



Dear Member

Election of 100 Marathon Chairperson – July 2019

After a lot of hard work and some difficult decision making, we are now able to announce that the voting period for the election of the next chair to the 100 Marathon Club will open at Midnight on 12th July 2019.

We apologise in advance for the length of this message but there is quite a bit we want to inform you about.

All GDPR blocks which stop members who have opted out of receiving emails will be temporarily removed as the committee believes this information and process should be available to all members. Blocks will be reinstated after the emails have been sent out. If you have not received an email from the club for some time before receiving this one, it is because you have opted out. If you wish to start receiving all email again please contact treasurer@100marathonclub.org.uk.

The years vote has an unprecedented number of candidates, including members of the current committee. Every effort has been made not to give the committee members standing any unfair advantage over the other candidates by fact of their position on the committee. In fact, we have been rather strict about what those committee members can see and vote upon. Their access to the membership database and management system and as social media managers has now been removed until after the voting period. We have held extensive consultation with England Athletic to ensure that we get this right.

The committee were very sad to receive the resignation of our current Welfare Jan Lavis a few days ago. With little time to appoint a replacement and wanting to have a robust complaints and disciplinary process in place for the duration of the election the committee has decided to implement an interim policy. We have been assisted in doing this with help from England Athletics. The interim policy can be found on [our website](#). It will come into force at midnight on 12th July and expire 28 days thereafter. At which point we will conduct a consultation process with members about the best way forward in respect of the development of a new complaints and disciplinary policy. The interim policy is designed to be as fair and open as it can be and to protect the committee, election candidates and club membership during the election process. Any member who would like to volunteer to serve on either the complaint or disciplinary panel is asked to make contact with either the secretary or treasurer so that we can build a list of members who would be happy to be called upon, please contact us by Thursday 18th July.

After some debate the committee have asked the Treasurer, Jon Aston to manage the voting process. Jon will remain impartial and has declared that he will not vote in order to maintain both his own integrity, and that of the voting and election process. Overall the election will be managed

jointly by Janet Cobby and Jon Aston as the two officers of the club not standing in the election. The remaining committee members, Gareth Davies, Maryanne Atkinson and Rob Beech will provide committee oversight and governance to the process.

The poll will be conducted through Survey Monkey, each member will receive an email with a link to the voting page. You may only use this link once and be unable to return to the site or change your vote once cast. Voting is open to all Full and Associate members of the 100 Marathon Club. Applications for club membership made during the voting period will not be approved until the vote has closed. This is to prevent people attempting to join simply to provide additional votes to any one candidate. It may be that some who recently apply for membership may have done so for just this purpose, however they met all the criteria for membership and so their membership has been approved. EA advice was sought on this and the policy of no new membership once the poll is opened suggested by them was voted upon and agreed by committee members apart from those standing for election.

The only member of the committee to have access to the vote as it progresses will be Jon Aston, he will not share any details of the how the vote is progressing with anyone. Survey Monkey is a very secure system. Interim results will be shared with no one and final results will be communicated to the entire membership by email and through our website and social media pages.

The committee decided that an independent person should be appointed who will verify the results and agreed that Amanda Ellis who is a senior accountant and a runner but not a member or associated with the 100 Marathon Club other than the fact that she audited our accounts for the past two years. Amanda did a very thorough job with the auditing and produced a detailed and comprehensive report for the club. She has a keen eye for detail and will say if she thinks something is wrong. After the vote closes Amanda will be given access to the Survey Monkey results for a limited time and to all committee documents and emails pertinent to the whole election process. She will produce a verification report within two weeks of the poll closing, she may wish to contact a random sample of members to check their experience of the process and verify their individual vote. The day after the poll closes the result will be published pending verification.

The survey Monkey and therefore poll will be closed at Midnight on Sunday July 28th.

Survey Monkey will allow only one single vote per email address the invitation to vote is sent to, email addresses and IP addresses of respondents will be recorded in an attempt to eliminate fraudulent voting. The verifier will have access to all this information. Any member found to attempt to more than one vote will have their vote discounted and be subject to the interim disciplinary policy. The Survey Monkey survey results will be kept securely on the club's Survey Monkey account for six months after the vote closes as long as there is no ongoing dispute about the result. A summary report will be produced from Survey and stored in the club's electronic document storage bank and published on the website.

Any member of the club found to have posted any abusive or bullying messages in an attempt to influence voting will be subject to referral to the interim Complaints and Disciplinary procedures and their vote may be excluded from the poll.

The committee sincerely wishes that this election is honest and fair and is completed without being compromised. We are certain that more thought and attention has been given to this vote than the Conservative Party gave to its current election for our new Prime Minister where many members were sent two polling cards. Our vote however is nowhere near as important as theirs. We urge all

members to use their votes and to take time in considering who they wish to vote for. The vote will be open for just over two weeks so you have time.

Any member who finds they are unable to access or use the Survey Money is asked to contact [Jon Aston](#) who will attempt to help them.

All that remains is to wish our five candidates, Davey Green, Nick Nicholson, Jo Yarnall, David Davidson and David Lewis the very best of luck. You can see the candidate's statements on the club website simply follow [this link](#). Please read the statement before going to the voting page

Yours sincerely

Janet Cobby
Secretary

Jon Aston
Treasurer