**BRAT CLUB AGM – 30 April 2017 at Pinsent Mason Suite, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham**

**Present from Exec:**

Duncan Hough, Russ Hall, Mark Hirsch, Pat Cox, Richard Carney, Martin Ludford, Chris Gollings, Chris Anthony, Eloise Lee

**Apologies received from:**

Christine Bertram, Bea Pavlovic, Gordon Ainsley

**Chairman’s Report – Duncan Hough**

(slides presented)

**Duncan Hough -** We need your stories. Newsletter – what you are doing, how we are doing things.

Development – solution based. If you have a problem, do you have a solution, what can we do to make it better, any suggestions gratefully received.

Final AGM as Club Chair. We went through a thorough selection process – good candidates who are stepping forward to take over the role, Simon White as Chair and Russ Hall as Vice Chair.

**Simon White -** A quick run down of what has happened in last 12 months – some new coaches, Rob Slater, Christine Bertram. If you are talking to someone or you are interested in UKA or BTF or anything else then come and talk to whoever runs the coaching part of the club and volunteer.

Development plan – has not progressed massively in the last 12 months. Chris will update shortly. Moving in exciting direction.

Please wear your kit and encourage others – raises profile of the club and will help our membership.

Challenges to volunteering – the more people that we can bring in the better. We need people to run the sessions and come to the sessions. Lots of opportunities to learn more as well as volunteering. Some are doing far too much. This isn’t fair. If there are ways that we can address this then this is a good thing.

Expectations – again this will be covered by Chris.

Bittell – we set up a really successful on line tool to manage volunteers for the sessions (managed by Pete M).

**Finance – Mark Hirsch**

(slides presented)

**Mark Hirsh** - As always, a big thank you to people who are collecting money and paying for things out of their own money. The message after the whole year - £40k coming in and out. Club still on sound financial footing. Down by about £4k but membership down. It has been funny year. Junior aquathlon and Bittell not making money for the first time. We’ve given away more kit and memberships to try and help increase number of volunteers.

**Chris Davy** – Cancellation of junior aquathlon was not due to the organisation. We lost a lot of money as we had to send the entry money back. It will run again this year and the costs won’t be incurred this year as we have everything that we bought for this year’s event.

**Mark Hirsh** – Yes and it usually makes money and we may have the opportunity of open meets at the track when it open.

**Richard Carney** - They bring in between £3 - £5k a year.

**Mark Hirsch** - Memberships – 450 this year. Membership is dropping. This could be for a number of reasons – reduction in number of people who think they need a club (internet etc), a number who attend sessions who aren’t members and to date we have approached this based on trust. But there probably are those who are not joining the club. The best way to deal with this in my view is to encourage people that club and volunteers are supported by the membership – about being part of the brat family.

**Richard Carney** – Is it because we also have a slightly more streamline system – more accurate picture?

Possibly – IT sub optimal at time.

**Simon White** - Plan to do a limited marketing push and to people who have been members in the past. BRAT member who was being filmed by the BEEB. To be shown in September. BBC 3 – it is all good stuff. Try and get some marketing collateral so that we can make ourselves more visible. It is then easier for people to engage with the club. Trying to get the club to be about facilitating groups. It can help to get a group by covering costs in advance or taking bookings. It’s about groups doing what they want and the club doing what it can to help. Sharing responsibility between all of us.

**Mark Hirsch** - Costs are increasing. Cost of pool hire – the new pool – initially £100 per lane, per hour.

Monies in – reference to slide.

**Simon White** - None of this is put up to say we must stop or put up costs. It’s about transparency about where the money goes.

**Mark Hirsh** – However if we are losing money continuously then we will look at it for example KES priced us out of the market so we moved to Blue Coat.

All ideas welcome

**Chris Ashford** – Is membership main source of income?

**Mark Hirsch** – If you look at it, there are a number of sources – cost per person about the same.

**Communications – Russ Hall**

One of our biggest problems. Communications is hard. What has changed this year? Facebook has been a raging success because it has been a forum. The newsletter is quite hard to put out, facebook has proved really successful – that is there for all of us to share and that is the best way to get members in. We have lots of queries via facebook. We have a good reputation for responding quickly and giving people accurate information. If you have a story you can post it to one of the pages.

**Chris Davy** – Is it worth saying who it is?

**Russ Hall**  – Following a model that Duncan suggested, thank you to those who are admin – you are doing the work for the club. Molly has come up with 60/70 of stories. Chris Wills also has put a story up. If it wasn’t for those guys driving it forward. There are smaller pages – BITS and Brat North. Brat Bham Triathlon needs to go because it belongs to SML.

