

THE STRAGGLERS RC

DRAFT Annual General Meeting Minutes
Thursday 26th September 2024 8.30pm start.
In-person at Bushy Park Sports Club (with Zoom option to join)

Welcome and overview of the evening

Welcome and Introduction to Committee present

Agenda for the AGM Meeting:

- An overview of the past 12 months of Stragglers activity,
- Treasurer's report and presentation of the club's accounts,
- a proposal to increase our membership subs for the next year,
- the election of next year's Committee,
- a proposal for the club to move forward in becoming a charity,
- adoption of a redesign of our club kit,
- discussion on the services we receive here at Bushy Park Sports Club
- An overview of our plans for the year ahead.
- Q&A

Apologies for absence

Les and Jackie, Dolly Brown, Tim Wood, Andy Howarth

Kevin Price opened the meeting. Last year we lost our dear friend and one of the Stragglers founding members, Keith Haworth. A few weeks ago, we were incredibly saddened to hear of the sudden loss of Ray Coward, who was much loved and well known in our running community.

Last December, we also lost Sean Davies who was a vibrant member of this club for many years, a former Men's Team captain and perhaps most significantly, the founder of the Green Belt Relay. This evening, like me, I'm sure we will be thinking about Ray, Sean and any other Straggler we have lost during the past year.

Attendees - are listed at the end of this document both in person and online.

Adoption of the minutes from the 2023 AGM

The minutes were approved from the 2023 AGM. Thank you to Dave Griffiths for preparing them.

A review of the last 12 months:

Club overview – Kevin Price

Our primary objectives as a club over the past 12 months has been to continue to promote our club philosophy, which is to:

- Encourage participation in our races and club events
- Promote the camaraderie and social side of the club
- Deliver high-standard, well supported and enjoyable club races (Wedding Day 7K; Green Belt Relay; River Relay, CP10), also our club championship races
- Participation and success competing as a club in the Surrey XC league and other athletic events
- To maintain our level of club membership and appeal to new members from our community
- To build on the club's reputation both locally and nationally
- To continue to support and encourage the different constituent parts of our club and to celebrate them as a whole to reflect the breadth of interest and activities in the club.
- To promote the calendar of team events and to strive for individual and club success in the various race categories

The Committee also has the ambition to help the club plan for a vibrant and healthy future, which includes all the work put in around the CIO transition, a review of our club kit, expansion of training opportunities, recruitment of new Straggler members and increased race participation and achievement.

We've run two successful grand-prix over the past 12-months, firstly with the Winter Grand Prix which contained 10 races, and congratulations to Eliza Hawthorn and Pete Gregorowski, the winners of that Winter Grand Prix Series. We also had a bumper 12 race Summer Grand Prix won by Lisa Bailey and Jim Lurkins. In all, 273 Stragglers took part in the Summer Grand Prix and the introduction of the minimum of 5 events to qualify for a prize had a very positive impact on participation.

The Stragglers also staged a full programme of club organised races, which remain ever popular and are brilliantly supported by many club members, either by competing or by volunteering to help make them a success. The first of these, back in October last year, was the Cabbage Patch 10 race, the fourth time the race has been back in full management control of The Stragglers and under the direction of Kevin Price and Peter Wedderburn. This ever-popular race which has 2000 entrants and sells out every year, is made particularly special by the support and enthusiasm of the army of Straggler marshals who line the Cabbage Patch course. So, thank you to all of you who volunteered and please do so again this year – the race is on 20 October and the sign-up sheet was published on Whatsapp.

Then there was the Green Belt Relay back in May, brilliantly organised by Peter Kennedy and Alex Cutting and now using this club facility as its end point after the 220-mile traverse around the green belt of London. If you haven't competed or volunteered at this event before, I strongly recommend you to do so. Then followed the Wedding Day 7k at the end of July, held in Bushy Park on the Hampton Hill side and with race leads Tracey Lenthall, Mark Thomas and Simon Brazil, who organised another excellent race. And finally, the River Relay at the start of September, again a very popular race with many clubs returning year after year and which helps

us maintain a relationship with our previous HQ at the Hawker Centre where that race finishes as well as generating donations to a variety of charities.

