



Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting – meeting held at the Bushy Park Sports Club and via Zoom

Thursday 28th September 2023, 8.30pm

- 1. Present:** Richard Patient, Mary Allen, Rachel Simpson, Crispin Allen, Ian Robertson, Anne Williams, Sarah Bell, Sarah Randall, Ed Randall, Iain Bell, Les Brown, Donald Bell, Bert Kidwell, Julie Haworth, Maxine Kelly, Carolyn Cooper-Burrows, Joy Bell, Tiago Ramos, Sue Waters, Jackie Brown, Heather Shanahan, Chrissie Glew, Helen Nance, Merran Sell, Hilary Davies, Pamela McHutchon, Michael Holden, Tony Addison, Jim Sell, Nick Goodchild, Varuna Rajapakse, John Forster, Duncan McConnell, Ashleigh Lezard, Phil Davies, Peter Wedderburn, Patricia Ronksley, Sue Hall, Pam Whitter, Kevin Best, Simon Webb, Kevin Jones, Matt Parker, Simon Brazil, Ian Riley, Anne Woods, Sue Howarth, Dave Griffiths, Andy Howarth, Phil Hall, Helene Hill, Kevin Price,

Attending by Zoom: Julie Holmes

Apologies: Mark Thomas, David Brewin, Alan Mawdsley, Emily Wattret, Glynda Mortimer, Graham Mortimer

Before opening the AGM, Kevin noted “One very significant absence this evening, and very sad loss to the club is Keith Haworth. Keith was a founding member of this club in 1981 and made a huge contribution to the development and running of the club over 40 years. But more than that, his ever presence over this time helped form the culture of strong camaraderie and accessibility which has made the Stragglers thrive since its formation. Everybody here this evening, even if you are not aware of it, has had their lives enriched by Keith Haworth, whether through his club or race management, his friendship, his humour or his kindness. This evening, like me, I’m sure Keith will be very much in our minds.”

- 2. Adoption of the minutes from the 2022 AGM**

These were in the AGM pack which had been made available on the Stragglers website from two weeks ago (and were also on the screen). Kevin thanked Dave Griffiths for preparing them, and asked if the meeting was happy to accept them as a fair copy of that meeting Adoption was proposed by Sue Waters, and seconded by Pam Whitter, and accepted with no objections.

- 3. Review of the last 12 months**

Club Overview - Kevin Price:

The main priorities over the past 12 months had 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; 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



We've run a full race programme for last year's Winter Grand Prix which contained 9 races, and congratulations to Eliza Hawthorn and Pete Gregorowski, the winners of that Winter Grand Prix Series. And also a bumper 12 race Summer Grand Prix won by Nicole Hamilton and Pete Gregorowski.

We have 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 third time the race has been back in full management control of The Stragglers and under the direction of myself and Peter Wedderburn. A race which featured in last year's Runners World 100 best races in the world, 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 15 October and the sign-up sheet was published in yesterday's Stragmail.

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 there followed the Wedding Day 7k at the end of July, held in Bushy Park on the Hampton Hill side and with a new race lead in Tracey Lenthall joining Father Onn and Simon Brazil, who organised another excellent race. And finally the River Relay at the start of this month, 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.

We also sent teams 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.

Also this year, we completed our third club JOGLE run – a continuous relay from John O'Groats to Lands covering 971 miles in 6 days. There were 16 runners who completed this epic journey, many of whom experienced the joys of running at all times of day and night. They will have a lifetime's memory of that week back in July and the team who ran the West Highland Way leg during the night with head torches in torrential rain will probably never tackle a more challenging run. I'm proud of the team who completed the JOGLE and especially proud of the brilliant team spirit which got us safely from one end of the UK to the other close to our target time. We have a commemorative tea-towel to mark this achievement which will be displayed in the club's trophy cabinet when it's built next year.