**Chris Ashford** – The key thing for me is it is inconsistent. Some by email, by facebook, by forum, it isn’t about getting everyone to do everything. The new things we are trying to advertise – one message and use the different approaches.

**Simon** **White**– The newsletter only goes to current members. Need to build on the success of facebook but not rely on it. For our junior stuff, not old enough to be on facebook or shouldn’t encourage it. Forum – tempted to turn it off.

**Russ Hall -** Harry Fowler still doing a great job of managing kit. Have a great selection in stock.

**Mark Hirsch** – Yes we have over £16k worth of kit.

**Simon White** – We are open to other options. We don’t have decent jackets for coaches, or women’s only tri suits. We could hold stock or we could get commission when we have a minimum order but that adds in delay.

**Keith Hill** – In October send message re kit.

**Tim Dixon** – Wanted a brat winter cycling jacket but there were none in stock. If something comes into stock it would be helpful to communicate it.

**Simon White** – We can only order in 25. If there is no option on the website email Harry. We do have regular sub committee meetings – best route. Interest in new lines – athletics crop top for women.

**Athletics Reports – Richard Carney and Eloise Lee**

**Junior Track and Field**

**Richard Carney -** Big thanks to Lucette and coaches and officials who regularly turn out. Junior sessions on Sunday am full to capacity and waiting list. Don’t have the coaches to deal with the volume.

Difficult time in the absence of track. Our target last year was to get promoted into Division 2 and we did it. Our target this year is to stay there. Eve Godsall – a real potential star.

Also good to see a lot of parents helping last year. Good to see a lot of the athletes doing events they wouldn’t ordinarily do.

**Simon White** – What is the position re new track?

**Richard Carney –** The update on this is to come.

**Junior XC**

Another good year overall. Good endurance training – we need more athletes so that we can have people to compete in the age groups.

**Chris Davy** – They aren’t competing?

**Richard Carney** - XC isn’t everyone’s bag. We need to encourage them.

**Senior Track and Field**

Thanks to Nigel who manages and all the coaches and officials. Quiet difficult in the absence of a track. Harder with the seniors. To develop athletes you need proper facilities. Target last year to stay in Division 2. Unfortunately we didn’t make it. Target this year to get back into Division 3. No of over 17s in the senior. This is good to see. We need to see more people involved. Chris turned up last season.

**Chris Davy** – A few seasons ago.

**Richard Carney** - After some coaching in the car park turned up and did fairly well – it just shows that there isn’t anything to be scared of and just need a few more helpers too. Unlike triathlon where you pay a lot of money and the company looks after everything, athletics is run by the clubs for the clubs and we fall short sometimes.

New track – being built now. Chris assures me it is on schedule. Jamaican team are coming in July.

Clubhouse at the track

**Richard Carney** -There are plans for a building. Don’t know timings.

**Simon White** – It is quite modest. We were down for using it every night of the week.

**Richard Carney –** Yes it is going to be small, the size of this room but two tiers.

**Martin Ludford** – It will be better than the old shed.

**Road Relays**

**Eloise Lee -** Thank Richard Gray the manager who works tirelessly to get teams out. 6 stage event. Set target for 5 teams for men. Got 4 and a bit. Qualified for national and finished 32nd.

12 stage – Target to have 2 teams finish. 1 team finished. Qualified for national and came 30th

On ladies side we need new team member. Jenny Coxon is leaving the area, moving to Devon. Looking forwards we need to investigate why we struggle to get a good turnout. Great event.

Chris Ashford – Struggle for road relay, cross country and athletics – there is a pattern.

**Richard Carney** - Male cross country we don’t struggle with.

**Simon White**  – Is it that people aren’t interested, is it the event or the people?

**Duncan Hough**– We are not the only club who have this problem. We aren’t the only club. What can we do to turn it round.

**Richard Carney** - Very similar to the triathlon event.

**Women’s Road Running**

**Eloise Lee** - In Sept we had a bronze medal which was the first ever. Unfortunately we didn’t get team for nationals. In Spring, we came 15th in Midlands and had 1 full team which came 18th overall and 1 incomplete team.

Best season ever in cross country. Molly and I took over coaching. 18 women who took part in at least 1 race. Lots of women who raced for the first time. 3rd in midlands, 3rd overall in Midlands league, 7th in masters, individual silver and bronze. Warwickshire champs silver and individuals for Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Molly selected for Worcestershire in Nationals.

