

STRIDERS OF CROYDON
AGM : 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

Apologies for absence : Alan Dolton, John Ralf, Nik Kyritsis, Steve Tyler, Colin Golding and Ron Carver.

1. Minutes of 2006 AGM

The minutes of the 2006 AGM were read out and briefly explained by Chris.

2. Matters arising

- i) Bob Ewen has been bombarding Croydon Council and whoever will listen about the lack of facilities at Croydon Arena in the hope of getting the facilities upgraded. He has now heard that there is a possibility this will happen because the facilities and access are not adequate for disabled athletes. He is waiting to hear if funding is approved. There is also the chance that it may come from lottery funds

- ii) 25 Anniversary dinner. This is booked and taking place on Saturday 6 October 2007. Tickets are £30.00. Final call for tickets is the end of this week, there are only a few left.

No further comments.

3. Chairman's report

Striders of Croydon – Chairman's Report 2007

Welcome all to this year's AGM. For any new members I hope you've enjoyed your short time with the club, as for existing members I hope the past year has been a rewarding one at least from a running viewpoint.

This year sees Striders of Croydon celebrate its 25-year anniversary. As some of you maybe aware employees of Philips formed the club in 1982 based in City House in Croydon who wanted to take part in the 1983 London Marathon. Finding no existing Athletics club that was either welcoming or that meet their training needs they, like so many other 'New Wave' running clubs that sprung up at this time, decided to start their own. Hence the club was born and known for it's first 15 years as Philips City Striders as a link to their founding members' workplace. The club's name was changed 10 years ago as the link to Philips weakened as the firm moved out of Croydon and to identify the club more to the local area. So the club became as it is known and loved at present and to mark this fantastic occasion we have organised a meal and dance, now known as 'The Black Tie Do' at the Croydon Aerodrome on October 6th. At which I hope to see and join many of you dressed in your finery, please no trainers, to wine, dine and dance the night away in celebration of our 25 years.

I find the timing of our anniversary portent as this past year has seen a huge change in the way that clubs such as ours are to be administrated by the sports governing bodies. And for nearly the same reasons why clubs like ours were formed back in the 1980's I can see clubs that are more road running based breaking away from the main athletics based, i.e. track and field clubs. We will be discussing this issue at the AGM how we will be affected as a club so I will not try to explain all the issues surrounding this area. However I would like to point out that these changes will see not only a financial increase to us but also an administration one as the new governing body, England Athletics, requires us to send a database of all our members. Of course this has sparked off huge discussions within the running world as not

everyone is, as you can imagine, in agreement with these changes and I'm looking forward to something similar at the AGM!

I'm pleased to announce that our influence within the Sandilands Club itself has increased over the last year, as club stalwart, Nigel Davidson, agreed to take on the role of the Sandilands club secretary. Nigel has advised however that the club roof is in urgent need of repair if not replacement. Should this happen it would cost in the region of £30,000. Funds that Sandilands do not have sitting in a bank account so will be looking to the associated clubs like ours to finance. A fund has been set up to raise the required capital where half of the money raised go to the fund and the other half into a monthly draw for those people that have taken out a yearly £20 stake. I would actively encourage you all to purchase a stake and should you be lucky enough to win the monthly main prize of £50 to spend some of your winnings in the club bar! On the subject of which, if you wish to continue enjoying the benefits of this wonderful functionality could I also ask you all to support it by using it for a post club run drink and chat after our evening club runs, especially during the winter months as it will be a case of use it or lose it.

As a club the past year has seen us once again increase our membership levels that, as of the end of August of this year, stand at a record 176. This has been quite a remarkable increase over the last 5/6 years when you consider that when we moved to Sandilands from our original home in Lloyd Park in 2001 our membership stood at 75. A large percentage of this increase has been the number of ladies that have joined the Striders. Female membership now almost makes up 40% of the overall club membership. Again this is another remarkable statistic as only a few years ago you could count the number of female striders on one hand, well if you were a Banjo player at least! From a personal view I find this particularly pleasing as one of my aims when I was honoured enough to become chair of the Striders was to get more women in the club.

