

Serpentine Running and Triathlon Club

Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23 July 2025 held at the Main Hall, Ark King Solomon Academy, Penfold Street, London NW1 6RX

Attendees

Abena Yeboah, Alison Barty, Andrew Maynard, Andrew Roberts. Anthony Lee, Ben Harris, Bev Thomas, Camilla Allwood, Carole Wisdom, Catharine Sowerby, Catherine Wilding, Catkin Shelley, Chris Notton, Colleen Renihan, Eddie Brocklesby, Eithne Keenan, Fabrizio Fai, Giulia Crepaldi, Hamilton Huxham, Hans Ho, Heidi Rasmussen, Helen Lane, Hilary Walker, Imran Ahmed, Jamie Felix, Janice Smart, John Dsouza, Karsten Buecker, Malcolm French, Mark Pittaway, Oladipupo Osoba, Philip Whitehouse, Reem Akl, Richard Palmer, Richard Wisdom, Rodney Thomas, Ruth Corbett, Ruth Gledhill, Sammy Li, Sid Wills, Simon Hardy, Sophie Taylor, Stephanie Vaatz, Taz Kara, Tom Vinestock, Veronique Leroy.

Veronique Leroy opened the meeting by thanking attendees, highlighting that it was the first AGM of Serpentine Running and Triathlon Club (SRTC). The meeting was quorate and started shortly after 8:00pm.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrea Sanders-Reece, Anne Bennett, Avril Riddell, Carlos Arrebola, David Lipscombe, Jerry Lockspeiser, Jo Burkett, Lan O'Connor, Lynne Maughan, Margaret Sills, Nicholas Browne, Nic Barberis, Patrick Perring, Ros Young, Sue Barty and Victoria Brown.

2. Review of activities and achievements for the period ended 31 March 2025

Veronique Leroy presented the Club's Stats and Stars 2024/25 report, highlighting individual performances of members, the club's activities, levels of participation in events, training sessions, including beginners and improvers courses, and events organised by the club for the public. Membership has remained stable, with 1,193 members; the club continues to be entirely volunteer led.

3. Trustees' report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025

Veronique Leroy explained the club's activities were transferred from Serpentine Running Club (SRC), a Community Amateur Sports Club, to the new legal entity, SRTC, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), on 1 December 2024. This meeting and the Trustees' report and financial statements relate to SRTC only. SRTC was established under a new constitution; its objects are the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for running, swimming and cycling and the opportunity to participate in running and triathlon events.

Imran Ahmed explained that, as a CIO, more formal processes are required around the SRTC accounts, including a review by an Independent Examiner and the preparation of a full set of financial statements for submission to the Charity Commission. He stressed this period's financial statements are distorted since they only relate to items booked in SRTC; the combined results of the two entities would be comparable to last year with a small surplus.

The charitable donation of £269k is the transfer of the assets from SRC which members approved at the Special General Meeting in November 2023. Income in the period was impacted by the postponement of the New Year's Day 10K race and the loss of junior members. Expenses continue to rise, in particular, Royal Parks licence fees and insurance as we have additional policies including cyber.

Imran Ahmed concluded that overall SRTC is in a healthy position with stable membership and highlighted that next year's results will be clearer with just one entity.

Imran Ahmed thanked Andrew Roberts for all his help in creating the Stats and Stars report.

Karsten Buecker asked what progress had been made following the survey on surplus reserves. Imran Ahmed noted reserves are £276k, but the committee would like them to be equivalent to one year's turnover. The survey results were fragmented, but the main categories were:

1. Long-term home
2. Do nothing
3. Coaching or supporting youth/junior members

Regarding 3. we have changed the expense policy to pay for travel for coaches to attend sessions, but there have been very few claims. SRTC already pays for coaching and official qualifications for members, but this may need more publicity. It was a hard decision to stop the junior sessions, but it was due to a lack of volunteers; if we were to invest in juniors again, we would need volunteers with a long-term commitment. The Committee is looking for a long-term home, but it is a difficult and slow process.

Camilla Allwood asked why only 500 of the 1,190 members participate. Catharine Sowerby explained a lot of members do not race and therefore are not in the participation stats in the report. Imran Ahmed noted a previous exercise had found that c.600 members do not compete. Veronique Leroy highlighted that 400 members are registered with England Athletics and 100 with British Triathlon and stressed we are not tracking attendance at social runs and training sessions.