We will shortly hear from our two team managers, Helene and Simon but I wanted to highlight some of our club's achievements on the national stage. We continue to have a number of our runners representing England and Great Britain in masters events, and also in triathlon but perhaps the highlight of the Stragglers year for me was seeing two of our women athletes line-up in a field of just twenty in the elite race at this year's Great North Run. That's 10% of the field and congratulations to Eliza and Sarah for being selected to run in that field, which included the current half-marathon world record holder and Great Britain's current best marathon runner.

We 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 an excellent and very friendly service from the team here at BPSC. There have been a number of social events, including our Awards evening last November and some quiz nights, and we hope to expand on these in the coming year and to continue to make the most of these excellent club facilities.

During the past year, we introduced a new range of club kit through our new online supplier Iprosports. We also used this supplier to provide the t-shirts for this year's Wedding Day 7k race. The move away from the mass provision of race t-shirts was an experiment to allow us to



reduce our environmental impact whilst expanding the range of race t-shirts available on a bespoke basis and lowering the race entry fee. Reduction in the environmental impact of Straggler organised races will continue to be a key priority for the club. Our official club vests and running shirts continue to be supplied by Up & Running in Teddington, where our members continue to enjoy a 15% discount on their purchases.

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 Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday led by our amazing coaches and session leaders.

Membership:

Our membership currently stands at a healthy 585 registered members (558 Adults, 15 Juniors, 7 Life members, 3 Social Members and 2 dogs). Dogs are down 33% from last year.... Membership numbers have increased gradually over the past 12 months.

Website and Communications:

During the past year we have launched a new club website and refreshed the information we share with members as well as the public. There is still more work to do on our web presence but this is a major initiative which was kindly led by Emily Wattret. I hope you agree that the new site looks cleaner and smarter and is easy to navigate.

Stragmail remains the main club communications vehicle in its regular two-weekly newsletter slot. It goes out at 12pm sharp every other Wednesday. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emily and Simon Webb who collate, write and design our newsletter and I would like to thank them for keeping us properly briefed and informed as to what's going on.

Investment in the club and facilities

We continue to look for ways in which to invest in our club, whether that be through kit we use at our races, training new run leaders and coaches or a new trophy cabinet to showcase the club's silverware. These and other things will be prioritised along with the other developments mentioned this evening in order to take our club forward. We will also continue to subsidise entry into some of the Grand Prix races and support our teams and runners who represent the club nationally. If anybody has an idea or specific proposal on a grant or suitable investment of club funds, the committee will always be pleased to hear your idea.

Overall:

I would like to thank 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 (Stragglers), Ian Callendar (5k Handicap), Phil Davies (Thursday night session), our Coach Kev Best who has helped so many of us and especially our top athletes reach their full athletic potential, also Sophie Biggs, Duncan Gaskell, Dave Brewin and Fraser Wigley and all our run leaders who happily support training sessions week in and week out.

I would also like to thank those who manage our high-profile club races: Peter Wedderburn and the River Relay team including Jon Parry, Phil Hall and Andy Howarth (River Relay), Peter Kennedy and Alex Cutting (GBR) and Tracey Lenthall, Mark Thomas, Linda Pyle (Wedding Day 7k). Also Simon Brazil who is active and busy behind the scenes for most of our club races.

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 who, despite organising all our Relay Teams over the past year, has not actually had the opportunity to run in them.



We continue to be blessed by the amazing and dedicated behind the scenes support from Emily Wattret and Alan Mawdsley our web managers, Julie Holmes our Membership secretary, Simon Webb for communications and Phil Hall, our amazing Treasurer, all of whom keep 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 over 200 of us have competed in the past year.

I would also like to thank Dave Griffiths who has served as our club secretary once again over the past year. Dave, as you will hear shortly, is stepping down from this role at this meeting. 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, including new recruits last year Sue Howarth and Ian Riley. Finally, I would like to thank 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. I will now hand over to them to report on our team achievements over the past year and to hear about what's to come:

Ladies' Team - Helene Hill:

Once again, I'm pleased to be able to report on a very good season for our women's team. In fact in many ways, it's been the best ever.

Firstly, cross country.

