

MINUTES OF ADVENTURE RACING MEETING

DATED 4 NOVEMBER 2010

Meeting commenced at 18:40

Graham opened the meeting and welcomed everybody.

- **The way forward for next year** – Graham discussed the issue of whether we are going to continue Adventure Racing next year or not. No coach has been found by the school for next year, and Graham asked Sharon if she is prepared to coach just the U9's again, but she declined.

It was decided that we do want to continue with Adventure Racing next year, which means that Graham would then have to continue with coaching every two weeks. Friday is awkward for Graham – so he proposes to train rather on a Sunday all day, in Eston. Shongweni is no longer safe and we will not be training at Shongweni until further notice. Eston is further away but much safer and we do have training facilities there ie. Rock climbing wall, paintball area etc. The distances at Eston will be greater for the children which will be good for them and will advance them.

- **Possible Scenarios 2011** - The U13's will need a lot of work for next year, especially compass work, fitness training etc , so Graham will have to concentrate much of his time on them, which means that parents may be asked to help with the younger age groups if possible. Training at school is very limited and boring for the children, so is not entirely suitable. Graham has suggested that if the parents want there to be training every weekend instead of every second, the parents may have to club in to pay his airfare to come up from Cape Town.

We could also just train at school on a Friday, and then Graham will train the U13's only at Eston, with the parents clubbing in to pay the airfare.

Suggestion was made to train at Giba as an alternative to Shongweni.

We all agreed that we need to try and build up numbers again. We need to explain the incentives of Adventure Racing to all the learners ,ie half colour, full colour and honours achievements.

Graham suggested that we have a slide presentation at prize giving at the end of the year to try and encourage parents and children to get involved. Ms Chapman advised that this wouldn't be possible, but the school could include the presentation during a main assembly and also during the 2012 Orientation Day next year. This would be the perfect opportunity as new learners and families are being introduced to the school.

Sharon said that one problem she finds some children have is that they have to train every Friday and are missing their play dates. Graham noted that the more committed children

don't seem to have that problem, so those who are not so serious don't have to train every Friday, but then musn't expect to be selected for the 1st or 2nd team.

- It has been decided that the "Team Mom" system must come back in to play next year as it has worked well in the past and takes the pressure off the coach to do all the entries. Each team Mom can also then get the team together on weekends for training. Suggestion was made to approach Ewan Cochran again and get a price from him for training. Suggestion was also made to advertise AR better on our website with info as to what it's all about and also to keep it updated with current news, races etc. It would also be a good idea to create a link on our website for online race entries.

We need to get costings from Giba for training and costing from Ewan Cochran before we make a decision on training for 2011.

Mrs Brauteseth asked about how a sick child will be replaced for a race. Graham confirmed that another team will not be broken up, but rather another athlete will be sourced from within the school.

- Graham reported that George Forder has not come back to him with his proposal, so that option has fallen away. Unfortunately, this means we will have to do the Piet Lötter series once again.
- **Kit** – Our kit will remain the same except for the SA Champs representation. We have new kit for SA Champs which was on display.
- **Races** - Graham would like the Mudman to be made compulsory next year, in order to secure the prize and also to use as training and race practice. Feedback from the High School is that they make two compulsory and strongly encourage three. They use the Mudman as a team selection. This was well received by the parents and a consensus reached.
New ruling dictates that we will need to licence our racers next year. Club Roag was mentioned as a means to do that. It costs R50 for annual membership and you can get your license through them.
- Mountain Biking only events – Some of our "Sprogs" (14 yrs and under) are very good at mountain biking, and would do very well in mountain biking events. We need to consider including these events in our race portfolio and not limiting ourselves to AR, especially those who are aiming for specific achievements such as colours and honours.
- **Are we going to host a race next year?** We need to put a vote to parents. We need more parent participation if we are to host a race next year. Gavin Siepman suggested that, if we don't host a race, we are effectively moving ourselves further away from being a part of Adventure Racing. If we don't host a race, there will only be 3 Adventure Races next year. The majority consensus on hosting a race, was yes, and the date has been set for the 8th May.
A suggestion was made to find out what the fee would be for Roag to administer our race.

Other schools hosting a race are :-

Kloof High
Hillcrest High
Northdene Primary and Port Natal Primary combined
Hillcrest Primary

The two man team race format that we used last year didn't work, so we won't do that next year, it must remain a four man team, as stipulated in the constitution. Graham is currently busy working on the Constitution.

Suggestion was made to bring down the costs of hosting a race, one way is to stop offering prizes.

Graham disagrees as most of the prizes were sponsored. If we do have sponsors we need to make it worth their while in advertising etc. If we had not had sponsorship this year, our race would have run at a loss. Our race cost us over R17000 this year. Rob suggested that we try and do without prizes and see how it works.

- **Committee positions open** :-

Chairman - With no other nominations and no-one else willing, Graham agreed to continue as Chairman.
Secretary - I advised that I would like to take on the responsibility of "Team Mom" again.
Race Organiser - Graham is happy to take it on again this year with Rob's help.
Parent Representative's - Jean Ford U9's, Debbie Haswell U11's, and Kim Gower-Winter / Rob Wright U13's
School Representative - Dulcie Brauteseth.

- **Who is prepared to stand on the committee next year?**

Gavin Siepman
Michelle Whiteford (possibly as Secretary?)
Lerry Holm

The next General Meeting is set for Friday the 4th February 2011 – we will then have prices available for a decision on coaching options.

The first AR race next year is the 27th February 2011, Kloof High School, so we will need to start training during the December school holidays.

- **End of Year Function** - There will be a bring and braai for all Adventure Racers and families, staff and coaches, on the night of the 27th November 2011 (**date to be confirmed**) at Hillcrest Primary School Pool. All welcome.

Meeting was closed at 20:15.