In terms of charity giving, our club now consistently donates well over £20,000 each year to a range of charities, with particular emphasis on smaller local charities in our community.

Teams were sent to the Welsh Castles Relay in June and just two weeks ago, sent a team of 17 runners to run the Round Norfolk Relay in a non-stop race lasting 26 hours.

We continue to have a number of our runners representing England and Great Britain in masters events, and also in triathlon. A particular shout out to our Straggler women who continue to excel in competition and in the UK rankings – we should be proud to note that The Stragglers has two women in the top 10 UK rankings at marathon and half-marathon distances in the V40 age category and one woman in the top 10 UK rankings at the marathon distance in the V65 age category. *Congratulations to Lisa Bailey, Sarah Holt and Marilyn Davies.*

The Stragglers are now firmly established at our club HQ, here at BPSC which provides excellent facilities and service to our members. Thursday nights remain our main club training session where we are provided with excellent service from the team here at BPSC – and a special shout-out to Guy and Owen for their brilliant culinary delights produced each Thursday evening, at a reasonable cost to our members. We are aware there are areas for improvement in some of the facilities here at BPSC and we will discuss these later on in the meeting. There have been a number of social events, including our Awards evening last November, a cinema night, some quiz nights, and hosted a health and performance event for women athletes. We hope to expand on these in the coming year and to continue to make the most of these club facilities as we look forward to starting a second period with Bushy Park Sports Club as our club HQ.

We have installed a new trophy cabinet – and thanks to Dave Olsen for his skill and craftsmanship in building this spectacular home for our club's silverware.

During the past year, as part of the Committee's overall ambition to help the club plan for a vibrant and healthy future, a sub-group of Stragglers' members were asked to undertake a refresh of the club's kit design and presentation of the club's name. Our newly designed kit will be officially launched next week.

The other main planning for our future has been centred on the club constitution, and following the approval to proceed with planning to become a charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation at last year's AGM, the committee has overseen a lot of work lead by our treasurer Phil Hall preparing the groundwork for a CIO transition – we will come to this in some detail in a moment.

We continue to have a broad offer of training runs across the week, for all abilities and in different locations to appeal to our membership spread across Twickenham, Teddington, Kingston, Hampton, Surbiton and Thames Ditton. These include Little Feet, The Thames Ditton Group, runs on a Sunday from Kingston Gate in Richmond Park, our main Thursday night session and a range of speed and strength training sessions on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday led by our amazing coaches and session leaders. We have also offered our

second Couch to 5K programme which attracted thirty new runners, twenty of whom went on to take up Stragglers membership, and supported refugees.

Membership:

Membership currently stands at a healthy 606 registered members (575 Adults, 15 Juniors, 10 Life members, 4 Social Members and 2 dogs). Membership numbers have increased by 20% over the past 5 years which bodes well for our future.

Website and Communications:

Stragmail remains the main club communications vehicle in its regular bi-monthly newsletter slot. It goes out at 12pm sharp every other Wednesday. After many years of editing firstly Stragmag, and more recently Stragmail, Simon Webb has decided to hang up his Stragpen to allow another Straggler to have a go. Kevin gave his personal thanks to Simon, not only for his clear communication and writing style, but also for his massive unstinting support of our club, and the club's committee over many years. Whilst he may not see all that is going on, he never misses a beat. Thank you Simon.

Also stepping down from Stragmail and website duty is Emily Eastwood who is now settling into her new home up north with Tom. Thank you Emily.

We are lucky to have many talented people in our club, and I am delighted to announce that Izabel Grindal and Nicky Hornzee will be taking over from Simon and Emily.

