that has been brought up often by members is the direction of the club. I will reiterate here that RIOT is a running club first and foremost. However, there is a desire by members to take part in other physical activity. By the very nature of promoting looking after your mental health as well as your physical state it would be wrong of us to not to at least promote some of these activities. The sub-committee role has space for a Cycle/Swim Lead and that is where we envisage promoting these disciplines. I know that the last weekend we had a beginner's cycle group being led out by some of our members and I applaud this. The advantage of both these disciplines is that they allow for members to recover from injury in a low impact way reducing the risk of ongoing problems.

In regard to a Website Officer, it is felt that we need to be open to communication outside of social media as it is not always the best form of contact between club and members. We have been making more use of Strava to promote club runs and one of the other ideas that would be great is some sort of application people could download to your phone. At this point I would say I would love to hear members ideas and what would work for them best, so please do send them in.

On that last point we value your feedback and suggestions, some of you run for other clubs or have come to us from another club. Your ideas and thoughts could allow the club to develop further. We need to work out a clear way of getting your feedback to the club, so we are either proposing a face to face feedback day or some sort of survey, or both.

Our C25K is really important and actually goes right back to the ethos of the club. We want to get it right, and it I know a lot of you agree that it is an important steppingstone into running. Currently our retention rates from week 1 to running regularly with RIOT on a club night aren't too high. We want to look how to improve that. I know some of you expressed how it can be quite intimidating turning up to your first Thursday night club run. Ideas include a mentorship scheme, special welcome intro club night or encouraging people to take the next steps up to a 10km distance. These are just some of the ways we want to

encourage those people new to the sport to continue to shine. Again, your feedback and ideas on this are most welcome.

RIOT Juniors never really fully got off the ground due to weather issues and then a global pandemic; we want to look at relaunching that and putting in the proper safeguarding measures. It is a great way of getting young people into the sport in a fun environment which hopefully will lead to joining us on Thursday nights.

The Thursday nights themselves are sometimes incredibly busy, how can we make this work better, but by not decreasing the overall availability of running slots. This will probably take looking at any collected data of Thursday night runs and seeing where peaks and troughs are. Whether we look to expand runs on other days of the week, this may also be an option.

One of my favourites, the Adventure Race was unfortunately cancelled. We want to set a new date soon and hopefully come up with a way of running it that fits in to potential restrictions from Covid.

We will be sending more people on Run Leader courses this year as we feel this is important to give people the confidence when out leading our members. They are expensive courses so will be limited but we feel this is the right thing to do in safeguarding our members.

With regard to the Club Development Plan, Rachel has been working on this and hopefully we will soon be able to share this to you for your ideas and suggestions. A lot of what I have touched on above is included in this and hopefully we can incorporate some of your ideas to.

Finally, as you see we have our work cut out for us, there is also a lot of work to be done on our Welfare side of things. Alanna has already been busy looking into that and I know Sam Mercer brings a lot of experience as well.

We are a club, a team, we have a lot of challenges in front of us both in developing the club and working around any restrictions forced upon us. We want to drive forwards into the future knowing that we are building a strong and stable club. I have said it a few times now, but the club isn't this committee, it is you! We are going to make mistakes, some things will not work, let us take them as the lesson they are and work together to fix what isn't right. By doing all this we will reap the rewards in the future and be a better club for it.