

**STILTON STRIDERS RUNNING CLUB**
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 26th April 2023**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Chris G, Andy N, John H, Katie h-H, Wayne H, Zoe W, Lee A, Robert C, David B, Michael M, Abi A, Michelle F, Neil J, Julie J, Dan K, Emily H, Luke K, Vicki L, Julie A, David H, Clive W, Darren G, Mark P, Suzie S, Paul J, Steven W, Rachel W, Emma G, Michael C, Nicola T, Ant I, Gina B, Anne C, Vicki G, Josh D, Ian J and Mike B. **Quorate:** 38 senior members present therefore meeting declared quorate.

**Apologies:** John & Jane M, John R, Rob & Sharon M, Liz G, Mark T, Alison W, Ian B, Dan G, Matt & Mel W, Vanessa W, Ian C and Kirsty B.

**Minutes of previous AGM** (27th April 2022)

Amended to include Vicki L as attendee and accepted as a true record. Proposer: Rachel W Seconded: Lee A.

**Outstanding items for previous AGM;**

* **Committee to review club kit and subsidy with Michael Cooke.** Increased commission from 7.5% to 9.00% Completed.
* **Committee to review ‘Officer’ positions to EA guidance** Contained in proposed Constitution update. Agenda item.
* **Committee to review Club Constitution –** Agenda item
* **Initiate ‘free’ club vest for 11+ juniors joint club for first time.** 12 free vests given to new EA affiliated junior members.
* **Review and trial of new Handicap Race format**. Reviewed and kept to tried and tested format. Completed.
* **Prior to new XC season organise a trial run.** Two sessions held in October at MCP. Completed.
* **Di to lead a one-off grass track session on local school grass track.** Longfield track hired during summer 2022. Completed.
* **Committee to review tail runners for winter club runs.** Started well but as weeks went by and members familiar with routes it fell by wayside although we always accompanied new runners. Action ongoing.
* **Confirm date/venue of Three Club Challenge**. Lack of facilities from other clubs. Will try and resurrect this year. Ongoing.
* **Committee to review return of end of season presentation evening**. Successful format at Grange Garden Centre January 2022. Completed.

**Chairs Report: Chris Genes**

How time fly’s – this in now my fourth Chairs report.

Like most clubs and organisations, membership and participation changes naturally over time.

Looking around tonight and at our club sessions and activities the make up of participants has continued to change and we have gained a significant number of new members. It’s always great to see new members bringing new enthusiasm to running within the club, albeit it is tinged with some sadness as we miss some of the familiar faces.

Jane shall update us later with regards to specific membership numbers.

Before I go any further, I’d like to say a few thank you’s.

Firstly, Andy for all the hard work he puts in keeping the books in order and also arranging for the email of activities going out each Sunday evening.

A special mention to Jane, who as Secretary keeps England Athletics up to date with membership.

Paul and John who between them deserve a big thank you for putting on the Thursday structured sessions.

Thank you as well to Zoe and Josh who also represent members on the committee with their input and contributions. We have a great committee that looks after the interests of the club and our members.

Wasn’t it great to see our very own Stilton 7 returning again and as usual it was well supported by members racing and assisting Katie before, during and afterwards making her role as Race Director easier.

Hopefully, we’ll be back in February 2024 again with Katie at the helm.

Unfortunately, both Di Underwood and Richard Cox felt the time was right, after over 25 years, for them both to step down from looking after the junior sections and it should be recognised and not be forgotten for all the hard work and dedication, they have unselfishness given the juniors.

However, on a positive note John Robinson has taken on the role and also joined the committee so we can form a closer link between the Juniors and Seniors – John will provide his own report a little latter this evening.

Apologies if I’ve missed thanking anyone else – all I can add is that we all need to thank each and everyone of ourselves for what we do and contribute within the club – the sum of the parts make us what we are.

Apart from the many racing achievements made during the year by members (far too many to list and mention) I must mentions some other positives.

