

STRIDERS OF CROYDON

Minutes of the AGM

22 September 2010

1. Apologies for Absence: Kath Selby, David Batten, Barry White, Sean Gallagher, Linda Daniel, Ian Campbell, Sue Atkinson, Jo Penny, Carmen Somerset
2. The minutes from last year's AGM were agreed.
3. There were no matters arising from the previous year's minutes.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Another excellent year for Striders of Croydon. Membership has risen yet again to 240 – 139 men 101 women. With 210 first claim. Though our turnover in the first year is pretty high with 67 new members and 53 dropping out.

Our age distribution is still pretty well weighted towards the middle aged and above

Under 18	10	4%
18-29	34	14%
30-39	68	28%
40-49	69	29%
50-59	43	18%
60+	16	7%

Though I think that is more relative youngsters than last year.

Since our costs are relatively fixed we have made another healthy surplus so for consideration later in the meeting is a reduction in your subs, at least for this year.

There is however one caveat which is the cost of running Sandilands of which more later.

Chris Morton will give more details of the clubs achievements this year in his report but well done to everyone who has represented Striders in whatever event and well done to everyone who has achieved a personal best over the year. Also a big thank you to everyone who has helped in all the events we are now involved in over the year.

A special thanks to all the members of the club committee: Chris Morton for managing all the admin, the website and producing all the club records and probably leading runs more than anyone else plus leading Tuesday night speed training .

John Humphries for managing the money, Mick Turner for keeping tabs on who is running with us and making sure you pay your subs. Steph Upton for ensuring you are all well kitted out, John Ralf for leading most Friday runs and managing the Ladies XC team and the summer track and field events. Susan Haynes as our social secretary and the regular leader of the Friday steady group.

Also thanks to John Gannon who after Chris Morton has been probably the next most regular leader of our Wednesday runs. Thanks to Alan Dolton who leads the speed training at the track on Tuesdays. Thanks to Neil Furse who coaches an ever increasing group of us swimming at Trinity on a Thursday night. And finally thank you to everyone else who has led a run or found themselves unexpectedly leading the 40 minute run back on a Wednesday night.

Also a special thanks to Karen Connor and her parents who provide the food at all our events at the club house including this AGM.

The Sandilands Club itself is a non profit organisation run by a committee of its member clubs and financed by the member clubs subscriptions. The Chairman is Jeff Webb from the Tennis Club, the Secretary and the Treasurer are both Striders, Nigel Davidson and myself respectively.

The club and grounds cost around £48,000 a year to run of which about £40,000 comes from Tennis, Cricket, Hockey, the Bar franchise and a limited amount of hall hire. The balance comes from Football, Striders, the Choir, Lacrosse and Running sisters. We also hired out the hall to a Nursery during the week which provided a comfortable surplus. Unfortunately the last nursery folded at the end of 2009, I think by then with only two children and it hasn't proved possible to find a replacement (there aren't enough kids in Sandilands). As a result the Sandilands Club is now running at a loss. Inevitably there will be a rise in the rent above inflation for next year and there may be calls for additional contribution during the year. For example you may have noticed the veranda is beginning to sag. We are not sure yet if this is a minor repair or a major reconstruction job – and we couldn't start our runs without a veranda.

In the mean time, as Striders has been running with a surplus we have contributed significantly to various improvements which benefit Striders. You will have noticed the car park has been cleared and levelled. The rather battered locker in the mens changing room has been replaced, and a new one for the ladies is on order. The ladies showers heads have just been replaced. We have acquired new cycle stands. And finally I (on your behalf) have adopted the garden which had become rather neglected after the nursery left. If anyone is dividing any perennials this winter let me know.

After a couple of false starts The Croydon Half Marathon is now making significant progress.

It will be on Sunday 3rd April 2011. It will start at Sandilands and finish on Lloyd Park. It is 2 and a bit laps of the 10K route, which is I am afraid not the most exciting route but was the best option we had.

My thanks to the Croydon Half Committee for all their support and help so far. Kath Selby, John Gannon, Michelle Meech, Susan Haynes Hannah Musk, John Humphries and Mike Fleet from Croydon Harriers. The event is licensed, the course measured, Croydon council is board. I still need to finalise some details with sponsors but by the time of the AGM the full event web site at www.croydonhalf.co.uk and the online entry system will up and running ahead of the major launch for the event which will be the Croydon 10K on October 10th.

For this event to be a success we will need lots and lots of helpers on the day. Current estimate is 70 to 80. We will get about 20 from Croydon Harriers and some from the other clubs at Sandilands but we will still need at least 40 from Striders or your friends and relations.

So...

If you don't want to run and you are pretty certain you can help on the day please volunteer now. We will start the helpers list at the AGM. Plus if you know you have a partner, relative or friend who will help please volunteer them as well.

If you want to run it and can volunteer a non Strider to help we will reserve you a place now.

If you want to run it but can't volunteer anyone else please don't enter yet. Once we are certain we have enough helpers we will notify everyone that entry is now open to Striders.

Remember if you do help you can put your name in the first draw for the 2011 London Marathon.

I accept that it can be difficult to commit now to an event next April and accept that some may have to drop out but if we can get 50 names on the list fairly early on it would be one more challenge out of the way.

So starting at the AGM and over the next few months Hannah Musk will be using any means at her disposal to encourage, bribe, blackmail as many of you as possible into volunteering or finding volunteers to help on Sunday 3rd of April next year.

Good Luck for the next year and may all your runs be in sunlit forests.