However, this huge increase in membership numbers has not seen the same increase in the number of people either taking part or more importantly assisting in club organised events both running and social related. The usual comment heard at such events is that it always seems to be the same people that come forward. There are people within the club that put a lot of their time into organising events such as alternative club runs only for a handful of people to turn up. Even worse is when such an event is held at the clubhouse and people turn up but are not prepared to give the event a chance and take part. I would therefore like to request from you, the members, to support your club in a more pro-active fashion for the next coming club year. To steal and re-work a quote from a famous US President, '**Think not what your club can do for you, think what you could do for your club**'. We have a hard working committee, who do a lot of work behind the scenes to make sure that this club is a success but this committee has not grown in line with the club membership. While I'm not suggesting that we have a bigger committee, after all it can be hard enough to get a decision with the number we have at the moment! It would be good if we could get people to help the committee. For example, we need someone to be the Team Manager for the Rosenthal Track Meeting to give Chris Morton a break. There are only 6 meetings per summer one of which we host. Chris ensures me that it's a fairly straightforward job and it's just a case of getting people involved. There are plenty of more roles that could be filled that could increase the benefit and enjoyment to all within our club including even non-running events. So please do not be shy in coming forward.

Speaking of the club's committee no self-respecting chairman's report would be complete without thanking his or her fellow committee members and this report is no exception. How this club would survive without the likes of the hardest working club secretary, Chris Morton, treasurer, newsletter editor and club kit storage man, Robin Jamieson, membership secretary, Karen 'just keep swimming' Macenhill, Kit-man, Phil 'the suit' Mazur, social secretary, Susan 'black tie' Haynes and the man with the best job in the club, Woman's Team Manager,

John Ralf, is beyond me. I'm sure that on behalf of the club you will all want me to thank them all for all the hard work that they put into this club to make it the success that it is, thanks guys.

John Gannon Chairman, Strider of Croydon, September 2007

PS There will be a vacancy for club chairman come October 2008 if anyone is interested!

4. Secretary's report

At the London Marathon this year Nik Kyritsis achieved the incredible feat of completing his 100th marathon : I'm sure you will all agree that this accomplishment deserves our greatest awe and respect. It was also good to see Nik interviewed on TV in his Striders vest during the race!

Most of the 34 Striders who completed the London Marathon suffered in the heat – it was definitely a better day to marshal at our Embankment position than run. However there were many commendable performances including Scott's club record and Kerry Backshell's sub 3.30 run. And Ian Campbell's 2.51 finish in the Amsterdam race in October shouldn't be forgotten.

From a racing point of view the highlight of this past year was the incredible string of performances put together by Justin Macenhill and Scott Antony in their marathon build-ups. In a high quality field at the Brighton Half in February Justin finished 9th in club's second fastest ever time of 1.15.13, while Scott finished in 11th in the club's 5th best ever time. A few week's later Scott finished runner-up in the Epsom Perch.

The duo again sparkled at the Bramley 20 – this time Scott finished in 19th, two places ahead of Justin. And in the Cranleigh 21 Scott finished 16th and Justin 18th. Then Justin produced a magnificent 56 minute 10miler at Maidenhead to place him 5th in the all time rankings. Scott was obviously more used to the Antipodeans conditions at the London marathon and produced a club-record time of 2.41.17, whereas Justin waited a couple more weeks before recording the club's sixth fastest time of 2.48.53 at Edinburgh.

In contrast, our Surrey Road League races were dominated by veterans. Dave Batten's superb season was capped by second place in the MV50 category, which helped our men's team finish 8th. While Karen Macenhill finished 7th in the FV35 group. Our women's team finished 11th.

Dave Batten was also an essential part of our track and field season. He helped our men's Vets finish the Southern League in an unexpectedly high fourth place. Also integral to the team were Dave Lovell, Steve Smith, Alan Dolton, Bob Ewen and team manager Kevin Burnett – who again marshalled the team well to achieve beyond our limited resources.

