



Sparkhill Harriers Member Update

Dear Sparkhill Harriers,

Hope you are all fit and well and have managed to keep running and training over the last five months in spite of all that's been going on!

We had a Zoom committee meeting last week and I wanted to give you an update about what's happening for both the junior and the senior sections of our club.

Foxhollies Centre

The Centre itself has reopened with restricted times and limited numbers and classes, though unfortunately the track (and the Astroturf pitches) remain closed. It is not taking any group or club bookings so there is no prospect of an immediate return to track training. The fitness centre that we use for warming up (juniors) and meeting up (seniors) is no longer available to us as it has suffered more roof damage during the recent storms and is not safe to use. We are discussing with Andy, the centre manager, the potential for future accommodation in the main centre, but this is not possible under the current restrictions. Andy will let us know as soon as the track becomes available.

Juniors' training

As the track is not available and the fitness centre is closed, we are unable to provide training sessions for the juniors even within the guidelines issued by England Athletics. We are waiting to see what happens with the cross-country season and will get in touch when the league contacts us with any race details.

Seniors' training

As you are probably aware, training for the seniors has restarted within EA guidelines which specify the maximum number of athletes and coaches allowed within groups. Craig and Barry have been risk-assessing the sessions and the attendance has been really encouraging. They are doing a brilliant job getting us back into the groove and I recommend the Tuesday and Saturday sessions to all members. The Thursday track session is not yet available as outlined above.

New Members

Jenny tells us that we have had many people contacting the club interested in joining and following consultation with our senior coaches it is proposed that they be invited to come along to the training sessions (with a completed initial details form) where capacity exists. The coaches will use our existing run leaders to assist in the delivery of training if the numbers attending the session require such within EA guidelines. Potential new junior members will continue to be informed of the current situation and advised to keep looking at the website for any update.

Annual General Meeting

We would usually be organising our AGM around now. The regular venue (Old Edwardians Cricket Club) is not available and the social distancing and limitations on meeting size mean that we cannot hold the AGM in the usual way! The committee has considered alternatives and these include holding a Zoom AGM, or circulating reports etc online, or postponing the AGM. The committee members are all willing to remain in post until the postponed AGM and we believe that postponement is the most practical approach. Please let me know if you disagree with this and prefer some alternative: if I hear nothing I will take it that you agree with the postponement until conditions allow us to meet for a "normal AGM".

Subscriptions 2020 -2021

The committee proposes that in view of the restrictions on training and competition the annual subscription for the coming year (2020-21) is waived for all current members. For new members joining it is proposed that a reduced fee (to cover the cost of EA registration and a club vest) be charged (say £25). Our Treasurer Pete has confirmed that the club's finances are able to accommodate this proposal. Please let me know if you disagree with this proposal or wish to make an alternative suggestion: if I hear nothing, I will take this as agreement with the proposal.

Hope to see you all soon.

Rob Mills
Club Secretary
Sparkhill Harriers