

ST ALBANS STRIDERS - AGM MINUTES
THURSDAY 29th OCTOBER 2015
8.30pm

- 1. Acceptance of Minutes of 23rd October 2014 AGM**
Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Jack Brooks and seconded by Andy Auld.

- 2. Chairman's Report and Membership Update**
The Chairman began by recapping just some of the achievements during the past year, from the Club's 499 members across the UK and Europe.

Chiltern League – (still 4th)

Men - 4th out of 14
Vet Men - 4th out of 14
Paul Adams 4th man overall

Women - 5th out of 14
Graham Smith 5th v40

Wendy Walsh 3rd v35

Vet Women - 1st out of 14

Deborah Steer, Liz McKie and Zoe Lowe 1st, 2nd and 3rd v45.

MWRRL

1st place for men, women, vet men and vet women.

Blake Vivian 1st male overall. Wendy Walsh 1st v45 female.

Pete Crowdell 2nd v40, Graham Smith 3rd v40, Graham Foster 2nd v50, Jenny Maddocks 2nd v35.

Notable individual performances

Paul Adams – club records at the London Marathon, 35th in 2.27.53 and Berkhamsted Half

Tom Crouch – 48th in the Bupa London 10K in 32.16

Si Fraser - won Hatfield 5k series men

Striders men's team win at the Stampede

Age group club records for Graham Foster (v50 5 mile), Graham Smith (v40 10 mile) and Pete Crowdell (v40 5k), Wendy Webster (v35 5 mile).

Jen Conway was 1st Senior Woman in the Sunday Cross Country League

Membership Update

499 members at the close of 2015, 28 down on the 2014 figure at the same stage.

- 285 male and 214 female – 57% men :43% women - again about same as last year – again more women in RWS.
- 143 new members – this was down from 178 who joined in 2014. 2 RWS/Get Started in the previous financial years, Olympics, Park Run etc.
- 171 either resigned or did not re-join. This was less than the previous year's 180.
- There are currently 245 members who are EA affiliated – about same as the previous year.

Successfully Introduced Initiatives:

New Vest

A year ago the new vest was revealed and after a successful launch it was great to see the members wearing the new vests at races. Not only that, but it had also been inspirational to see so many members embrace the change. Since the introduction of new vest there had been very positive feedback especially from other clubs.

The Chair thanked Andy Auld, for his efforts with the new range of clothing following the launch of the vests.

It was also reported that the Chair had also ordered some new race wind chaser flags/feathers which would be seen at events soon.

Stampede

The Chair reported that Nick and Amy had worked really hard on the launch of the Stampede and whilst always realistic about how long it would take to build the event up, it was encouraging to break even in year one and have such a successful event with really positive feedback. A new Race Director would be required to join Nick.

New Members Initiatives

It was reported that Jen Conway and her Meet and Greet Team would be available on the 1st Tuesday of the month, which would be promoted as an opportunity for new members to come down to the Club for the first time.

Striders Weekend Away

It was also reported that 30 members had had a brilliant weekend away in the Peak District, with varying amounts of running, cycling, cake eating and drinking, but whatever the intentions, all agreed that it was a great weekend and worth continuing again in 2016. It was also announced that the Club would not subsidise the weekend in 2016 and that those attending must cover the costs. The Chair thanked Jen Conway for her superb organisation.

Striders Coach Trip

It was reported that 33 Striders headed to the Great Birmingham Run (formerly the Birmingham Half) 2 weeks before and not only did Paul Adams finish 19th in a time of 1.11.53, but the club also came away with the 3rd team prize overall. As reward for this great feat, the organisers had given the Club 5 free places into the race for 2016. The committee would give more thought would be given to the precise allocation of these places.

Membership Fees

It was reported that the £5 volunteer discount had been retained and the free annual membership for committee members had been introduced (to reward those who contribute directly to the running of the Club.).

Club Handicap

The organisers had almost succeeded in making the Club Handicap fairer via the introduction of a rule requiring participants to compete in an officially timed 5km race prior to participating. Most people were a lot closer together than previous times but there was still room for improvement.

Ice Bands

The Chair thanked Joe Dunn who had carried out the research and arranged for the Club discount. The Chair encouraged all members to wear an ICE Bands or an equivalent.

Website Overhaul

The Club was currently updating the website and hoped that more members would return to using the site as a source of information. Webmaster, Hannah Martin and Lucy Waterlow, the Club's blogger were thanked and acknowledged for their hard work.

New Shelves

The Chair reported thanks to Liz McKee and Andy Auld there who had fitted new shelves in the lock up.

The Year Ahead

The Chair noted that the growth on the Club brought with it an ever increasing workload and that the Club could not keep going without all the hard work behind the scenes from its dedicated committee and fantastic volunteers.

Run Leaders and Coaches

More trained Run Leaders were needed and to attend the LIRF and CIRF courses.

Extra Sessions

The Club was looking for volunteers to take out extra runs on a Saturday and Sunday.

