**Meeting:** Committee

**Date:** 10/01/2022

**Attendees:** Shaun Mutter, Kate Mutter, Zena Ellis, Thom Darby, Nadia Hall, Evelyn Lutterodt, Andrew Durrant, Hilary Blessing, Maria Petts, Ruth Doyle, Martin Ball, Estelle Parkins, Charles Nelis (Partial)

**Apologies:** Claire Bracey, Charles Nelis (Partial)

* Reports (as necessary)
  + Chair (Thom)

It really feels that the club is starting to find its feet again. We have had several new members join, we finally seem to have got a home at Inspire and the club events are coming thick and fast.

It was great to see so many Striders attend the various events across December. It was great to have the Christmas Lights run with over 40 Striders running in two groups across town to Old Bedford Road and Fallowfield. Santa was very welcoming at Fallowfield and the Mulled Wine and Stollen went down a treat at the Disney House. Thank you to Carol and her parents Judy and John who made is most welcome and thank you to Nichola Abubacker and Theresa Gunnell for arranging this lovely treat.

We had the misty cross Country, thank to Kate and her team for such a great event. It was super to be running against Dunstable and they certainly appreciated the opportunity to run against another club after the difficult 12 months they have had.

The Boxing Day run was a delightful run, with a good ‘magpie’ chat at the end. January has a lot to live up to and it has already started so well!

We ask all club runners to continue to run safely on the dark nights and we are encouraging all members to have ICE tags at all club running events.

The committee continue to work hard in ensuring the club continue to move forward and I thank them all again for their work so far.

Keep running, smiling and wearing the red and black with pride.

* + Secretary (Maria)

It had been a busy month in several ways so need to start the membership process for the next batch of people whose trial completed in December.

We have 2 members from the last batch that are still attending/saying they want to join so will chase those up.

Additionally, one person completed the trial but may be leaving the area shortly (next month or so). Committee agreed that they can continue to run with the club and join if they end up not moving.

The overall agenda for this meeting has been cut down to the time critical topics. If this works (topics agreed and closed) we can look at using a more limited agenda in future sessions.

* + Treasurer (Andy)

I still don’t have access to the bank accounts, but the mandate forms have been sent, so this should be sorted soon.

Have been looking into options for the club fees (agenda item)

*Members can approach the Treasurer for financial information*

* + Captains Run Report (December)

Confusion caused by secretary leaving October/November on the agenda (last months)