At last year’s AGM we discussed club funds and as a committee we have re-invested a proportion of our funds back into the club – I’ll ask Andy to highlight this later in his report.

Andy has moved us more into the 21C and we have moved away from cash and cheques, when possible, to electronic banking – that was an achievement in its-self setting it up – but its working with John, Zoe and myself being counter approvers to Andy transaction.

The Stilton 7 again was a success and Andy will probably pick up on this in his report details of the local charities we support from 50% of our surplus and we’ll be looking for another local charity to support next year.

Earlier this year we recommenced our annual presentation evening when we dusted off those trophies and participated in an enjoyable event at The Grange.

Continuing with the theme of presentations we also had a small delegations of members attend the LRRL presentation evening where some individual awards were collected as well as awards for the men’s team getting promoted into Division Two.

We also had success in the Derby XC league where our mixed team secured promotion to Division One.

As a club we now participate in parkrun take overs and provide numerous pacers.

Although not running related we participated again in the annual Christmas Tree festival at St Mary Church. Thanks John for the tree donation from the Grange Garden Centre and John, Jane and Zoe for organising.

Communications between members have improved recently with both our private and public Facebook pages being regularly updated and Josh has deleted a lot of recipients who are no longer members.

For those who are not Facebook fans or users, we try to keep everyone abreast both with the weekly calendar of events emails and other emails of information.

Please note that when we talk later about membership, we’d like you update your details so we have correct addresses, phone numbers, NoK and medical information if appropriate.

Later on this evening we can discuss in more detail what members want from the club so that we can see what else we can do for and with each other.

That bring my report to an end so if anyone has any questions or queries for me please now is your opportunity.

**Treasurers Report (2022/2023 Year End Accounts) Andy Nicholls.**

The accounts for the year to 31st March 2023 were distributed via email to all members prior to this meeting.

The report was audited by Tom Boden– a big thank you to him for his very prompt assistance once again.

Tom has said that he will be stepping down as Auditor though, so we are looking for someone to replace him next year.

Ideally the person would be independent (so not a current committee member) with a financial or professional background. If you are interested in this, or know someone that might be, please let us know after the meeting.

Some highlights of the report include:

The bank balance at the start of the year was just under £6K and this reduced by £1K to just under £5k at the end of the year.

As promised last year, we subsidised members in a few ways:

kit subsidy (e.g. £8 per hoodie and 12 juniors vests free)

awards evening (£5 per member)

investing in training courses (£645 for 3 courses for John Robinson so that he can now lead the juniors section)

Longfield grass track hire for summer sessions £160

Livingston Relays team entries £55

Membership fees were up by £1,253 as in the prior year we gave a discount for those that joined early in the year (due to the Covid-disrupted season) and most people joined then. This year fees were back to normal levels throughout.

A few one-offs – purchase of the pacer bibs for parkrun £73 and gifts for Di and Richard totalling £100 on their retirement as juniors coaches after many years service

There are still some late costs to come from the Stilton 7 that are not included in these figures - £161 for signs purchased/hired from Leicestershire Highways where we’ve not yet received the invoice and £531 for charity donations to Rainbows and Re-engage (being 50% of the profits from the race shared between those 2 charities) once we have certainty over the amount.

The balance is a more sensible level now and, as we expect to host the Stilton 7 again, we can consider freezing membership fees again next year.

Katie H-H proposed and David H seconded proposal to agree that the income and expenditure report is an accurate representation of the facts. Agreed by all present.

