



Greater Framingham Running Club

March 3rd, 2018 – Esther and Jay Powell hosted the meeting in Framingham.

Fun Run:

Attendees (Mileage in Parentheses)

April Brunelle (4), Bob Kynert (4.2), John Kalus, Rich Busa, Tim Conlin (4), Ed Stoll (14), Karin Oleski, Bob Cargill (2), Mary Tyler, Ted Tyler, Arnie Pollinger (6), Esther Powell, Jay Powell, Abby McCabe (4), Jeff Hattem (4), Eric Jacobsen (14.05), Marie Leigh, Leslie White Harvey

MONTHLY MEETING:

President (Bob Cargill):

Bob thanked everyone for bearing with the change in venue. Bob used to play ice hockey on the ponds as a kid and liked the feeling of scoring a goal, because he was celebrating success. We need to celebrate success, which we do all the time as runners. Bob thanked Esther and Jay for hosting. Today we need to talk about the Mural mile, the Boston Marathon, Grand Prix events, our pre-Boston Marathon party at LifeTime, our budget, and our inventory.

VP Report (Arnie Pollinger):

Bowditch is open for track works and the lights are on as well. Track workouts are every Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Our scholarship application period is open until the end of this month. We will award a \$750 scholarship to one male and one female from an area high school. Arnie will set up a meeting in May or June to discuss tweaking volunteer credits for the Boston Marathon lottery.

Secretary (Jay Powell):

I will be processing scholarship applications as they arrive.

Treasurer (Marie Leigh):

Ed Stoll asked if we should put together a sub-committee to catalog our existing inventory and decide if some should be donated. Marie thinks Mike would welcome that. Karin Oleski agreed that someone could help Mike catalog our inventory, and suggested that we have an annual sale to move the existing inventory. She suggested knocking \$5 off the price. Mary Tyler suggested bringing everything to a popular event, like the banquet, but sell everything at a normal price. She noted that it will be easier to advertise our inventory at big events. Marie pointed out that Mike won't put in an order unless he knows it will be sold. Eric Jacobsen noted that some of the inventory that Mike has is old and doesn't really have any value because no one is buying it (e.g., extra small women's white shirts). Marie suggested offering a discount for the older stuff. Rich Busa said some older inventory went like hot-cakes at the Bushwhack one year. Eric suggested taking the smaller items to summer track, as it would fit the kids.

Bob Cargill suggested a separate meeting or committee to brainstorm ways to raise money (e.g., inventory sale, or raising the cost of membership). Ed Stoll, Bob Kynert, and Karin Oleski volunteered to help, while Bob Cargill will join the committee as well. Eric Jacobsen will join if he can.

Postscript

Mike Bower already has a catalog of our existing inventory at his house. Jeff Hatem will collect a list of items in his storage shed.

Membership Director (Mike Gannon):

Jay read Mike's report.

We welcome:

Kalus	Jonathan	Ashland
Birt	Alyssa	Natick
Motoyka	Stacy	Framingham
Motoyka	Joseph	Framingham
Hayes	Catherine	Framingham

Total Members = **351**

Jonathan found out about us from Katya. Stacy became aware of us via Leslie. Catherine's cousin is Don Cavicchi.

Other News – Most of us have our memberships expire on April 1st. I apologize in advance for the reminders via email, Facebook, and the list that we put on the GFRC website.

Grand Prix (Tom Abbott and Eric Jacobsen):

Completed Races

Since our last meeting we ran the Paddy Kelly 5-miler, the Old Fashioned 10-miler, and the Cushing/Lowry Pub Run. The Pub Run went well with 21 people attending.

Upcoming Races

March 10, 2018	2018 Shamrock Shuffle, Medway, MA
March 18, 2018	New Bedford Half Marathon
March 31, 2018	38th Frank Nealon Boston Tune-Up (15k), Upton, MA (counted as April race)
April 14, 2018	Merrimack River 10 Mile Trail Race, Andover, MA
April 8, 2018	J.B. Blastoff 5k, Waltham, MA

The Boston Tune-up in Upton will count as an April race. We are adding the J.B. Blastoff to the April races. It is a fast, fairly flat course that is run from a brewery/bar. Age groups are awarded three deep.