**Men’s Road Running**

**Eloise Lee** – Chris A and Dan Robinson for GBR at Chester. Hilly 100 which has had really good response.

Small contingent fell running

BRAT road series – first year – has gone well but going to have page to advertise and put results up. The more people get to know about it the better it will be. To encourage people to do local races and brat events.

List of races – 22 races this year.

**Promotions and Publicity – Martin Ludford**

Need some new blood and enthusiasm to get involved in this. Our core features – events, coaches, sessions, volunteers – are our best adverts. High profile locally – attract new members but not great at retaining them. We could do better. Need to remember to welcome new members and incorporate them in everything that goes on in the club.

Thank you to everyone who ran at Bham 10K. Thank you to those involved in the Brat Tri.

**Cross Country**

**Martin Ludford** - Very important to the club. Mix of athletes and triathletes. A big part of what goes on in the winter. Great series of team events and added strength and endurance, anyone targeting spring marathons.

A year of progress and busy year. A lot of new faces involved. 42 different male members represent the club. Second only to Loughborough in the Bham league re number of participants. Took to 8 events and overall 152 Brat performances. 4 teams at the XC relays. A good event and introduction to XC for several.

Call for volunteers bought a good response in Bham league. We had people coming forward to fulfil these duties. In one case someone came down to Cheshire to do it. Volunteers are as important as the runners because if you don’t supply a volunteer you lose points which effects score.

Overall finished 7th. B team also finished 5th. 1st in county, 13th in midlands, 99 in national. Main thing that we had brat runner out in force.

Next year’s aims – keep encouraging more to turn out to the club and develop a team feel – race together, train together, go to races together, socialise together – that is me speaking aloud – we miss out on some of the elements of being a club. Further improved communications – that has already been discussed. We now have dedicated email address which makes it much easier. I would like to use facebook more. Greater BRAT presence at Midland and National event.

Aim to make BRAT club of choice for anyone taking up athletics and cross country.

**Triathlon – Russ Hall**

**Russ Hall -** Over last 12 – 18 months, team triathlon has become weaker. Things have changed. A lot of people doing IM, people doing other things, some people have moved on and not sure where the next tranche is coming from. Still have long course but not short distance. Highlighted by awards – difficult to find people who had short course. So we need to give team triathlon a shot in the arm to make it more than it is.

National Club Relays were a good success. The VETs team turned up and smashed everyone. Not the biggest turnout – only 12, two years ago 19, the year before 18 – if we want it to stay we are going to have work at it and get more people to come and have a go. Doesn’t matter what your ability. The stand out success – the mixed team relay captained by Beccy Tipping and Marie was in the team. They won it and will be going to the Euro triathlon relays. The only team from UK – great success. In Spain end of July.

Triathlon relays for this year open for business. Chris Wills has agreed to help with the organisation this year. Keen to get more teams there. We should keep it as a big event – generally dominate in numbers.

Junior Aquathlon – entries open. Limit of 120 entries. We have been sold out for last couple of years.

Lichfield Sprint was great. We need volunteers.

The Club Awards Night – we had 130 people attended. It all seemed to go fairly smoothly.

Activity Weekends – 2 since last AGM.

Junior Academy – coached by Damo – 4 members had relative success for its members. We want to make a bigger deal of it. We pay for it and use fees for it. We should be using it to gain club reputation. Putting together a plan to develop into something bigger and better.

**Development – Chris Anthony**

(refers to slides)

**Chris Anthony -** What are we looking at when we are looking at development. We don’t know what our core business is. What we want to do and what we want to do well. What I wanted to do was to start the process of making people aware what our core business is, what we are about, promote what are about as BRAT, core standards,

Handbook – a one stop shop to tell you what you want to know or where you can find the information.

Feedback welcome.

A good start for our core business – what we should be doing.

**Elections**

**Secretary**

Pat Cox stands down.

Hazel Padmore proposed by Pat Cox and seconded by Russ Hall.

**Chair**

Duncan Hough stands down.

Simon White is proposed by Richard Carney and seconded by Russ Hall.

**Vice Chair**

Russ Hall is proposed by Tauny Southwood and seconded by Andy Connell.

**Treasurer**

Mark Hirsch is proposed by Chris Davy and seconded by Richard Carney.

**Triathlon**

Russ Hall is proposed by Richard Carney and seconded by Duncan Hough.

**Coaching**

Christine Bertram is proposed by Chris Davy and seconded by Eloise Lee.