Overall:

Kevin (the Chair) thanked:

- All our group leaders for their inspiration and leadership. This includes Anne Woods and Trisha Gillespie (Little Feet), Andy Howarth, Merran and Jim Sell (Thames Ditton Group and the Junior Handicap), Ray and Sue Cockle (Stragglists), Ian Callendar (5k Handicap), Phil Davies (Thursday night session),
- Our Coach Kev Best who has helped so many Stragglers especially our top athletes reach their full athletic potential, also Sophie Biggs who has given many of us the chance to harness our strength, conditioning and stability in multiple weekly led sessions, also Duncan Gaskell, Dave Brewin and Fraser Wigley and all our run leaders who happily support training sessions week in and week out;
- Those who manage our high-profile club races: Peter Wedderburn and the River Relay team including Jon Parry, Phil Hall and Andy Howarth, Peter Kennedy and Alex Cutting who organise the Green Belt Relay - and Tracey Lenthall, Mark Thomas and Simon Brazil for the Wedding Day 7k;
- As well as race organisation, a huge amount of work goes into creating and managing our Relay Teams and a shout out to Simon Webb, Tracey Lenthall, Phil Davies, Stuart Hambling and Emily Eastwood who have managed our various relay teams over the past year;
- We continue to be blessed by the amazing and dedicated behind the scenes support from Emily Eastwood and Alan Mawdsley our web managers, Julie Holmes our Membership secretary, Simon Webb for communications and Phil Hall, our amazing Treasurer, all of whom have kept the wheels of our club constantly turning;

- Thanks too to Andy Howarth who has planned and managed both our Winter and Summer Grand Prix in which about 300 of us have competed in the past year;
- Thanks to Tracey Lenthall who has served as our club secretary over the past year.;
- As a club, we are lucky to have the support and expertise of individuals such as Evan Bond who looks after most of our design needs;
- I would also like to thank the club's committee, who all put in so much of their time and give so unselfishly to our club;

Finally, thanks to Helene Hill and Simon Brazil our Team Managers, for their amazing leadership over the past year and for leading our Women's and Men's teams.

Hand over to the Team managers for their reports

Women's Team Manager Report – Helene Hill

Thanks to Kevin for highlighting those achievements for our women who have performed very well once again this year.

Firstly, cross country. Our women came 5th in the Surrey XC League this year. Lisa Bailey was 1st and Sarah Holt 3rd W35; Sophie Biggs was 1st W50; and Pam Whitter 3rd W60. 27 of our women took part across the 4 races.

At the Surrey County Championships in January, Lisa Bailey was 3rd (and 1st W40) and Sarah Holt was 6th (and 2nd W40). Nicky Hornzee was 2nd W45 and Libby Ferguson 3rd W50. At the Middlesex championships, Sophie Biggs was 1st W50. Lisa and Sarah both subsequently ran for Surrey in the National Inter-Counties XC in March where Surrey won. They were both in the scoring 6 (Lisa 4th and Sarah 6th) and received a gold medal as a result.

At the Priory XC Relays in November, we regained the women's shield which we won previously in 2019. Our B team was also 5th.

Now to road running. Our women came a close 2nd in the Surrey Road League. We tied for points with the winners, Guildford & Godalming, but lost on countback. We got maximum points in three of the 7 races (Ranelagh Half, Ranelagh 10k and Elmbridge 10k) and Sonia Bandeira was 3rd W45 across the series. We're aiming to win it next year!

Having won the Parkland Relays in the last two years, we only came third this year – but that's not a bad showing against stiff local competition. However, we retained our position as Imber Court Relay champions, once again taking both the Senior Women and Vets prizes, with our Vets coming first overall.

Finally, a couple of recent results. Our women's team won the women's race at the club's own River Relay at the start of this month. Well done to Sophie Biggs, Alexis Prince, Emma Henston, Harri Daniel and Nicky Hornzee. Then just last Saturday, we had a stonking day out at Aldershot at the Southern Road Relays. We fielded two W40 teams and they came first and second, beating the mighty Aldershot, Farnham & District into third. Congratulations to our first team, and South of England W40 champions, Lisa Bailey, Sophie Biggs and Sarah Holt, and the runners up Nic Douglas, Nicky Hornzee and Alexis Prince.