We continue to compete in Division 1 of the Women's section of the Surrey League, which has now been divided into three divisions. There are 15 teams in Division 1 and this year we finished 5th, only beaten by Herne Hill, Kent, Belgrave and Thames – clubs with a very strong elite tradition. This is our best ever finish as far as I am aware, so well done to everyone who took part. Also our B team was 6th out of 15, showing our strength in depth. I should say that cross country is open to everyone in the club who wants to take part and all team members can play their part in holding our competitors at bay. I should mention in particular Sarah Holt who was the leading 35+ runner, Sophie Biggs who was the leading individual at 50+, and Phyllis Flynn who was the leading individual at 60+. In addition, Sarah Holt and Eliza Hawthorn were 5th and 6th finishers at the final league race out of a field of 200 – again a best ever for both them and the club. A total of 28 Straggler women took part in the Surrey league races across the season.

In addition to the league, we took part in a range of other competitions. For example, the South of the Thames 5 and 7.5 mile races, the London Championships, the Southern Championships, the Surrey and Middlesex Championships and the Masters versions of these. Our team of Eliza Hawthorn, Sophie Biggs and Sarah Holt were 2nd at the Priory XC Relays in Reigate in November.

We had our usual medal fest at the Southern Masters, with individual W45 gold for Kate McIntyre, W45 silver for Sarah Winter, W60 silver for Ramona Theveret and W40 bronze for Lisa Bailey. Although Sophie Biggs finished first W50, she sacrificed her medal by qualifying down as a W40 to help the team win gold (Sophie, Kate and Lisa). Lastly our W60 team of Ramona Thevenet, Lynda Chase and Chrissie Glew won a team bronze.

We had good turnouts for the South of the Thames races, and Sophie Biggs won 1st Over 50 medal at the 7.5 mile race at a very cold Aldershot in December.

At the Surrey Championships our team of Sarah Holt, Eliza Hawthorn, Becca Gravell and Sarah Winter was 4th – I think again a best ever position and Sarah and Eliza were individual 7th and 8th finishers. In addition, new member Imogen Parker-Elms was 2nd and Lucy Hoseason 9th in the Under 20s race.

As a result of their good XC showing, Sarah Holt and Eliza Hawthorn were selected to run for Surrey in the Inter-Counties, where Eliza won team gold and individual silver. Lucy Hoseason also represented the county in the Under 20s at the same event.



Road Running

With one race left to go (Cabbage Patch), Straggler Women lie 4th in the Surrey Road League. Hopefully they can equal their performance last year where they won the team prize. Other races where we had a clean sweep were the Ranelagh Half Marathon, Ranelagh 10k and Elmbridge 10k.

Our women's team won (for the second year running) the Parkland Relays in Richmond Park, beating second team Ranelagh by nearly 2 minutes! Sarah Holt ran the fastest leg on the night. Stragglers had quite a few teams out on the night and a fun evening was had by all.

We also repeated last year's win at the Imber Court Relays, where our Vets team of Nicole Hamilton, Lisa Bailey, Sarah Holt and Sophie Biggs won the overall race and our Senior Women's team of Amelia Tearle, Sue Hall, Jacky Balfour and Leonie Kennedy won the Senior Women's prize (although this team also included two vets!). We fielded quite a few women's, men's and mixed teams at this. Thanks to Sue Howarth for organising this and the Parkland Relays so efficiently.

Last Saturday, our team of Eliza Hawthorn, Sarah Holt, Sophie Biggs and Lisa Bailey ran the Southern Road Relays and finished a very creditable 13th out of 61 teams. The winning team was led out by Olympian Steph Twell, so not much competition there! Although we were running in the Senior Women's event, two of our team were over 40 and one over 50, so that shows just how strong their performances were.

Some of our masters athletes qualified to run for England: Jacky Balfour (W60), Sally Boulton (W70) and Lynda Chase (W65).