Age-related records were regularly broken in Vets and Rosenheim leagues – by both Dave Batten and Dave Lovell plus Matt O'Hare in all the throwing events.

Although we finished the Rosenheim season in our usual 5th place the team continues to grow and it's encouraging to see younger runners such as Nicholas Batten, Matt Morgan, Darren Piper and Yasmin Ramsay doing well.

In our Surrey League cross country leagues our women frustratingly just missed out on promotion on the final day of the season. But Faye Stammers, Kerry Backshell, Steph Upton and Amalia Da Silva Lima should again be at the forefront of our team and manager John Ralf hopes that we can go one better this winter.

The men's team finished a commendable 4th in division 2 – sustaining our longest spell in this division – and was for once dominated by our seniors with Justin, Matt Morgan, Duncan Lancashire, Scott and Damian Macenhill securing our top five spots. Justin finished in the top 10 overall scorers in each of the four races.

Our Sandilands Cup was dominated by Amalia – a reflection of her fantastic support of the women's team. The minor places were more keenly contested and we had 45 runners taking part, of which 14 met the qualification of completing six races.

So far this season our re-vamped Owen Trophy has also proved a success. We've had a record 76 runners taking part and there are still seven runners in with a chance of claiming the top 3 spots. The competition has highlighted the great improvements of many runners recently particularly Sarah Milne and Martin Gourlay.

5. Treasurer's report

See attached document

6. Membership fees for 2006/07

It was proposed and agreed that the membership rates will remain the same. These are as follows:-

First Claim	: £25.00
Second Claim	: £15.00
Under 16s	: £5.00
Family (1 adult/children)	: £30.00
(2 adults/children)	: £40.00
Swimming :	: £10.00

7. Election of the Committee

The current Committee was re-elected as follows:

John Gannon :	Chairman
Chris Morton:	Club Secretary
Karen MacEnhill:	Membership Secretary / Social Secretary
Robin Jamieson:	Treasurer / Newsletter Editor
Susan Haynes:	Social Secretary
Phil Mazur:	Club Kit
John Ralf:	Ladies Captain

8. Trophies awarded

Men's Road Ranking	1 st Joint 2 nd	Justin MacEnhill Damian MacEnhill/Ian Campbell
Ladies' Road Ranking	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Kerry Backshell Stephanie Upton Tina MacEnhill
Men's Road Ranking Age Graded		Justin MacEnhill

Ladies Road Ranking Age Graded		Kerry Backshell
Men's XC	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Justin Macenhill Matt Morgan Duncan Lancashire
Ladies' XC	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Faye Stammers Kerry Backshell Stephanie Upton
Handicap Trophy		Matt Anderson
Sandilands Cup	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Amalia Da Silva Justin MacEnhill Nigel Davidson/Matt Morgan
Track & Field		Dave Lovell & Yasmin Ramsay
Surrey Road League MV50	2 nd place overall	Dave Batten
Club Man of the Year		Robin Jamieson
Club Woman of the Year		Susan Haynes

Robin and Susan will also be receiving a new pair of trainers courtesy of Baz / Runathon and a free one day pass for Virgin Active from Paul Weir.

Individual age-graded performances were highlighted. These are based on world-agreed factors for each age. Anyone scoring 70% to 80% is considered "a good local athlete", whilst between 80% to 85% is considered to be "an athlete of county standard".

Best performances for women were :-

78.5% for Helen Furze with 40:02 at the Croydon 10k

72.5% for Pat Edwards with 55.23 at the Sutton 10k

Best performances for men were :-

82% for Dave Batten with 38:22 at the Croydon 10k

81.1% for Justin Macenhill with 33.38 at the Brighton 10k

80.3% for Bob Ewen with 38.33 at the Croydon 10k

9. Items for discussion

- i) England Athletics : affiliation fees.
 - In the financial year 2006/07 we paid a club affiliation fee of £180 to UK Athletics
 - In 2007/08 we have just paid £540 for affiliation to the newly formed England Athletics
 - In 2008/09 we will pay about £800 for affiliation

Under government pressure England Athletics (EA) was created as a largely un-elected new governing body for athletics. In its first year it is asking all clubs to

pay £3 for each club member to be affiliated. In the second year this will rise to £5 per member : no future cap has been set.