In case some of you are wondering what happened to a particular team member who has been a mainstay for us over the last few years and why her performances tailed off during the latter half of the season...I'm talking of course about our women's captain, Eliza Hawthorn. Eliza was 3rd and 5th in the first two Surrey League cross countries in October and November. She also won the South of the Thames 5 mile XC race in November and in October she put in the best women's parkrun time in the UK when she clocked a PB of 17.02.

Well that's because her best achievement came this year when she gave birth to her son, Roscoe. We're all looking forward to meeting him at one of this season's races and to her coming back into the team. Well done Eliza! I hear you're already back training.

Men's Team – Simon Brazil

It has been another eventful and successful year for the Stragglers Men. Looking back on the 2023 / 24 Cross Country season we battled well to retain our Surrey League Division 2 status. After the first fixture we found ourselves bottom of the division. The division comprised 10 teams with the bottom 2 relegated to division 3. However after the setback of the first fixture we put in some great team performances over the remaining 3 fixtures to finish in 8th place several points above the bottom two. There is also a B team competition and we secured a very creditable 7th place overall. There were some notable individual performances over the season. Rhys Doherty managed a fantastic 2nd and 4th place in two of the fixtures in his debut season for us. Rhys was also part of the squad selected to compete in the Inter Counties Cross Country Champs. Cross country stalwarts Malcolm Fletcher and Mark Pattinson finished 4th and 5th respectively in their age category rankings over the Surrey League season. One of our aspirations is to encourage participation in these races and over the 4 races we averaged 23 Straggler men taking part in each race. These races are of course also part of our own Winter Grand Prix Series.

It would be great to increase this number over the coming season. Cross Country is not just about the Surrey League we had teams in other events including the South of the Thames, London, County and Southern Championships. A particular mention must go to Phil Davies, Malcolm Fletcher and Michael Hutchinson who achieved a brilliant 2nd place at the Surrey Masters Cross Country Champs in their age category.

Simon the team captain thanked Donovan Duffy who helps Simon to manage our cross country teams in all these races by encouraging our faster boys to make themselves available.

Of course the winter is not just about cross country. There are plenty of road races too that we take part in and target. Rhys proved himself on the road too by winning the Valentines 10k back in February. Thomas Ziegel and Jim Lurkins were not far behind finishing 3rd and 8th respectively.

Fellow Straggler Rob Eveson was also victorious over the half Marathon distance. Rob was first over the line in the High Performance Half Marathon back in March at the Queen Elizabeth Park.

The Spring and Summer race programme targets the Surrey Road League alongside our own Summer Grand Prix Series. The Road League comprises 7 races ranging from 10k up to the

half marathon. Overall the Men's team finished in a very creditable 8th place out of 36 clubs across Surrey.

Special mention to Austin Molnar who finished in 9th place overall in his age category across the series. Phil Hammett also had a great series finishing 5th in his age category.

In the Cobham 10k at Painshill Park Roy Reeder was first over the line with fellow Straggler in 2nd place overall. Sam Hawthorn won our own very competitive 10k champs.

Once again we had a strong showing in all the races we targeted during the summer including strong showings in the Wimbledon Trail Series, the Parkland Relay where we had 4 men's teams and of course the Imber Court Relay. Just last weekend we had a v50 Team representing the club at the Southern Road Relay Championships with an 8th place finish in this category.

Finally I would like to thank all the Straggler men who represented the club in any of the races we target, your support is greatly appreciated.

Treasurer's report – Phil Hall

The Stragglers club accounts for 2023-24 were presented. Five appendices were attached on the AGM webpage on the Stragglers website:

1. Statement of financial activities (including summary income and expenditure account) for 2023-24
2. Breakdown of Statement of Financial Activities for "unrestricted funds" for 2023-24
3. Breakdown of Statement of Financial Activities for "restricted Funds" for 2023-24
4. Club Balance Sheet at 31st March 2024
5. Note to Balance Sheet – Movement in Fixed Assets

The following terms used: "Unrestricted" funds – these are those which are within the discretion of the club and comprise the main club account and internal reserves for each of our open club races (Cabbage Patch, River Relay, Wedding Day and Green Belt Relay) plus money set aside for specific club activities, such as Straggtri. "Restricted" funds – these are subject to specific rules on how they can be used. In 2023-24 "restricted funds" comprise money received in 2020 from England Athletics for junior development; together with money held by the club from three legacies. This money is held in reserve pending its use in future years.