Nigel Davison proposed a vote of thanks to Robin for all his hard work for both Striders and Sandilands over the last year.

5. Secretary's Report

The past twelve months have seen some great team performances and some brilliant individual achievements for Striders.

The team highlight has to be the women's cross country team's promotion from Surrey League division 2. Not only did the A team finish in a magnificent 2nd place but manager John Ralf engendered such enthusiasm and team spirit that our B and C teams were the best in the division. Unfortunately the men's cross country team couldn't quite match this and missed out on promotion by an agonising 20 points. And on the road our men's team were runner's up in the Beckenham Road Relays.

There were also some great individual road times. At the head of the list is Bill Makuwa's record breaking marathon time of 2 hours 40 at London, which followed on from his 1 hour 15 at the Reading Half marathon – the 2nd fastest ever. Elsewhere Helen Furze's 1 hour 06 at the Maidenhead 10 miler was the 3rd fastest on record while Matt Morgan's 33.16 at the Chessington 10K was 4th all-time.

In the age-group records Lesley Bourke claimed a clean sweep of all the FV50 road records whilst Margaret Faherty is in the process of doing the same for our FV65 records.

And other Striders just couldn't get enough of running mile after mile. Lisa Jackson had a mad six weeks where she completed the marathons at Rotterdam, Brighton and London and then hopped over to South Africa to run the 89K Comrades. Ian Campbell's season included marathons at Steyning, Luton and London plus the 33 mile Pilgrim Challenge, topped off with the 56 mile London to Brighton.

In track & field our Vets team thrived : David Batten led the teams to record-equalling performances in the Southern Vets League – our men finishing 3rd and our women 4th. During the season the following Striders all claimed age group T&F records : Paul Stanford, Steve Massey, John Foster, David, Bob Ewen, Andy Eliot, Victoria Ewen, Steph Upton, Dee Stanford, Linda Daniel, Kim Ford, Eliot Osher. While Margaret – for FV60 and FV65 – and Kevin Burnett – for MV70 – made a clean-sweep of the records.

Our Rosenheim team wasn't as successful – though ably managed by John Ralf we finished in our usual 6th place. Which leads in to the areas where we feel Striders need to do more and to improve. We would really like more members to take part in track & field and we hope to run an open day at Croydon Arena next spring where we will be encouraging you to 'have a go' at any track & field event.

We also need more runners in the relay events that we compete in : despite our membership numbers increasing the numbers running relays have been declining recently. Relays are a great team event – if you haven't done one before think about giving it a go soon.

We also need more of our faster runners to show an interest in the road rankings : the season's road ranking trophy is one of the most prestigious awards to win in our club. All you need to do is complete three out of the four road ranking distances of 10K, 10 mile, half marathon and marathon each season.

Finally we all need to be aware that to organise a club and to put on races requires lots of help, time and effort. Consequently we always need more Striders with first aid or coaching qualifications – the club will provide funding for you to attend relevant courses. And of course we need people to help at the various events that we hold – cross country races; club handicaps; Race for Life; Switchback; Roundshaw parkruns; London Marathon etc. Please consider helping out occasionally – it's very easy and it helps to keep events going.

Many thanks to all those who have helped keep Striders moving onwards and upwards in the past year. Long may we thrive, prosper and run !

Robin Jamieson proposed a vote of thanks to Chris for his hard work as Secretary.

6. Treasurer's Report

John Humphries presented the Club's accounts (copy attached) and report that the club had a healthy surplus in the bank. The surplus was such that he proposed a one-off reduction in Membership Fees for the 2010/11 Season. After a brief discussion the proposal was put to the vote and it was agreed that the fees for 2010/11 would be:

First Claim - £25
Family Membership (2 Adults/children) - £45
Family Membership (1 Adult/children) - £35
Second Claim/Student/Freedom Pass Holders - £15
Under 16's - £10
Swimming Only £10

7. Election of Committee

The Committee were unanimously re-elected by the Membership.

8. Presentation of Club Awards

Awards were presented as follows:

Men's Road Ranking	1. Justin Macenhill 2. Richard Lee-Smith 3. Simon Ambrosi
Men's Age Graded Road Ranking	1. Justin Macenhill 2. Richard Lee-Smith (no trophy awarded) 3. Chris Morton (no trophy awarded)
Women's Road Ranking	1. Suzy Yates 2. Josephine Thompson

	3. Tina Macenhill
Women's Age Graded Road Ranking	1. Margaret Faherty 2. Suzy Yates (no trophy awarded) 3. Leslie Bourke (no trophy awarded)
Women's Cross-Country	1. Helen Furze 2. Suzy Yates 3. Faye Stammers
Men's Cross-Country	1. Matt Morgan 2. Lee Flanagan 3. Justin Macenhill
Sandilands Cup	1. Alice Ewen 2. Matt Morgan 3. = Suzy Yates 3. = Mick Turner
Special Award for Cross-Country	Victoria Legge
Owen Trophy 2009	1. Peter Shew 2. Richard Lee-Smith 3. Justin Macenhill
First Handicap	Julie Jordan
Second Handicap	Katherine Selby
Final Handicap & Overall Winner	1. Neil Furze 2. Alan Dolton 3. Jo Rugg
Men's Track & Field	Steve Smith
Women's Track & Field	Kim Ford
Club Man of the Year	Mick Turner
Club Woman of the Year	Steph Upton

9. Any Other Business

Chris Morton proposed a vote of thanks to John Gannon for all his help during the year and also to Alan Dolton for his help and support with coaching and support.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm.