**Stilton Striders Running Club**

**Constitution**

This document sets out the basic constitution for our club, and also refers to our Code of Conduct (as identified on the reverse of the club’s membership application form) and the England Athletics Welfare policy.

**1. Name**

The club will be called Stilton Striders Running Club and will be affiliated to England Athletics. The club kit will be a Stilton Striders Running Club logo on a blue and white vest or T-shirt.

**2. Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of the club are to:

* provide opportunities for road and off road running in Melton Mowbray and the surrounding area.
* create a supportive, welcoming atmosphere with an emphasis on the social and health benefits of running.
* offer regular sessions for club members.
* offer athletics provision for juniors.
* encourage participation in local and team running events.
* promote running within the wider local community.
* ensure a duty of care to all members of the club, and provide services in a way that is fair to everyone.

**3. Club Equality Statement**

This club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

* Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.
* The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
* The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
* All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
* The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

**4. Membership**

Membership will consist of officers and members of the club. All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of conduct that the club has adopted. Members take part in all activities at their own risk. See the club website for current membership categories.

Membership of the Club commences when the signed club membership application form is approved by the Secretary.

Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone over the age of 8 years. Children aged between 8 and 16 years may only join with the consent of their parent/guardian.

All persons wishing to join the Club must be amateurs as defined by England Athletics. Definition of Amateur is a person who competes for the love of sport and as a means of recreation, without any motive of securing any material gain from such competition.

**5. Membership fees**

Membership fees will be set annually by the Club Committee and then determined at the Annual General Meeting. Refer to club website for current membership fees.

Categories are:

* Adults
* Juniors
* Second claim
* Students
* Unwaged
* Social

Fees will be paid annually to the club who will register members using England Athletics online payment mechanism. Membership is renewed from 1st April and must be paid by 30th June.

Prospective new members are encouraged to try up to 3 of the regular club training sessions as a non-member. Thereafter they will be required to join in order to participate in club activities and receive the full benefits of membership.

Parents of Junior members are welcome to attend club wide events, meetings and social gatherings.

The Committee shall have the power to expel any member whose subscription is six months in arrears provided a months’ notice in writing shall have been sent to such member by email or a registered or recorded delivery letter, addressed to their last known address informing of the proposed action of the committee.

**6. Officers of the club**

England Athletics suggest officers of the club will include the following positions:

* President/Chair
* Treasurer
* Secretary
* Membership Secretary
* Two Welfare Officers
* DBS Checker

Note that the current officers (March 2023) consist of: Chair, Treasurer, due role of Secretary/Membership Secretary, one Welfare Officer and a DBS Checker. The current committee are committed to fulfilling EA’s suggested format of roles.

The core Officers of the club will consist of the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary, as a minimum for maintenance of the club. Other positions may vary and be added to as the club develop, including a tangible link between the Junior and Sections of the club with a role of Junior Liaison.

Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Only first claim members that were fully paid-up by the preceding 31st March are eligible for election and they must pay-up promptly for the following year or the committee can remove them from their post.

If necessary, the committee may elect another member to join during the year.

Notice will be given of any committee positions to fill prior to the AGM and any members willing to fill those positions will express their interest to the Chair or Secretary prior to the meeting.

In the event of a vacancy and no one declares their interest in advance of the AGM, any members attending the meeting may put themselves forward at that point.

All officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-appointment at the AGM.

**7. Club Committee**

The club will be managed through the Club Committee consisting of the above officer positions.

The Club Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members, including the above officer positions.

Only officers of the club will have the right to vote at meetings of the Club Committee.

The Club Committee meetings will be convened by the Chair of the club and held no less than four times per year.

Any officer missing three committee meetings in a row will be considered as standing down from their post at the next AGM, if the committee so decides.

The quorum required for formal business and decisions affecting the club to be agreed at Club Committee meetings will be 50% of appointed committee positions + 1. Decisions will be taken based on a majority vote of those present.

The Club Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the club.

The Club Committee will have powers to appoint sub-committees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Club Committee, from the general membership, as necessary to fulfil its business.

The Club Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club constitution or code of conduct ( to be found on the reverse the clubs membership form).

The Club Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

**8. Finance**

All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club. The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club. The financial year of the club will end on 31st March.

The statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

Any electronic bank transfers or cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of two approved club officers.

**9. Annual General Meetings**

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held each year when all matters relating to finance and administration in the past year, and for the future may be discussed.

The election or re-election of committee members and officers will also take place at the AGM.

Notice of Annual General Meetings (AGM) will be given by the Club Secretary for the AGM to be held in April. Not less than 21 clear days’ notice to be given to all members.

Nominations for officers of the Club Committee will be sent to the Chair or Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

An agenda will be circulated at least 7 days in advance of the AGM, with a note of those standing down as officers and those seeking election/re-election.

Elections of officers are to take place at the AGM.

The AGM will receive a report from officers of the Club Committee and a statement of the audited accounts.

All senior members have the right to vote at the AGM.

As the AGM occurs early in the new affiliation year and subscriptions are approved at the AGM, technically no one is a fully paid-up member at that point. Therefore, only members that were fully paid-up by the preceding 31st March are eligible to vote.

Voting at AGM/EGM:

A quorum shall be the lower of 30 members or 20% of the total membership.

Decisions shall be made on a simple majority rule.

No proxy votes shall be allowed.

Voting shall be by show of hands, but any member may ask for a ballot.

In the case of a tie in voting, Chair to have the casting vote.

The Club Committee has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

**10. Discipline and appeals**

All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the Safeguarding Children’s Welfare Policy.

The club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any safeguarding or child protection concerns.

All members are expected to follow the rules of this constitution and the codes of conduct of the club.

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Welfare Officer or Secretary.

The Club Committee will meet to hear complaints within 28 days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Club Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 14 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

**11. Liabilities**

The Club, Committee or its Officers will not be responsible for any loss or injury occurring during club meetings, training runs or races attended or promoted by the Club.

It is a condition of membership that members attend entirely at their own risk.

The Club Committee will ensure that Stilton Striders have adequate Public Liability Insurance.

**12. Dissolution**

A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership. In the event of dissolution, any assets of the club that remain will become the property of a charity to be nominated at an AGM/EGM.

**13. Amendments to the constitution**

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

**14. Declaration**

Stilton Striders Running Club hereby confirms that this constitution and any subsequent amendments, were discussed, agreed, adopted and accepted as the current operating guide regulating the actions of the club and its members at the AGM 26th April 2023

Signed: Chris M Genes Date: 26th April 2023

Name: Chris Genes. Position: Club Chairman

Signed: Jane Martin Date: 26th April 2023

Name: Jane Martin Position: Club Secretary