Each appendices was discussed, first the Statement of Financial Activities (previously known as the Income and Expenditure account). This is a high-level summary of the club's financial activity for 2023-24. Overall, the club recorded a surplus on its unrestricted funds of £4,906 on a turnover of just over £105,000. The surplus is largely due to a conscious plan to create funds to finance the installation of a new club trophy cabinet. The second appendix shows how this figure breaks down over the various "unrestricted" funds. Of particular note are: Membership subscriptions contributed £12,326 – reflecting both the increase in subs to £23 and an increased number of members. 2 Cabbage Patch 10 contributed a net surplus of £9,750 to club funds. Our other three events contributed a further £1,500. £2,286 has been set aside for a potential corporation tax liability. The club made payments of £7,563 to Bushy Park Sports Club as part of our membership and use of its facilities. Including BPSC, a total of £20,639 was spent directly on activities and facilities for club members. This also included nearly £7,000 on free

entries to Summer and Winter Grand Prix events and entries to cross-country and relay events; over £1,000 on new equipment; over £1,000 to support our top athletes to compete for the club in national events; £1,450 on awards; and £500 to support social events and mob matches. The contribution from CP10 has enabled the committee to set aside £3,750 for further investment in the club in future years. In total the club was able to donate £22,070 to charities from the income raised by our events. The Stragglers continue to support the operation of the Junior Handicap with a financial contribution of £660. Straggtri is currently dormant with the balance held pending future resumption of activity. The third appendix shows a breakdown of “restricted” funds. The main activities here were the use of two legacies, one to support travel costs to enable the club to enter the Welsh Castles and Round Norfolk Relays, and the other to fund training costs for run leaders. The fourth appendix shows that the club’s Balance Sheet remains strong, with the opportunity for the club to invest in further developments and activities for members in future years. Finally, the fifth appendix provides a note to the balance sheet, detailing movement in fixed assets. Significantly, in 2023-24 the club invested in a new trophy cabinet which was installed at BPSC in March. This was a major financial outlay for the club but one that we had been saving for over the past two years – for an asset that will provide lasting benefit to the club. The honorary auditor, Steve Smith, was thanked for his review of these accounts.

The floor was opened for questions:

1. A member was curious about how much The Stragglers have currently got in the bank. Answer: The exact figure was not known but circa £40,000.
2. A member asked about the figure set aside for tax liability - corporation tax is payable on trading surpluses, and so the figure represents 19% of the surplus from the Cabbage Patch 10.

It was voted unanimously to approve the accounts.

Proposal to increase membership subscriptions for 2025-26

It was proposed to increase the club fees from £23 to £25. The floor was opened for questions:

1. A member asked, has the committee thought about different levels of fees? As some members do not run anymore but want to belong to the club. Answer: No the committee had not. It was agreed the committee will take this away and consider it for next year.
2. BPSC fees will be renewed, has the club thought of putting some of its money into BPSC. This was offered a while ago but BPSC has not yet taken us up on the offer. We will be negotiating fees for BPSC in February.
3. Considering The Stragglers give £20K to charities, there is still a cost of living crisis for some people, a lot of people volunteer their time, should we be increasing the costs of the subs at this stage. Answer: It was explained the subs are just one source of income and it is felt that a modest increase is reasonable when compared to other clubs and the range of activities that the club supports.

The increase in subs was approved 2 members voted against.

Action: The committee to discuss different levels of entry fees for next year.

Election of honorary audit

Thanks to Steve Smith for his third year of service as Honorary Auditor to the club. Steve was voted in to carry on being our Honorary Auditor.