We are probably going to do the Strivers Mother's Day 5k and Framingham Police Chase as our May races.

April Brunelle asked if someone could describe the Grand Prix series for her. Eric said it is a series of races that go from June to the following May. You can join the series at any time. Tom and Eric take the finishing times

and age grade them, then assign between 15-25 points to each person who completed the race. You collect points across the year and the club gives out trophies to the top eight runners for each gender. The club also gives a piece of swag to anyone who completes 11 races. The purpose of the Grand Prix series is to get club members out running races together.

Newsletter (Tom Miller):

The newsletter was sent out last night. Bob Cargill mentioned that Tom does a great job with the newsletter and reminded everyone that anyone can contribute articles.

Web (Steve Galloway):

No report. The Mural Mile isn't posted on the website yet.

Uniforms (Mike Bower):

Jay read Mike's report.

As requested by Ed Stoll at our January meeting, attached you will find the current inventory levels and valuation for that inventory as of Sunday February 25. The total valuation stands at \$3,088.

Things to note however:

- Jeff Hattem has some inventory stored in his storage locker in Natick. Counts and values for that inventory are not included here. This would be stock of items that are not heavy movers and for which I have sufficient stock either in my car or shed to support purchases by members. Remember, inventory has no value if we cannot sell it!! Busa gloves, baseball caps, visors, winter hats, string bags and water bottles are the type of stock Jeff is storing for us. I have sufficient stock of all of these to support current purchasing levels with a lot to spare. As I need to replenish what I have on hand I work with Jeff to arrange a pick up. I have not had to replenish stock of these items since I first took over as Uniform Director last year.
- We seem to have a lot of stock in sizes that are not popular (men's XS, small and medium for example). I'm not sure this stock will ever move unless we want to offer it at a discounted price for members to purchase for their children.
- We currently have no stock for the popular sizes. See below on inventory replenishment.
- Kendra will be starting up the C25K program soon and she may want some of the string bags and water bottles for goody bag items for her runners. If we give her some of these items to help reduce our inventory, we would not see any revenue (other than the C25K entry fee) for those items. I believe Jeff has given her string bags and possibly water bottles in the past from his stock for her runners. If we are going to do that this year again, I would run down Jeff's stock of these items first.
- We are not going to order any more white short-sleeve shirts, singlets or long sleeve shirts. We are trying to run down the inventory of these. They are not moving quickly.

I have held off on posting anything regarding a spring inventory re-order for popular sizes of short sleeve shirts and singlets for the summer. I have done so due to the grave concerns folks have about the club's balance sheet. Concerns that have reduced the level of the GFRC scholarships and eliminated the popular Give Back program.

I am hoping that I will be able to poll the members in March to gauge interest for summer stock. I am sitting on some member requests for shirts at this time waiting for a critical mass of a dozen or so requests. When we get to that level my plan was to purchase up to 30 shirts so that I can service current requests and have sufficient inventory for future requested purchases in the popular sizes. With membership renewal revenues coming in during April, would it be possible to place that re-order in April??? I would want guidance from the officers before placing that order.

The order will be for Badger products and given the cost for those shirts, our price to members for short sleeve shirts and singlets will increase slightly; from \$25 to \$30 or \$32.

Discussion

Bob Cargill will make a point of convening a fund-raising sub-committee before the April meeting, then come to the April meeting with recommendations.

Ed Stoll wants to know what is in storage and its total value so that we can get a complete picture of our inventory. Jeff Hattem says that our inventory in storage is basically accessories (gloves, hats, visors, headbands, draw string backpacks, and water bottles). Mike doesn't have room to store that much inventory at his house, so Jeff volunteered to store extra gear in his Natick storage shed. Marie Leigh asked if Jeff could quantify the amounts that he has. Bob said it would be helpful to do before April's meeting.