It is arguable that most clubs receive very little benefit for this substantial hike in affiliation fee.

Due to much disenchantment among running clubs a rival body has been created – the Association of Running Clubs (ARC). Their affiliation fee for 2007/08 would be about £320. But :

- a. runners affiliated to ARC are not covered for most road races and would have to pay an extra £2 for each race they ran
- b. all Track & Field and most cross country races are only affiliated to EA
- c. unaware of any local clubs that have joined ARC

So we have decided to stay affiliated to EA this season but will continue to monitor developments.

If we continue to affiliate to EA in 2008/09 will we be able to afford the increased affiliation fees ?

- a. We may need to increase our membership fees – these have remained unchanged for the past 5 years
- b. We may ask members individually to indicate if they want to affiliate to EA – and scale our own membership fees accordingly. However those deciding not to affiliate must then pay the additional £2 for unaffiliated runners each time they compete in a road race – otherwise they will not be insured for that race.

Discussion

There was a general discussion regarding the fees that England Athletics want to charge and the advantages and disadvantages of rejoining the England Athletics or considering the possibility of joining the rival body known as Association of Running Clubs (ARC). The main points of concerns stem from runners not being affiliated and therefore not entitled to the reduced entry fee for races and also the release of personal details.

Paul Finch/Neil Furze mentioned that triathlon / swimming clubs have the policy that people join the governing body individually and then join clubs. Would this be an option for runners to?

This is very much an open matter for the moment as negotiations are ongoing.

ii) Organisation of Friday night runs

Susan has received a few complaints that the Friday night runs have become a little fast of late. Members are reminded that the Friday night run is designed as a social run only and the pace is dictated by the run leader who will set the pace depending on the members of the group, this is contrary to the other club runs. Faster runners are encouraged to run separately.

It was agreed that the Committee will where possible organise 2 leaders for the “faster” and “slower” groups but this will not always be possible. Therefore it was agreed that the Committee will arrange for a leader for the slower group and be very strict as to who will be allowed on this run.

It was highlighted that if runners want to do a separate faster run then they are more than welcome to but without a designed leader they are doing this without the benefit of insurance.

It is also proposed and agreed that the Friday night runs would commence at 7pm not 7.30pm. This will start with effect from 5 October 2007.

iii) Run leaders

The Committee are always stretched when it comes to run leaders. If you are willing to lead a run, please contact any member of the Committee when we can discuss the possibility of adding your name as a club official and therefore you will be covered by club's insurance policy

iv) Club Trophies – Owen/Sandilands

Chris has updated/changed some of the rules in relation to these trophies. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact Chris directly. He would be particularly interested to hear of any ideas on a scoring system for the Sandilands cup.

v) Medical cover : volunteers for First Aid Course

In order for us as a club to host a race we are required to get a race permit which necessitates the need for medical cover. St John's ambulance cover costs £200.00 which of course is outside our budget. It is therefore suggested that we provide our own medical cover and that some members attend a one day first aid course which the club would be willing to pay for. We are therefore looking for volunteers who are willing to attend the first aid course and act as our first aiders on race days.

Kevin raised the query : if we provided our own first aid, would the club / individual be legally responsible if anything was to go wrong? It is understood that anyone who attends the first aid course would be covered by the organisation who credited the individual with the qualification. It was intimated that this insurance covers individuals for 3 years but this will be investigated in relation to the one day first aid course.

vi) Rosenheim League manager

We need a new Rosenheim manager please – if you would like to volunteer please contact any member of the committee.

vii) Switchback

The annual switchback race is taking place on Sunday 23 September and JG is looking for volunteers to help set up and marshal from 8.30am. If you are able to help please email John Gannon, he needs at least about 20 volunteers.

Meeting closed : 10.10pm