Election of Officers/Committee for the coming year

Standing down:

Simon Webb, Ian Riley, Alan Mawdsley and Emily Eastwood are standing down from the committee at this AGM. However we are pleased to confirm that Alan and Ian will continue to support us with website management, results updates and results collation from across the club. An expression of thanks to the outgoing committee members was given..

The following have all agreed to stand again

Officer roles:

- Chair: Kevin Price
- Secretary: Tracey Lenthall
- Treasurer: Phil Hall
- Club Captain: Phil Davies

Other Committee Members:

- Simon Brazil - Men's Team Manager
- Helene Hill – Women's Team Manager
- Julie Holmes - Membership Secretary
- Anne Woods – Little Feet representative
- Andy Howarth – Summer Grand Prix Captain
- Sue Howarth

New Committee members

There are four committee places now vacant and I am very pleased to say that we have four nominations to fill those vacant positions. These are:

- Izabel Grindal - Communications Secretary
- Nicky Hornzee – Stragmail, website and communications
- Peter Wedderburn
- Roy Reeder

It was declared all new committee members duly elected This was approved.

Proposal for the club to move forward in becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Phil Hall the treasurer updated the meeting on progress made during the last year and to introduce the proposal followed by a Q&A with the members of the CIO.

All members had access before the AGM to the document '*Proposal to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation*'. Members were invited to review and comment upon the draft constitution and, if supportive of the proposal, to agree to move forwards towards becoming a

CIO. It is important to note that this meeting is NOT the final time that members will consider the CIO proposal; this is a fundamental issue to the club's future, and it is proposed that a special general meeting is called so that further and full consideration can be given by members prior to an application being made to establish a CIO.

Recommendation

The AGM is asked to consider the proposal, comment on the draft constitution (comments can also continue to be submitted outside of the meeting, via cio@stragglers.org) and to agree whether to move forwards towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation based on the next steps outlined above.

The floor was open for members questions:

- A member stated they had talked to the treasurer at great length to fully understand this proposal. He reiterated that this was not signed off and recommended as many people as possible to come to the SGM and understand the proposal. This member was not in favour of becoming a CIO. They thanked the committee for all the hard work that had gone into this proposal.
- A member commented that Ranelagh were a CASC and why would this not be the next step for us? Answer: We are currently operating at a level of income beyond which a CASC enjoys financial benefits, and so this would not be a tax efficient way of running the club. Becoming a CIO will also put the club on a much stronger footing in respect of liability.
- A number of members commented they need to understand more about the CIO. As they are worried that it will take away the power from the club members and how decisions will be made going forward. Where will the members' voices come from? Will all the power go to the Trustees? Answer: In the proposed constitution members retain all their key controls over the way the club is run, i.e. the election of trustees and in the setting of annual membership subscriptions.
- A member felt, do we really need to expand, can we not stay how we are? Answer: CIO are for small and large organisations but the committee feels that the club has already outgrown its current legal form and it would struggle to maintain the current range of activities. Becoming a CIO will therefore support us in the future.
- A member said the EA guide is really good on this subject. One potential disadvantage identified by EA is that if the club becomes a charity then it is difficult to reverse it at a later stage.
- A member thought their understanding was that a charity could not have social members. Answer: there are types of "social members" that are incompatible with being a charity but the club does not have social members of those types - all current members would be able to be a member of the CIO.
- Current financial situation - would it not be possible to set up a separate company for the Cabbage Patch race. Answer: technically yes but it would be really complicated to define the relationship between the club and the CP10 company and the CIO structure offers a much simpler alternative.

Adoption of new Stragglers Kit design and club logo

A sub-group of Stragglers' members were asked to undertake a refresh of the club's kit design and presentation of the club's name. The review process started in January this year and was conducted as a professionally run process, with a detailed design brief detailing the brand qualities of our club and what we want it to reflect in future. The sub-group's work was overseen

by the committee who received and approved recommendations of the group at each stage of the process.

