

South Molton Strugglers AGM 29th November 2023

Present: Tony Collyer, Ted Townsend, Samantha Parkhouse, Nick Stone, Chris Simpson, Dan Bashford, Richard Connett, Andy Corbett, Stan Charles-Jones, Hywel Abbott, Vic Gough, Phil Rycroft, Andy Smith, Kimmarie Smith, Helen Harbottle, Jo Bindloss Gibb, Andrew Woollacott, Caroline Shapland, Susie Coffin, Julie Colman, Sarah Smith, Jo Bradley, Gemma Foley, Shaun Harbord, Neil Brown

Apologies: Sue and John Carter, Lisa Adamson, Tracey Rockall, Karen Bowden, Penny Chbat, Jack Batchelor, Paul Brayley, Emma Bills, James Henderson

Minutes from 2022: approved by all.

Chair's report:

This is my fourth report to the club. I don't want to steal the thunder from our team captains but we have been well represented and have scored highly in many of our local races. Well done to all those who wore our vests and especially to those who carried away trophies, whatever their age! Thank you for supporting our club.

We have continued to go from strength to strength and membership numbers are at an all time high. This helps us keep the subscriptions low, although we are recommending a £2 increase this year to £14 taking us back to pre covid levels. We try to break even on subscriptions, covering the hire of the pannier market, affiliation fees which also provide insurance and subsidies to our social or team events. But back to membership numbers; our new members brought a wide range of abilities and experience this year, strengthening all our groups. Welcome new members, i hope we have made you feel at home. I am particularly excited at the number of couch to 5K runners who not only completed the course but have now joined our club and turn out whatever the weather, its great to see you. And thanks to Sue and Sam for their commitment to this, and the rest of the club for supporting them.

We finally managed to put on the Corker again following last year's cancellation and recently saw the second Struggle in its new location. Both races were received well by participants and we owe a debt to the race directors, James Henderson and Phil Rycroft and the members who supported them Thank you.

I am pleased that Tracey Rockall agreed to take on the role of our social secretary or chief cart herder this year. The Barnstaple Parkrun car park cake meeting has already progressed to breakfast at Wetherspoons so i have high hopes for the Christmas party.

We are proposing some changes to the committee subject to your approval. We are limited to eight and i think its healthy that we have regular change. I would add that the position of Chair should also change regularly but i have yet to persuade anyone what a great role it is. Last year we welcomed Jo Bradley, Paul Brayley and Neil Brown and i'm delighted that they have agreed to stay on, together with your Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Ted and your General Secretary, Sam. Sadly Sue and Nik are standing down but we welcome, subject to your approval Julie Colman and Sarah Smith. We will all miss Sue and Nik's contribution but both assure me they will still be around to support and i offer my thanks for all the work they have

done for the club through the committee and elsewhere. Sue, as many of you know is a founding member of the club.

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. They are the heart of the club and without them committing to turn out each Wednesday night we would not have a club. Thank you guys.

Financial & Membership report: all received by the club.

Our net worth is now £13,806, an increase of £2569 from last year.

Key contributors to the results were the Corker and Struggle, these races generated a profit of £2480 and, with sponsorship of £788 enabled us to donate £750 to the ND Hospice.

Our membership year ends on 31st December and we ended 2022 with 130 members. Currently we have 138 (84 female and 54 male), a record for the club with at least 15 joining after taking part in the Couch-2-5K programme.

Caroline questioned making another lump sum to the ND Hospice. The Chair confirmed that another payment will be considered after the Corker in February 2024. The funds held by the Club provide financial security to allow the larger events to be taken on and are also held with a view to potential future developments with other sporting clubs.

Membership Subs: Propose an increase from £12 to £14, agreed by all.

Election of Officers: approved by all.

Chair: Tony Collyer

Treasurer & Membership: Ted Townsend

Secretary: Samantha Parkhouse

Mens captain: Paul Brayley

Ladies captain: Jo Bradley

Neil Brown

Julie Colman

Sarah Smith

Captains report:

Triumphant at the relays with our Senior Ladies taking home first place.

Sam Baker has had a cracking year with two marathons and plenty of category wins.

Tracey Pennington, Jo Bindloss Gibb and Helen Harbottle have also been placed numerous times in their respective age categories. Thank you to Sue and Dan as vice captains and Richard Connett for all the website help.

Well done to all those who ran, whether you run to race, for the cake or for the selfies.

AOB:

Julie would like to say thank you to Neil for the Tarka Relay Challenge. The Chair echoed the sentiment and apologised for not including it in his report. It was a brilliant event, we planned and well received and we plan for it to take place again in Summer 2024, opening up to other clubs.

Ted proposed thanks also to Tony who turns up each week to open up for us and we look forward to seeing him running again soon.

Gemma Noble asked if we would be open to under 16's? Tony explained that this is reviewed periodically and something we would like to do eventually. However much more safeguarding would be needed, a different location would need to be considered rather than running around the streets and we would need more run leaders. For the moment we think it is beyond our capacity as a club.

Meeting finished at 8.30pm