Reports to be provided next month

* Club Championship for 2022
  + - 5k: Marston – 10th June
    - 5Mile: Hatfield 5 – November (Date TBC)
    - 10k: Flitwick 10K - 10th April AND Love Luton 10k – 30th October
    - 10 mile: Sandy or Leighton (Awaiting dates to confirm which)
    - Half Marathon: St Albans – 12th June AND Love Luton 30th October
    - 20Mile: Any race (not virtual)
    - Marathon: Any race (not virtual)
  + How are we going to communicate this?
    - FB post - Nadia
    - Email - Thom
    - Website – Evelyn
* Coaches
  + Charles Nelis – already awaiting course from pre Covid
  + Those to be offered LiRF (6 total) – post agreement from coaching team
    - Graham Crouch
    - Nicola Abubacker
    - Calista Strange
    - Nadia Hall
    - Shaun Mutter
    - James Rankin
  + Not everyone could be offered this time due to costs.
  + Commitment to Coaching / Course Fee payment.
    - This year: Club pays, then 10 session must be coached (beginners course or club), within the club membership year. If not completed the club may ask for the money to be repaid.
    - Other option for the future, if we have issues this coming year: Cost of the course is split between the club and individual to start with. Then club repays the individual when they have completed 10 sessions (beginners course or club), within the club membership year.
  + Benefit of being a coach. Thom suggested coaches to be repaid the cost of affiliation (£15) if they coach 10 or more times per year. (Coaches used to get free club nights when they coached). Agreed by committee
  + How are we going to communicate this?
    - Maria to let the coaching team know the list of potential new LiRF for comment before the new LiRFs are informed.
    - Thom will contact those that have not been offered this time.
    - Maria to communicate the new coach benefits
* Club Fees
  + The plan had been to charge £1 per club night at Inspire, via Spond. However, Spond will not charge less than £2 per session, and other tools have similar limitations. It is not fair to charge one night and not another at Inspire as not everyone attends both. With the room fee now so low, the costs do need to be covered but £2 a session is too high. The option of a credit card machines was also looked at but comes with a number of organisation/admin issues.
  + The other option was an annual increase. Committee supportive of this as charging on the night not we do not take cash is not an option.
  + The money the club raises pays for various items which need to be considered: Club affiliation, room fees, the lockup, social nights (if there room charges), awards evening including trophies (£5 charge to members does not cover all the costs)
  + Considering all costs and the number of members annual membership fee with rise by £20 to £35, plus affiliation at £15 (where wanted).
  + This is still less than £1 per week, if it was pay per night it would be £2 per session (due to Spond limitation)
  + Track is not included, but we can bring the cost of track down with consistently high numbers attending.
  + With the increased membership fee it may be possible for the entry fees for the 3 counties cross country. This will be reviewed post the annual membership renewal period.
  + Committee have also considered reduced fees in some scenarios, in line with other clubs, so will be offering (TBC): Student and over 65 discounts. £20, plus affiliation
    - Maria and Andy to see what % of club are in the over 65 group for the impact on fees before confirming
  + Striders abroad were raised, as they rarely come to club. One said they would happily pay.
  + New members fees at various times of year need to be considered.
  + Thom will communicate this change as the chair (once we have confirmed we can financially accommodate the discounted rate). This will be via Facebook, email and the newsletter.
  + ***NOTE: Fees were discussed again on the committee chat and new figures were agreed. These new fees are the ones that were posted on the Striders internal FB.***
* Awards Night
  + Important to look at anything that needs booking as Awards night would normally be end of Feb/start of March
    - Trophies will be ordered after the decision meeting on 24th January
    - Venue – Claire to book which will confirm the date
    - Food – Thom to contact Cheryl Mclaren
    - Speaker – No external speaker. Will discuss further at next meeting
    - Music – No formal music setup. Will discuss further at next meeting
    - Decorations – There should still be some stuff in the lockup. Zena will help Claire organise this.
  + Process for deciding awards recapped.
    - Evelyn – to send list of all the results in spreadsheet (so can sort by name) to Thom
    - Maria – to send list of all Members list with age category to Thom
    - Thom will issue age categories to specific people (ideally 1 coach & 1 committee member) and they pick 2 or 3 people, and then group can discuss.
    - Other categories: performance, improvement, special and Ken Abbott (Member overcoming injury) awards. We had too many awards last time so aiming for 7-10 in each category. Everyone comes with suggestions for these and we discuss.
    - Bill Barrett – Captains.
    - Rosa trophy
      * The trophy is broken. Estelle to see if the trophy company can fix
      * Online form and/or paper votes at club nights and parkrun – Zena to arrange
    - £5 per ticket, everyone gets a number for prize of £25
      * ***NOTE: Prize was later changed to an ATW annual race pass, plus a second prize of club race entry***
    - Leaving out beginners and XC awards as we didn’t have these last year.
* Upcoming Events
  + Cross country on Sunday 16/01
  + Barrels Monday night Social 17/01
  + Joint Coaches/Committee Awards decisions meeting 24/01
* Charity Update:
  + Medals for the 12days of Christmas to be handed out at Barrels
  + Planning Bingo for March. Will work around the Awards nights.
* SOTM:
  + Lucy Trevelan – overall improvement, great performance at Hatfield 5
  + Paul Keech – always has a route planned, makes sure no-one gets left behind (Real Strider Spirit)
  + Trophies for SOTM: No contact from the trophies company. Estelle to chase.
* Date for next meeting
  + 07/02
* AOB
  + Evelyn: Please can the remaining new members on the committee please send through their photos for the website.
  + Andy: Did we sort out Crawley Green wanting us to become members. They haven’t asked again so ok for now.
  + Thom: Spoke to Helen about the birthday list, she is happy that she can only have a list of people that offer their birthdays.
  + Zena: 40th birthday when is the anniversary to aim for the do. Thom said it is on the website – 28th June (on the website archive) Zena will try to catchup with Claire before the next meeting. At least need a venue sorted in the next couple of months
  + Nadia: has Tom’s keys for the lockup – Has had the handover from Tom re the race director
  + Next meeting: talk about race
  + Nadia: Nadia and Andrew start the course next week on Monday.
  + Martin: Mission statement – Martin has written something so will post tomorrow.
  + Martin: Kit – has still been talking to the company. First order through one person, after a few months it can become website if enough orders. Needs the logo and the 40th birthday logo.
  + Maria: Charles to send last months members report
  + Maria: Estelle to send over the members list
  + Ruth: What is this meeting on Monday re XC? Thom – it is to confirm clubs/races for the 2022/2023 season
  + Thom: Do we need to put the run times posters up now we have our own room? Yes. Charles has them so will bring to club
  + Thom: Post on committee FB group about wellbeing and mental health. Karen Ashby is happy to help but not lead. Think about if would like to be a champion for this.
  + Thom: AAA events – club has done well so need to keep pushing these.