This is not a “rebrand” but a kit refresh and modernisation of the club’s logo and the hallmarks of the traditional Stragglers brand remain at the core of our identity – yellow and black kit, The Stragglers Running Club name and our footprint on the back of our running tops. However, we have also brought in design details which are unique and personal to the Stragglers: we’ve introduced stripes on our running top to reflect our heritage from the 1980’s and a club badge stating the year of our formation. The iconic Stragglers foot has been recrafted to reflect where we run – Bushy Park, the top half of the foot is the outline of Bushy Park – so it is a unique mark for the Stragglers.

Thank you to the team who made up the sub-group:

Lead designer Jacob Law-Sales supported by our long-term designer Evan Bond, our kit manager Sally Boulton, Team Managers Helene Hill and Simon Brazil, Team Captains Eliza Hawthorn and Donovan Duffy and Committee Members Emily Eastwood, Kevin Price and Phil Davies.

Our newly designed kit, supplied by a new kit supplier Pressio who are one of the leading suppliers of environmentally friendly running kit, will be officially launched next week on Wednesday 2 October at the Up & Running Store in Teddington. Details were published in yesterday’s Stragmail and we have negotiated an introductory price for the standard racing vests and t-shirts which will be available at just £10 until the end of October. The new kit will be our official racing kit for the upcoming XC season so please do try and get your new top as soon as possible.

Many members, like me, will be fond of their traditional Stragglers kit and it’s not a problem at all to continue to wear your current Stragglers kit. Indeed, some members may have only just recently bought new kit which they will wish to wear for the foreseeable future. However, I hope you enjoy the opportunity to have a new Stragglers top and in time, look forward to seeing the new kit being worn by all our members.

Questions/Comments:

1. Why were members not consulted on the change to the running kit? When the kit was changed from white to yellow, it was a 2 year process consulting with the members. That kit was adopted in 2006 with full member agreement. Not clear of the driver to make this change. A number of club members feel the same way it would have been much better to bring the members with you. Answer: A cross section of the members were chosen to be part of the process, who supported the design. It was clear this is not a rebrand but a refresh of the kit.
2. A number of the members were not happy and the Stragglers were not brought on the journey. They were not happy with the foot logo, they felt excluded from the club.
3. It was acknowledged that a lot of work had gone into the design and to getting them made. Some members wondered why it was not mentioned in last year’s AGM.
4. A member felt disappointed the first time they heard of it was in Stragmail. They understand change is difficult, we will get used to it. It is just the way it has been handled

that has disappointed some of us. It would have been helpful to have mentioned it early on, at the AGM last year.

5. A member asked when we race the XCountry season will we have to wear the new kit. The answer is yes to that. Each Team Manager will have some tops available for those who have not bought the new kit to wear when racing.

Maintenance at Bushy Park Sports Club

Whilst there are many good things about our club HQ here at Bushy Park Sports Club, there are also some aspects which could be better. Some things, like the lighting along the pathway to the club, are very difficult to improve due to restrictions imposed by The Royal Parks and the constraints demanded from local residents who overlook the club's land. However, the committee recognises that improvements to maintenance standards should be a higher priority, especially as we near the end of our first contractual period with BPSC. We also recognise that communications with members about service and maintenance standards could be better so this will be addressed by the new committee moving forward.

So with this in mind, the members were asked: are there any specific areas of improvement members would like to see added to our current list for when we speak to BPSC management? A number of areas were put forward from the members for example:

- More Lockers, change in shower heads, more bike racks, storage for the weights. Paint on the post alluminus so we can see them in the dark.
- A member asked if The Stragglers would be willing to invest into BPSC. Answer: Stragglers have already put that offer forward.
- Is this the right place to invest in?
- A member asked how we can connect with committee members; so we can feedback any observations and concerns we have and so we can chat about the running of our club. For example on Thursday nights etc. **Action:** Committee to take this away to discuss.
- The Chair would like to appoint a formal person on the committee to be the liaison person with BPSC.

And now, a couple of special announcements...