A question was raised as to whether the club could move back to the Seymour Centre. Catharine Sowerby explained the club has no right to return but hopes they will be in contact as we provided input to the design, however the centre will not re-open for at least a year.

4. Election of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

Catkin Shelley thanked both Veronique Leroy and Catharine Sowerby, who are standing down, for all they have done for the club in their roles as Chair and Membership Lead and as Trustees.

The meeting voted in favour for each of the following nominations for club roles and as a Trustee:

- Catherine Wilding: Club Chair. Proposed by Malcolm French and seconded by Karen Hancock.
- Imran Ahmed: Club Treasurer. Proposed by Sue Barty and seconded by Chris Notton.
- Catkin Shelley: Club Secretary. Proposed by Sue Barty and seconded by Catharine Sowerby.

5. Election of other Trustees

The members present voted in favour of each of the following nominations as Trustees:

- Jerry Lockspeiser proposed by Imran Ahmed and seconded by Catharine Sowerby.
- Giulia Crepaldi proposed by Catkin Shelley and seconded by Abhi Jain.
- Hilary Walker proposed by Ros Young and seconded by Jan Farmer.

6. Election of members of the Operational Committee

The members present voted in favour of each of the following nominations as members of the Operational Committee:

- Steph Vaatz: Race Organisation. Proposed by Catkin Shelley and seconded by Imran Ahmed.
- Nic Browne: Competition Lead. Proposed by Catharine Sowerby and seconded by Catkin Shelley.
- Ham Huxham: Triathlon Lead. Proposed by Anne Bennett and seconded by Kristin Raassum
- Lan O'Connor: Triathlon Technical Lead. Proposed by Anne Bennett and seconded by Veronique Leroy.

Catkin Shelley noted the Marketing, Membership and Running Technical Lead roles remain vacant and asked attendees to consider either applying for the roles or, if they feel unable to do a full role, offer to support one of the roles.

7. Awards

Catharine Sowerby announced the following awards given by the Committee:

- The John Stonham Farewell Cup was awarded to Mairi McInnes, who joined the club, on a beginners course in 2018. She started trail running to combine her love of the great outdoors with her running. She inspires others through her enthusiasm and consideration of the abilities and aspiration of others. She coaches the beginners course and leads shorter, slower trail runs to make this accessible to a broader community.
- The David Simpson memorial trophy was awarded to Lynne and Simon Maughan for the inspirational endurance events they have competed in. They both joined the club in 2001 and specialise in very long-distance running events, on road, off-road and even on track. Events they have completed include Simon running 468 laps of Battersea Track and running from John O'Groats to Lands' End and Lynne completing the Canal Slam of three races: the Grand Union Canal race, Kennet and Avon Canal race and Leeds and Liverpool Canal race.

Veronique Leroy announced that the Innovation Cup is awarded to Michael Ngo, for organising two new weekly sessions, the long Saturday Run and Thursday threshold, and for bringing fun into runs. He has brought Strava art to the club with running routes which create shapes; one was a heart which supported Mind and Place2be charities during the mental health awareness week.

Catkin Shelley awarded The Secretary's Shield to Malcolm French for everything he has done for the club over the years, including, but not limited to, running our club races, organising Last Friday of the Month, officiating track and field and cross-country races, and doing all the back-end administration for our England Athletics Membership. Malcolm was on the committee for many years and has been instrumental in making the club what it is today.

8. Any other business

Imran Ahmed outlined the initiative to develop SRTC's marketing strategy which has been led by Graham Bednash on a volunteer basis. Eithne Keenan gave a brief outline of the activities undertaken, including holding focus groups with both new and long-standing members and looking at what other clubs do. The team have put together some ideas around the website, social media and partnerships, but are open to hearing from members for other ideas. The focus is how to attract new and younger members. Eithne asked members to get in touch if they have ideas or suggestions.

Camilla Allwood asked what is happening about the club website. Imran Ahmed stated the marketing strategy work has made some recommendations around the website and back end technology which will be considered, but stressed the challenge is our reliance on volunteers.

Veronique Leroy concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned just after 9:00pm