

**TOWN EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE: MINERS RACE 2016**

**Report of meeting held on 6 September 2016 at the Spetchells Centre, at 5.00 pm. The meeting was held to consider the arrangements for the 2016 Miners races, taking place on Sunday 25 September.**

**Present**

PTC: Cllrs Mrs J McGee (Chair), Mrs E Burt, A Reid; R Whinney (Clerk)

SCA: Amy Maughan, Cath Frost

Run Northumberland: Richard Hunter (arrived at 5.30pm)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs N McGee and Cllr E Dobson.

**The following was discussed:**

**Toilets** at Tyne Riverside — toilets would need to be hired. Note: subsequent enquiry established that refurbishment of the toilets is in progress and expected to be completed by the day of the race. However, the Riverside Cafe will not be refurbished / in operation.

**Ice cream van** / other food providers — the Clerk would make enquiries about the possible presence of these at the Riverside.

**Race support** — the clerk would enquire about possible help from such sources as cadets / scouts etc.

**Race marshals** — Cllr Burt had provided the Clerk with the contact details of Holly Kelleher, a member of Castle Triathlon and leading light in the planned Prudhoe Parkrun. Ms Frost stated that she would also make enquiries regarding support from staff at SCA. Later, Mr Hunter noted that 2 more marshals will be required at South Road / Front Street.

**Schedule for events** — these were discussed: it was noted that the mini-run took place before the junior run: the times between the races had been extended this year so as to ensure race organisation was kept tight, and issues such as that affecting the start of the mini-run in 2015 were avoided.

**Race start and prize – giving** — George Placogiannakis, the Manager at SCA Prudhoe Mill, would be on hand to help start the race and hand out the trophies / prizes, and the Chairman of the Council was also able to be involved. Note: Mr Placogiannakis is now not available following the race start, and the Chairman may not be available either.

Timings for briefings / prize presentations were agreed as follows:

10k race – prize-giving at 11am

Mini-run – race briefing at around 11.20, prize-giving at 11.50

Junior race – race briefing at around 11.45, prize-giving at approx 12.30

**Water** — would be ordered for the race. It was noted that in 2015 supplies had only just been adequate: bearing in mind that the supplies could be used up at subsequent events, it was agreed to order in excess of last year's quantity (approx 500 small bottles) – perhaps around 800. It was also felt that there needed to be more people staffing the water stations.

Later, it was suggested by Mr Hunter, and agreed, to approach Marlish Farm (Northumbrian producer of bottled water) to see if they were interested in supplying water for the race. Note: enquiry established that Marlish were not in a position to supply any free water, and their minimum order quantity was well in excess of that required.

**Schools' incentive** — the Council's representatives indicated that they would support for an incentive of £250 to be offered to the school with the highest number of entrants as a percentage of the total school roll (excluding early years). Note: this offer was conveyed to the launch of the race to schools.

**Race trophies** – junior races — these had previously been supplied by courtesy of Prudhoe Youth Charity Shop through the good offices of Cllr McCreedy. The Chairman indicated that if they were not funded by PYCS this year, she would request that they be funded through the Chairman's allowance. Note: Cllr McCreedy has confirmed that PYCS is funding the trophies, which have been ordered.

**Race entries** — Mr Hunter informed the meeting that to date around 100 entries had been received for the 10k race: he suggested that this could increase to around 250 to 300 on the day. Numbers of the junior races were at around 25 presently, but it was felt similar numbers to last year could be achieved. While the races clashed with the Haltwhistle Half Marathon, Mr Hunter felt the Prudhoe race drew better support from club runners, and that he would be pushing the race with the clubs.

**Race registration** for the 10k race would be between 0830 and 0930 at the Bowls Pavilion at Waterworld. Entries for the junior races would not be accepted after 11am, to allow for the logging of all entries prior to the start, for safety and results purposes.

**Car parking** — in addition to the extensive free public car parking in the town, please Note that following contact with the management at the Falcon, they open at 12 noon on the Sunday, and raised no objection to event-related parking in their car park before that time.

**Bus** to town centre from Tyne Riverside – this would be ordered as in previous years. Note: Hillarys Coaches are providing this service for 2016.

**Race route** — Mr Hunter reported that no objections had been received from the NCC Safety Advisory Group or from the Police. However, he was chasing the NCC road closure order, as this had yet to be received from NCC. Note: this has been received and posted around the town.

**First Aid** — the services of Rapid Reaction had been booked by Run Northumberland. This would include a mobile team and a static unit, in total 3 to 4 team members.

**Race signage** — markers would be erected in the morning, including "Caution Runners" signs at major junctions. Larger placards would be dropped off in the near future. Note: these have been erected.

**T-shirts** — after a discussion, it was agreed that a greater number of smaller shirts were needed, and that the panelled (more 'fitting') ones were preferred, and suggestions were made for a different colour. Note: white shirts have been ordered, as coloured ones could not be obtained at a competitive price.

**Race publicity** — Ms Maughan stated that this would appear in the Hexham Courant on 16 September; a draft press release would be issued for approval by the race partners in the near future. Note: the Courant publicity is scheduled for 23 September, while a piece appeared in the Evening Chronicle's "Grass Roots Sport" on 16 September. The race was also being publicised on the North-East Runners Facebook page, and on the Council's own SCA Miners' Race Facebook page. Note: all schools in the Prudhoe Partnership were emailed details of the races, and flyers were distributed to the schools for placing on noticeboards.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.

RW 09/2016