Sophie Biggs has continued her successful campaign in ultra trail running, 1st woman and V50 at the Cotswold Trail Marathon, 1st woman at the Maverick X-series Peak District Ultra Marathon, 3rd at a 2-stage mountain race in Switzerland, and 3rd woman in the Serpent Trail 50k. Marilyn Davis, who actually trains with Sophie, has got bitten by the trail racing bug too. She took part in the 63k Fox Ultra where she was 1st W60, and the Chilterns trail marathon where she came 3rd woman and age group winner.

Several of our athletes have also competed in triathlon for the GB age group team. Lucy Hoseason, Lynda Chase and Emily Barrow competed at the European Championships this summer with Lucy coming 2nd in her age group (16-19) and Lynda 4th in her age group (65-69). Lynda also competed in the World Championships where she came 6th in her age group. Lastly, I'd like to mention a few of our women who are ranked in the top 20 for their age group nationally at various distances.

Sarah Holt (W40) – ranked 2nd nationally for parkrun (17:22), also 17th for 10k (36:39), 6th for marathon (2:45:04) and 7th for half marathon (78:18)

Lisa Bailey (W40) – ranked 9th for parkrun, 16th for 10 miles, 13th for marathon

Jacky Balfour (W60) ranked 7th for 5k, 11th for parkrun, 11th for 10k

Liz Killip (W60), ranked 17th for 5k, 19th for 10k

Phyllis Flynn (W60), ranked 7th for 10 miles

Sally Boulton (W70), ranked 14th for 10k

Finally, our thanks go to our wonderful coaches and the club's coaching programme, without which none of this would be possible. Particularly Kev, Duncan, Sophie, Dave and Simon

Men's Team - Simon Brazil:

Good evening everyone.



It has been another busy and successful year for the Stragglers Men. We shall begin with a review of the 2022/23 Autumn and Winter season. The Men's team currently sit in division 2 of the Surrey League. This is a very competitive division comprising 9 teams including Ranelagh Harriers and Clapham Chasers. The league comprises of 4 fixtures held between October and February. The top two teams are promoted to division one whereas the bottom two are relegated to division 3. Our final league position was in a comfortable 7th place, well over a hundred points from the relegation zone. Martin Pattinson excelled once again finishing in a fantastic 2nd place in the individual v 60 rankings for the season. It is also pleasing to report that we had an average of 23 runners taking part in all the 4 fixture. The new season is soon underway on 14 October at Epsom Downs and I am confident we will have another successful and enjoyable season.

We also had teams in a number of other cross country events including the London, County and Southern Championships. Together with some relay events such as the Priory Relay.

I am happy to take this opportunity to report that Tim Jenns picked up medals in two championship races last season. The first was at The Surrey Masters Cross Country Championships. Tim was 2nd in the V45 category and 4th overall. Tim went one better with a first place in the V45 category at the Southern Masters Champs.

I am also very pleased to report that cross country stalwart Pete Gregorowski picked up a bronze medal at the Middlesex Masters Cross Country Championships in his v40 age category.

We will of course be entering teams for these events in the forthcoming year.

We also have our own Winter Grand Prix series, a mixture of cross country and road races. The overall winner was Pete Gregorowski. The age category winners are Scott Singleton, Pete Gregorowski, Gareth Pritchard, David Brewin and Peter Wedderburn. The hero award is for Kevin Price. Pete also picked up the best age grading score of 83.5% at the Valentines 10K. There were 123 men who took part in at least one of the WGP fixtures which I think is amazing as one of our ambitions as a club is to encourage participation in the variety of events available to us all.

The Spring and Summer race programme was also eventful and successful for the Stragglers Men. If you are an ultra race fan Straggler Matthew Coakes was the winner of the London to Brighton 100km race back in May, I believe in a time of 9 hours 36 minutes.

Back to the road and Jim Lurkins was victorious in the Claygate 5 mile race, Pete Gregorowski finished in 3rd place.

Tim Jenns followed up his cross country successes by representing England no less v Wales in the England Masters 5k. The English won the fixture with Tim 5th in his age category.

