

South Molton Strugglers AGM

Wednesday 16 November 2022

Apologies: Julie Colman, Jack Batchelor, Emma Bills, John Carter, Ruth Carter, Catherine Whitehill, Jo Bindloss-Gibb, Phil Rycroft

Present: Tony Collyer, Sam Parkhouse, Chris Simpson, Nik Whalley, Sue Carter, Richard Connett, Hannah Broggio, Tracey Bawden, Steph Harris, Russ Bestley, Susie Werner, Jo Bradley, Stan Charles-Jones, Andy Corbett, Paul Brayley, Neil Brown, Helen Gough, Mike Clark, Lisa Adamson, James Henderson, James Stanley, Caroline Shapland, Ted Townsend, Paul Cooke, Sean Field

Approval of last year's minutes: Sean Field, Richard Connett

Chairman's report:

This is my third report to the Club. Last year I reflected on the impact of Covid and the creative attempts by many members to make the best of it; by running and eating cake. It seems a long time ago and yet Covid and its impact remain with us albeit not as significantly as in 2020. We still run and eat cake of course and things are improving. There have been some great local events this year and its been good to see our club well represented.

Our club has gone from strength to strength. We have been delighted to welcome so many new members and see some older faces back (not older in the age sense you understand). We were frustrated to cancel the Corker at short notice due to extreme weather but we are excited for the 2023 event. This was part compensated for by a very successful Struggle; new course, new location and great organisation from Phil Rycroft. It will become a regular fixture.

We undertook a survey at the end of last year and really appreciated the feedback. We have tried to respond to your suggestions; Phil's Sunday morning trail runs, Sue's Monday evening forays and Neil's Dirty Fridays are examples. Also thanks to James Henderson for an active social side to the Club during the year.

We are proposing some changes to the committee subject to your approval. We are limited to eight and I think it is healthy that we have regular change to the committee. Last year Sue and Nik joined and this year we welcome Jo Bradley, Paul Brayley and Neil Brown. To make room Chris Simpson, Paul Cooke and Phil Rycroft have kindly agreed to stand down. Chris will remain as Head Coach to the Club. Chris, Paul and Phil have made a big contribution to the committee during their time with us and I am extremely grateful for their support.

Jo Bradley has agreed to take on the role of Ladies Captain and Sue will support her as deputy. The Mens Captain roles have still to be finalised.

Finally can I offer a big thank you to our run leaders whose inspiration and leadership kept us running safely and enthusiastically throughout the last year

Finances:

Treasurers Report:

We currently have 124 paid up members. The total club surplus for the year to 30 September was £207 (2021 £910) and income continued to cover the direct costs, mainly the Pannier Market and affiliation fees. There were no events in the period as the Corker had been cancelled, but payments had been received for this and the Struggle and these were recorded as income in advance.

Captains' Report: Things are opening up race-wise although participation is still patchy. We were unable to field a team for the Ross Shield and attendance at the relays had dropped however our men came first at the Torrington Relay. Meanwhile we had a great turnout for the North Devon Marathon to honour the memory of Karina. We also saw many Strugglers taking on Ultra challenges and entered a team in the Wessex Ridgeway.

Membership to stay at £12.00 for the coming year: Proposed by James Henderson and seconded by Nik Whalley

Election of Committee:

Chairman – Tony Collyer

Secretary – Sam Parkhouse

Treasurer and Membership – Ted Townsend

Ladies Captain – Jo Bradley

Men's Captain – TBC

Development – Nik Whalley

Neil Brown

Paul Brayley

Sue Carter (Ladies Vice Captain)

Committee proposed by Paul Cooke and seconded by Richard Connett. Approved.

Non-committee election:

Men's Vice Captain – Dan Bashford

London Marathon Place: – Helen Simmons

Close of meeting at 8.30pm