New Notice Boards

The Club had requested an up to date notice board at Abbey View.

Survey

It was reported that a survey would be send out early next year aimed at gathering members' views and, to find out if the club was still what members wanted it to be as well as considering any areas of focus for the future.

Striders Coach Trip

As well as the Birmingham Half in 2016, members present at the AGM were asked to consider whether the Great South Run (Portsmouth 10 miles) should be made a Club Championships race and included as a coach trip instead.

Members were positive about both and after discussion it was agreed that as the Club had been awarded some free places into the 2016 race, the Birmingham Half would continue to be included for 2016.

3. Treasurer's Report

- It was reported that the main thing that the club invested in this year was the new kit. They were initially subsidised by the Club during the first six months because we had to purchase and sell them in time for MWRRL but now they are being sold at the correct price.
- Membership was down but there was also the problem that affiliation fees work on a different year. Our subscriptions/accounts go to the end of August but the affiliations go to April to March. Also the affiliation fees increase in April but the club was not covered for that as we set the membership in August, so a loss was being made over 8 months. Unfortunately the club does not know each year what the affiliation fee would be in that April. It was agreed to have a look at change the subscription year.
- It was reported that there was one race event in the accounting year which was Fred Hughes, which as expected did well and is expected to be in a similar position the next financial year. The Stampede was introduced in September and after breaking even in year one, it is expected that the Club would begin making revenue from the race.
- There was a deficit in the social area and this was mainly because of the away weekend. A £1000 loss had been agreed up front, as it was a new initiative. Unfortunately it was difficult to get the numbers right as it was impossible to know how many members would be interested. However as the weekend away was very popular with those who attended and it was hoped there would be a bigger uptake next year and the club would not be subsidise the event going forward.
- Also there was an increase of expenditure on social activities, as agreed at a previous AGM in 2013.

4. Election of Officers

The Chairman thanked the outgoing members for all their hard work: Wendy Webster, Joe Dunn, Alison Campbell and Kim Dickinson.

The proposed new Executive Committee members were:

- Treasurer - Ed Chaloner
- Membership Secretary - Deirdre Heydecker
- Mens Road Captain - Simon Fraser
- Kit - Andy Auld

The proposed new Associate Committee members were:

- Publicity Team - Howard Bull
- Catering Co-ordinator - Andy Normile

It was reported that Ben Scott and Amy Heap would be taking over the Fred Hughes position from Mandy and Lucy in 2017 and would be shadowing this year.

There were no objections to the new executive/associate members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR - Stuart Middleton (incumbent)

DEPUTY CHAIR - Jen Conway (incumbent)

SECRETARY - Jenny Maddocks (incumbent)

TREASURER - **ED CHALONER (NOMINEE)**

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - **DEIRDRE HEYDECKER (NOMINEE)**

SOCIAL SECRETARY - Emma Halldearn (incumbent)

WEBMASTER - Hannah Martin (incumbent)

XC CAPTAINS - Wendy Walsh, Graham Smith (incumbent)

ROAD CAPTAINS - Lucy Martin (incumbent), **SIMON FRASER (NOMINEE)**

COACHING & DEVELOPMENT - Gladstone Thompson (incumbent)

KIT - **ANDY AULD (NOMINEE)**

ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE

COACH - Mike Jubb (incumbent)

PUBLICITY TEAM - Clare Stephen, Colin Braybrook, Shona Davies (incumbent),

HOWARD BULL (NOMINEE)

CATERING CO-ORDINATORS - Tina Tremaine (incumbent), **ANDY NORMILE (NOMINEE)**

BLOG/NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Lucy Waterlow (incumbent)

MARSHALLS' CO-ORDINATOR - Peter Blackaller (incumbent)

FH10 RACE DIRECTORS - Mandy Attree, Lucy Stern (incumbent)

SAS 10k RACE DIRECTORS - Nick Bradley (incumbent), and **VACANT POSITION**

MWRRL RACE DIRECTOR - Steve Alexander (incumbent)

SUNDAY LEAGUE XC RACE DIRECTOR - Colin Braybrook (incumbent)

HANDICAPPER - Laura Hawkins (incumbent)

GET STARTED DIRECTORS - Paul Cremins, Chris Davies, Emma Halldearn (incumbent)

CLUB CHAMPS MANAGER - Graham Smith (incumbent)

AUDITOR - Ben Walsh (incumbent)

5. Striders' Weekend Away 2016

The Deputy Chair reported that the feedback from the away weekend had been positive. It was agreed to hold another away weekend between Friday 6 and Sunday 8 May 2016 in Beaulieu, Hampshire, approximately 97 miles from St Albans. The cost would be about £60 per person, with a £20 deposit and the club would not be subsidising it. It would be opened up to 30 people to begin with but the accommodation could take up to 45. Accommodation would be similar to last year. The itinerary would be similar but members would be encouraged to take the Friday off to do something in the afternoon. There was also a local Parkrun.

6. Any Other Business

No other business was raised. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all the committee members for all their great work during the year.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:00pm.