In the Ranelagh 10k Sonny Maund was 3rd overall and part of the Straggler Men's winning team alongside Jim Lurkins, Pete Gregorowski, Jacob Law – Sales and Ian Riley.

We have had a strong showing in the Surrey Road League this summer. We currently sit in 2nd place out of 40 teams across Surrey. There is one fixture left in the series our own Cabbage Patch 10 and we have a very strong team entered.

In the individual standings Ian Riley is in 4th place in the senior men's category. Pete Gregorowski is currently in 3rd place in his age category.

I think we all agree the Summer Grand Prix has been fabulous once again. Pete Gregorowski who has had a fantastic 12 months was the overall winner. The age category winners are Jim Lurkins, Crispin Allen, Ian Robertson, John Beer and Donald Bell in the masters 80 category. Chance Rowan won the hero award. 144 men took part in the series which again is an amazing number.

Donovan Duffy deserves a big thank you from me. Not only is Donovan a talented athlete and a key member of our team he has helped me once again putting together our cross country team.



Finally I would like to thank all the Stragglers men who took part in any of the races that we prioritised over the last 12 months .Your support is greatly appreciated.

Simon
Stragglers Men Team Manager

4. Treasurers Report

Phil Hall presented the Stragglers club accounts for 2022-23, which had been placed in the Members' area of the website. As last year, he had adopted the same format for the accounts this year, to be in line with best accounting practice, with the following four appendices attached:-

1. Statement of financial activities (including summary income and expenditure account) for 2021-22
2. Breakdown of Statement of Financial Activities for "unrestricted funds" for 2021-22
3. Breakdown of Statement of Financial Activities for "restricted Funds" for 2021-22
4. Club Balance Sheet at 31st March 2022

As the accounts had previously been available for review, Phil moved to invite questions and, as none were forthcoming, they were proposed by Phil Davies and seconded by Joy Bell, and the motion to accept the accounts was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

5. Election of Honorary Auditor for the coming year

Kevin thanked Steve Smith for his second year of service as Honorary Auditor to the club.

The motion to re-elect Steve Smith as our honorary auditor was proposed by Andy Howarth and seconded by Phil Hall, and was accepted by a show of hands.

6. Announcement of Life Membership to The Stragglers

To Pat and Alan Short

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 two of our longest standing members, two people who have been active within the club since its inception, were very involved in teams, races and the social side of the Stragglers in the 80s and 90s, and still today can be found time-keeping at a Straggler event. This year, as an expression of thanks, the club would like to bestow a life membership on Pat and Alan Short.

Kevin asked for a show of hands on this proposal to bestow a life membership on Pat and Alan Short. This was accepted.

7. Election of Officers / Committee for the coming year

Standing down:

Dave Griffiths

The following have either agreed to stand again or have been nominated:

Officer roles:

Chair: Kevin Price

Treasurer: Phil Hall

Club Captain: Phil Davies



Ordinary Committee Members:

Simon Brazil - Men's Team Manager
Helene Hill – Women's Team Manager
Alan Mawdsley - Web Manager
Julie Holmes - Membership Secretary
Simon Webb - Communications Secretary
Emily Wattret – Stragmail, website and communications
Anne Woods – Little Feet representative
Andy Howarth – Summer Grand Prix Captain
Sue Howarth
Ian Riley

New Committee member

There was one committee place now vacant, and we had one nomination to fill that position as the new club secretary. That was Tracey Lenthall who Kevin declared was duly elected unopposed.

The new committee was elected unanimously by a show of hands

8. Proposal for the club to become a charity.

Phil Hall introduced the proposal for the Stragglers to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. He noted that, since its inception, the club had operated in the form of an unincorporated association, which traditionally has been the most common type of legal form for an athletics club, being seen as the simplest, cheapest, and most informal way of running a club. Essentially, it is a club run by the members predominantly for the benefit of the members and with little or no outside control other than those requirements imposed by the club's national governing body.

Phil set out some reasons to consider changing the club's status, including.