**Secretaries Report**: Jane Martin (read by Chris G)

Sorry I cannot be with you tonight as John and I are on holiday. In my absence I’ve asked Chris to read out my short report. During the year we have seen a change in the make-up of membership and with John Robinson we have reviewed the current juniors members records and EA membership. At the end of the financial year we have 139 members registered with EA with 124 of those being seniors. Being new to the role as Secretary I initially found it challenging to work out our Dropbox file storage system and other software programmes but with the assistance and help of both Andy and Chris I’m beginning to get on top of things. I have also updated the New Members Starter Information sheet that I’m now sending out to new members. Unfortunately, I’m not back in the UK for another four weeks I’ll had to rely again on Andy and Chris to process renewals for 2023/24 until I get back. I am happy to continue in this role if members decide to re-elect me for another year.”

**Juniors Report. John Robinson – (read by Chris G)**

This year has seen the retirement of Di Underwood and Richard Cox, and it seems fitting to start by paying tribute to all their hard work over the years in growing the junior section to what it is today.

John Robinson has taken on leadership of the juniors and is now a member of the committee. John is currently completing the assessment phase of his coaching qualification, which should be completed by the end of May. Ian Johnson continues to support the juniors as an assistant coach. John & Ian are putting on weekly sessions on a Tuesday evening, which typically see 14-20 juniors attending from age 8 up to 17. The primary focus of the sessions is athletics fundamentals, which comprises a mixture of running and game-based activities and an emphasis on developing technique in a fun and supportive environment.

John and Ian have worked over the first few months to strengthen links with the senior members, and a number of senior members have acted as volunteers to support junior sessions over the winter. This has been successful and will be rolled out further throughout the year. John and Ian are interested in exploring more ways of integrating more closely with the seniors, and are open to any ideas from the membership base in this regard.

With the current level of coaching and volunteer support we are able to maintain weekly sessions on a Tuesday for the foreseeable future. In previous years the juniors have benefitted from a second session during the week, but with our current coaching resource we are not able to offer this at the moment. If any of the members are interested in becoming a coaching assistant then this would allow us to move back to two weekly sessions, so please get in touch if you’d like to know more about this.

* **Additional comment from Ian Johnson** “Thanks to Di and Richard for all they have done for junior running in the town over nearly 30 years since setting up the junior section.  Also thanks to John Robinson for taking on the role of junior section coach enabling the training group to carry on.”
* **Life Membership:** Chris G proposed that in recognition of Di and Richards service to the junior section they should be made Life Members. This was approved by all present.

**Proposed amended and updated Constitution.** Distributed to all members prior to AGM with agenda and other relevant paperwork.

Chris explained that we should not take this proposed update as a criticism of current `Constitution from 2009 and last updated 2019. It’s a case of moving with England Athletics guidance and covers additional sections including but not limited to reference to Clubs Code of Conduct, Equality Statement (previously lacking), definitions of Club Officers and addition of Junior Section link, Committee Roles and Responsibilities expanded, Discipline & Appeals section added as well a section on Dissolution.

Chris also explained that it follows an EA template, albeit it slightly reduced because we are a running club and not an athletics club and previous drafts had been sheared and approved by the committee.

Chris proposed the club adopt this as our new Constitution and it was agreed by all present.

**Election of Officers and Committee.** All committee members made it know that they are prepared to stand again for another year.

* **Chair:** Chris Genes Proposed: Josh D. Seconded: Zoe W
* **Treasurer** Andy Nicholls. Proposed: Darren G, Seconded :Anthony I
* **Secretary/Membership.** Jane Martin. Proposed : Julie J. Seconded. Darren G
* **Committee Members:**  John Martin, Paul Jacobs, Zoe Wyrko, Josh Dadd, John Robinson. Chris G proposed they all be elected back en-bloc. Proposed Andy N Seconded: Lee A.

**Note all committee members were re-elected for another year.**

Emily H was proposed by Dan K and seconded by Katie H-H to join the committee. Agreed by all present.

* **Welfare Officer** Chris identified that the junior section should have a Welfare Office (to support John martin as Senior’s Welfare Officer). The club will pay for all and any EA training. One member has been approached and another approached Chris [post meeting about taking up this position. At this stage they remain anonymous pending them reviewing requirements, which post meeting has been shared with them.