Announcement of Life Membership to The Stragglers

The Committee have in recent years wished to acknowledge the long-serving loyalty and support which some of our members give to our club through the awarding of a Life Membership. This year, we wish to acknowledge the support and loyalty of somebody who is well known to us all, quite simply a force to be reckoned with (!), but her passion is underlaid with a heart of gold. This member started the Junior Handicap over twenty years ago and has led, promoted and supported the junior handicap ever since, giving many children the opportunity to have a first taste of competitive running. Beyond the Junior Handicap, she has supported the club in numerous ways and has provided a catalogue of helpful advice to both club and individual members. This year, as an expression of thanks, the club would like to bestow a life membership on Merran Sell.

It was unanimously approved to bestow a life membership on Merran Sell

Presentation of Outstanding Contribution Award

The individual has left the AGM early today. So we will present to them at the Awards evening.

The club's vision and aspirations over the coming 12 month period – Kevin

The primary focus for the club and committee over the coming months will be overseeing the smooth transition of the club into a constituted Charity, subject to approval of the members of course at an Extraordinary General Meeting. As discussed at this meeting, we will also work with BPSC to renew our agreement and ensure the facilities we enjoy are maintained in the best possible way.

However, as a club, we will continue to promote our club philosophy of:

- Encouraging participation in our races and club events
- Promoting the camaraderie and social side of the club
- Delivering high-standard, well supported and enjoyable club races (Wedding Day; Green Belt Relay; River Relay and Cabbage Patch 10), and our club championship races
- Participation and success competing as a club in the XC league and other athletic events
- Maintaining our level of club membership and appeal to new members from our community
- Building on the club's reputation both locally and nationally
- Aiming to excel in our XC leagues this winter building on the successful programme of training delivered by our coaches and run leaders and to establishing a year round race target programme, led by our Team Managers and Coaches to capitalise on the pool of talented athletes in our club.
- To continue to support and encourage the different constituent parts of our club and to celebrate them as a whole to reflect the breadth of interest and activities in the club
- To promote the calendar of team events and to strive for individual and club success in the various race categories

To continue participating in the popular relay events like The Green Belt Relay, The Welsh Castles Relay and Round Norfolk Relay to encourage as broad a participation in these great occasions from across the club and to achieve club success whenever that's feasible. Also, there will be early squad lists produced for next year's three Relays; we will invite provisional interest for next year over the coming weeks – and really encourage everyone to join one or more of these weekends: they are great fun and very rewarding.

To continue the migration to our next phase of digital presence as a club with the new website and perhaps a club app to facilitate our club communications

Finally, a thank you to the committee for all their hard work on behalf of the club.

Final words and close of meeting

Attendees:

Bryan Serle, Austin Molnar, Anne Williams, David Henderson, Sophie Biggs, Phil Hammett, David Scotten, Oli Bowers + 1, Peter Wedderburn, Ian Callander, Sue Cockle, Kevin Jones, Anne Williams, Fraser Wigley, Janet Robinson, Richard Steeden, Ian Peggs, Alison Parsons,

Carmel Brady, Don Anderson, Simon Webb, Sue Hall, Phil Hall, Ian Riley, Julie Holmes, Tracey Lenthall, Anne Woods, Kevin Price, Sue Howarth, Kevin Jones, Ian Robertson, Alan Mawdsley, Phil Davies, Alexander Mason, Robert Hodge, Heather Hodge, Helen Davies, Malcolm Davies, Sophie Jones, Gareth Jones, Helen Nance, Amy Rolston, Joy Bell, Susan Walters, David Griffiths, Wendy Jones, Tim Sheppard, Tony Addison, Jim Sell, Merran Sell, Glynda Mortimer, Graham Mortimer, Steven Brett, Helen Brett, Patricia Ronksley.

Online: Ray Cockle, Roy Reeder, Mary Allen, Roy Kemp, Mark Thomas, Johanne Newstead, Sally Boulton.

Apologies to those I could not read their handwriting and are not on this list. To those I have spelt their name wrong and to those who attended and did not see the sign in sheet.