Activities (Jeff Hattem):

Monthly meetings

The April meeting will be on the 7th and hosted by Andrea and Rich Leonard. Matt Vogel will host the May meeting. No date has been set as the Mural Mile would be on the normal meeting day. The June meeting will be on the 2nd at LifeTime Athletic in Framingham. The July meeting will be at Mike Bower's house on the 7th. The August meeting will be on the 4th and is usually hosted by Joe Koziol, though that hasn't been confirmed yet. Jen Feaster will host the September meeting on the 8th. Bob Cargill will host the October meeting.

Activities

Marathon Sports has a gait analysis/injury prevention clinic on March 7th at their Wellesley location. You can show up anytime between 5 pm and 7 pm.

The next social night is March 16th at John Harvard's at 6:30 pm.

LifeTime hosts fun runs every Saturday morning at 8 am (they will move to 7 am in the summer). You can run between 2 and 8 miles; all paces are welcome. LifeTime also hosts fun runs Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. All GFRC members are welcome to attend, even if they are not a LifeTime Athletic member.

Allie Hall and Breno Melo will host the Boston Marathon pasta party at LifeTime on Saturday, April 14th. We can bring wine and beer. The pasta party is still a potluck event. Marie Leigh asked if there will be a signup so that people know what others are bringing. Bob Cargill thinks we're lucky to have a relationship with LifeTime.

The runner/volunteer appreciation party will be hosted by Mary and Ted Tyler on April 19th.

The Mural Mile is May 5th and registration is open. We need runners this year. Jeff would like to heavily promote the event this year. Arnie Pollinger will contact local high school coaches. Jeff would like to get at least 100 runners. Karin Oleski suggested contacting middle school coaches as well. Ed Stoll suggested contacting the Framingham Parks and Rec folks. Mary Tyler said there were some free places that you can post, like Running USA, or New England Runner. Bob Cargill will try to send e-mails out to area running clubs.

Mary Tyler said there was some confusion about the start line last year. Bob said the race committee needs to address that this year. They may try to get a bus or van to shuttle runners to the start line. Mary mentioned that there were several other mile races in the area and that it could be good to see how they advertise. LifeTime will be promoting it as part of their weight loss challenge program. The C25k program will also recommend that runners participate. Jeff will need several volunteers, including someone to work the registration table, a GFRC merchandise table, a timer, and two people with clip boards as backup timers. Ed

said that they are thinking of a 50/50 drawing to raise money for the club using items donated by Marathon Sports. We'll have a miniature Mural Mile print mounted on a board for each gender winner. The print will also be made into a cast, in case the race directors decide to award medals. The cast could also be made into a cookie.

Derek Perkins would like to emcee the banquet this year, but he won't be available on June 10th. Derek asked if the date could be moved to June 24th. No one had any objections to moving the date.

The banquet committee consists of Leslie White-Harvey, Mike Bower, Kendra Howard, Marie Leigh, Karin Oleski, Julie Cameron, Bob Cargill, Cherry Baram, and Jeff Hattem. We will schedule a committee meeting in early April and will probably have several meetings before the banquet.

Jeff wants to know where we should have the banquet. The attendance numbers were down last year, and La Cantina requires 75 people. Marie Leigh thinks attendance has been down because people are busy with graduations at the beginning of June. Ed Stoll thinks we should consider alternate venues or tell La Cantina that we'll only commit to 50 people. Marie said they give you the downstairs space if you only commit to 50. Ed would like to try to negotiate. Jeff asked if we could rent the Elks Hall in Framingham for \$150 and have food catered by TJs in Ashland. Bob Cargill thinks we should try to save money this year. Marie thinks it is acceptable to subsidize the banquet, but that it doesn't make sense to subsidize people who aren't there (i.e., if only 50 show up to La Cantina when they expect 75). John Kalus asked if we could send out a survey monkey to poll members' interest in the banquet.

Social Media Director (Leslie White-Harvey and Bob Cargill):

We try to post as much as possible to our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. Bob and Leslie try to create events on Facebook. Anyone can contribute to our social media accounts.

Jay Powell