**Membership Fees.**

Prior to Andy presenting the committees proposal Chris shared comparable fees from local cubs. Barrow £35. Wreake @ Soar £49. Wreake £42 plus track sessions. Badgers £40. Roadhoggs £30. Stamford Striders £36. Hinckley £25 plus EA and West End £24 plus EA.

**Fees proposal 2023/24**

England Athletics have increased their fees again from £16 per member to £17.

We propose to freeze most of the fees members pay to join the club again – although this may well need to change next year.

This means the fees would be:

Adult first claim £30

Couples discount. -£5

Adult 2nd claim £15

Over 60s £20

Students/unwaged £17 = £1 increase

Life member Free

Juniors 11+ £17 = £1 increase

There would also be the same discounts for those that join from 1st January to March 2024 onwards:

Anyone who’s ever registered with EA – with any club

20 for up to 3 months or £45 for up to 15 months

club gets £3 for 3 months or £11 for 15 months, EA gets £17 for 3 months or £17 x 2 = £34 for 15 months).

New member joining never registered before with EA

£20 for up to 3 months or £30 for up to 15 months

(gives an extra £15 discount for renewing for 15 months as the EA fees are only charged once – club gets £3 for 3 months or £13 for 15 months i.e. virtually the same amount as above).

Darren G proposed accepting fees proposal. Neil J seconded. Agreed by all present.

**LRRL and Derby Runner Leagues.**

Great season and members turn outs: LRRL Men’s D3 plus individual awards and Derby Runner promotion to mixed Div 1.

Trying to create Team Spirit and support at LRRL races like we do at the XC events.

Special mention to everyone involved in Stilton 7. Katie RD, Andy and John team plus Marshalls and runners. Planning to hold again in 2024.

Chris explained committee are looking at creating a new Derby Runner XC from Moscow Farm where the Dalby Dollop was held last year. Chris is in contact with Dave Mann from the league. Main consideration is that it should not impact on preparation etc on Stilton 7

**Summer Outruns**

Chris Sorry informed meeting that they start next Wednesday from The Grange Garden Centre. However, the summer schedule looking sparse. Interest from some members present. It was agreed that post meeting Chris would resent current schedule to all members. Note that this was completed 27th April.

**Run Leaders**

Paul Jacobs mentioned that this is continuing to be supported by members and if anyone else would like to assist by becoming a Run Leader the club will pay any fees to get you EA LiRF qualification.

Big big thank you to Paul and John how host these sessions.

**General Discussion “How is the club doing – what do members want?”**

This suggestion was opened to all to make comments, suggestions etc.

David B asked if we could review the run routes we follow on Wednesday from MSV now that there are more housing estates. Andy N agreed to review.

Michael M wanted to make a comment saying that he only joined the club one year ago and during his time as a member he has found everyone welcoming and encouraging.

**Any other business.**

* Anthony I tabled a question prior to AGM about Club’s place for London Marathon place and suggests to make it fair we exclude previous club place recipients
* After a general discussion to was agree to retain the current criteria but to include a fourth consideration that the clubs place member should be excluded from the club ballot for one year. Voting on years exclusion went : one year 19 votes, two years 13 votes and three years 3 votes.
* Note: Criteria has been amended to include this change.
* Livingston Relays. Fantastic Club Event Sunday 28th May Three mile loops around Mallory Park Race Track. Club pay entries.
* So far we have 2 X Men’s, 1 Men’s Vet, 1 Ladies and 2 vet Ladies Teams
* Kurt Wilson will be taking on the role as Captain Kurt on the day sorting out race numbers, team makeup on the day. Please let Kurt and/or Andy know if you want to be included.
* Club Base: Chris explained that Melton Town Football Club would like the club to use their facilities as our base with showers and changing rooms being available. It was agreed that the committee will investigate and pursue this option and revert to members appropriately.

Meeting closed at 9:45pm