2011

A Vision For the Future

Author

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October 2011

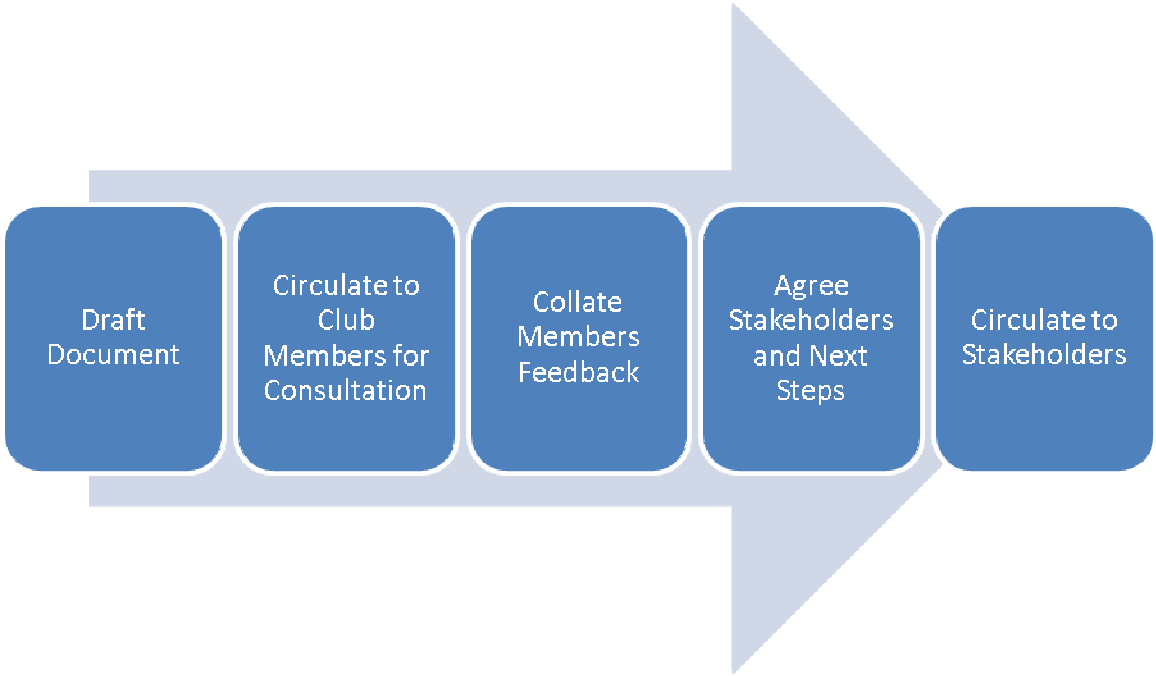
1 Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to document the draft vision for Torbay Athletic Club and obtain members input and views to help develop the vision further and reach consensus.

Although references in this paper will be to Torbay AC, by implication it will also include the Torbay Tri Club.

2 Process

Once club members have had an opportunity to provide feedback and general consensus has been reach, the vision can be shared with external stakeholders. Stakeholder are any individual, club or organisation who may be impacted by any of the proposals within the vision or where their assistance may be required to help implement any of the changes. It is intended to collate all members feedback by the end of November and review the vision at the following club committee meeting. At this meeting, stakeholders will be identified and a plan developed to determine how to advance the vision.



3 Background Information

Torbay Athletic Club was born on 28th April 1970. The club was the merger of Paignton and Torquay Athletic Clubs - however the history goes back much further! If you have not read the rich history of running and athletics in the Bay and the development of its athletic clubs, I direct you to the history page on the Torbay AC website. There you can update yourself on many of the extremely impressive achievements and also browse a few amusing photographs of some of the existing members!

http://www.torbayaac.co.uk/Pages/history.htm

4 Current Position

Today, the club has just over 100 current senior members. The club relies on a network of committee members and coaches to oversee the governance and co-ordination of club matters and develop the athletic talent within the membership.

Committee Members

- President & Prress Officer - Ray Brown
- Chairman & Race Director - Greg Fine
- Vice Chairman - Eric Barber
- Treasurer - Steve Cottle
- Membership Secretary - Jenny Lister
- Club Secretary - Anita Merritt
- Social secretary's - Tessa Hearfield & Janines Callard
- Webmaster - Stephen Wilbraham

Coaches

- Janine Callard , Steve Cottle, Hadleigh Davies
- Mike Davies, Rebecca Disbury , Helen Dyke , Greg Fine
- Tessa Hearfield , Andrew Longthorpe , Anita Merritt
- Jon Parkinson , Julia Schofield , Stephen Wilbraham

Seniors train at the club on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week throughout the year. During these sessions, there are 4-5 groups based on their level of ability.

Juniors train on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Spring and Summer and Fridays in the Autumn and Winter.

The majority of members regularly race and routinely have impressive performances ranging from race wins, to age category wins, team prizes, to improving their own personal best times or just having fun competing.

The club organises two races each year; the Torbay half marathon and the Torbay 10k. These races are organised well and have continued to grow in popularity and attract many more runners in recent years. To ensure these races are successfully organised, strong leadership and management is required with a high level of support needed from club members, sponsors, local authorities / organisations and additional volunteers on the day.

5 Training Facilities

The club train at Torre Valley North in the Spring and Summer and from the Riviera Centre in the Autumn and Winter. When at Torre Valley North, members mostly use the grass running track and when at the Riviera Centre they head out and about on the streets; mostly around Torquay and Paignton seafront – regardless of the weather!

Torre Valley North

Riviera Centre

The facilities at Torre Valley North are owned by Torbay Council and shared between Torbay AC, Chelston Cricket Club and Torquay Athletic Rugby Football Club. The shared clubhouse has very basic facilities. The following photographs show the dirty, bleak and austere changing, shower and toilet facilities. As you can see the changing rooms have cold concrete floors, the sinks, toilets and showers are dirty, very old and lack investment. With facilities like these it is hard to appear welcoming and attractive to new members, especially children.

6 The Club's Vision for the Future

Through prudent management and effective governance, over the years the club has accumulated a modest fund which it has generally considered would be used for the future development of the club.

In order to better understand the views of the club members, feedback is sought on a number of topics to help shape the future vision for the club. Once the vision is better understood, a plan will need to be developed to understand how the vision can be achieved. If required, this may also inform investment opportunities.

In particular, feedback is sought on the following topics –

1. Club membership (Seniors & Juniors)
    a. Do we have enough club members or should we actively promote the club more to attract new members?
    b. If so, how should this be done?
2. Training
    a. Do we have enough qualified coaches at the club?
    b. Are the training sessions organised well and what members require?
3. Events
    a. What are members views regarding our organised races?
    b. What are members views regarding the organised social events?
4. Facilities
    a. What are members views regarding our clubhouse facilities?
5. Other comments
    a. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the club which you would like to share to help inform the vision for the future?