- The current liability for tax on our net income from our events, notably Cabbage Patch 10
- Becoming a charity would be entirely consistent with our club Object which "is the promotion of amateur athletics and recreational running.
- The ability for the club to enter into legal relationships in its own right, removing the current requirement for any contracts (for example for catering at BPSC) to be entered into by an individual member, with consequent risk that individual club members could face unlimited liability if things were to go wrong.

Phil noted that Charitable Incorporated Organisations are a relatively new form of organisation but are being recommended by England Athletics. He also acknowledged that we might have to incur some additional costs, for example professional fees such as preparation of accounts and independent examination/audit, and he recognised that we could continue to operate in our current legal form of an unincorporated association.

He stated that the committee had endorsed the idea of becoming a CIO and was asking the AGM whether it supports the proposal in principle, whilst no final decision was required by the AGM at this stage, and any decision to change would be put to the Members at a special General Meeting, which would then be asked to approve the revised constitution.

There followed a Q&A with the members, during which various queries were raised, including whether the possible change would have any impact on liability for VAT and/or corporation tax, if we had spoken to similar organisations that had made this change, what insurance and advice EA provide,



what additional work would be required to effect the change and thereafter (e.g. a board of trustees), and whether becoming a charity would enable us to purchase places in the London Marathon.

After this, the meeting agreed that the Committee could continue to explore this option.

9. Presentation of Outstanding Contribution Award

To Peter Wedderburn.

Kevin moved to the presentation of the 2023 Outstanding Club Contribution Award, which by tradition, is presented at our AGM. From this year, the committee had decided to give this award in memory of Keith Haworth as a mark of our respect and thanks to Keith for the amazing contribution he made to The Stragglers during his lifetime. So, the award from now on will be presented as The Keith Haworth Outstanding Club Contribution Award.

The recipient of this year's Award has been a member of this club for almost 25 years and a race organiser for most of that time. Peter Wedderburn has provided his race management expertise, knowledge and his race day kit to most of the Straggler organised races over that time. He plays a role which is often unseen but without it, events would not happen and would not be so professionally run. He has been the organiser of the River Relay for many years, helps each year to make the Wedding Day 7k the great event it is and has been an invaluable support helping me and the club elevate the Cabbage Patch 10 to what it is today. This year, as most of you will know, he is stepping back from professional race organisation and is retiring his Quicksilver Running organisation, which has delivered many of the races we enjoy in this local area. So, this is a very fitting time to express our sincere thanks to Peter and to award him The Keith Haworth Outstanding Club Contribution Award 2023.

10. The club's vision and aspirations over the coming 12-month period

Kevin Price set out our aims for the coming year, which are to:-

Continue to promote our club philosophy:

- i. Participation in our races and club events
- ii. Promote the camaraderie and social side of the club
- iii. Deliver high-standard, well supported and enjoyable club races (Wedding Day; Green Belt Relay; River Relay and Cabbage Patch 10), and our club championship races
- iv. Participation and success competing as a club in the XC league and other athletic events

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 excel in our XC leagues this winter building on the successful programme of training delivered by our coaches and run leaders and to establish 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 I really encourage you 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.

To maximise the benefit of this new club headquarters, appointing a social team to fill the year with enjoyable social occasions for us all to enjoy and to ensure we get the most out of this facility

11. Q&A session

A number of points were raised: -

Merran Sell suggested that, as part of the forthcoming series of Stragglers- organised social events, we could invite some of the younger faster runners in the club to come and talk about their achievements, to bridge the perceived gap between the younger fast runners and the older ones.

There was a discussion about the age-profile of our membership, noting family and career commitments that often prevent younger (faster) runners coming to BPSC in the evening, while also recognising how highly some of our 60+ runners' figure in national tables of statistics.

Les Brown recalled past Christmas social events, and Rachel Simpson suggested an end-of-Summer social event.

Rachel Simpson and Matt Parker suggested ways in which we could better track runners during stages of relays.

12. The meeting closed at 9:47pm