

THE STRAGGLERS RUNNING CLUB

Vision and Aspirations 2026

The Stragglers has now completed its first full year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) demonstrating that strong governance and a clear charitable purpose can sit comfortably alongside a vibrant, ambitious and enjoyable running club.

Membership remains healthy at over 600 runners, with members of every age and ability participating in an impressive range of activities. Whether taking their first steps through Couch to 5k, training for a first marathon, competing for club prizes, representing England in Masters competition, volunteering at one of our races or simply enjoying the friendship of our social runs, every member contributes to the character of our club.

Our flagship events—the Cabbage Patch 10, Green Belt Relay, River Relay and Wedding Day 7k—continue to enjoy a strong reputation and remain at the heart of both our sporting programme and our charitable impact. Together they attracted thousands of runners, generated vital income and, through the commitment of our volunteers, enabled the Club to donate more than **£25,000** to a range of local and national charities. This is something of which every member can be proud.

The club has continued to invest in coaching, run leadership and member development, while maintaining a comprehensive weekly programme of training sessions, social activities, strength and conditioning, cycling and competitive opportunities. We were also pleased to achieve all seven England Athletics Club Standards, recognising the strength of our governance, safeguarding and club management.

Financially, the club remains in a strong and stable position. Careful financial management ensures that we can continue investing in our members, supporting Bushy Park Sports Club as our home, delivering first-class events and maintaining prudent reserves to safeguard the club's future.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers.

Our trustees, management committee, coaches, run leaders, race directors, marshals, timekeepers, social organisers and the many members who quietly give their time throughout the year are the foundation upon which the club is built. Their enthusiasm and generosity continue to make The Stragglers a welcoming, supportive and successful community.

As we look ahead, we recognise that successful clubs never stand still. We want to continue attracting new members, supporting competitive excellence, embracing digital improvements, strengthening our partnerships and ensuring that future generations enjoy the same welcoming spirit that has defined The Stragglers for almost half a century.

The Vision Statement adopted last year continues to express those ambitions and remains the foundation of our long-term direction.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a vibrant and inclusive running community that fosters a lifelong passion for running, camaraderie and personal growth.

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), we are committed to providing a welcoming environment where members of all abilities feel valued, supported and inspired to achieve their personal and collective goals.

We strive to:

- Promote participation, enjoyment, and excellence in running through high-quality training, social events, and well-organised races.
 - Deliver high-standard, well supported and enjoyable club races, including the Wedding Day 7k, Green Belt Relay, River Relay, Cabbage Patch 10, and club championship races.
 - Encourage club and individual success in cross-country leagues and other athletic competitions.
 - Build on our local and national reputation as a well-run, welcoming and successful club.
 - Build strong relationships within our community adopting a donations policy to maximise the impact of our charitable purpose and support.
 - Use digital innovation to improve communication and accessibility, ensuring all members stay connected and informed.
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Our Aspirations

As we look to the future, we aspire to:

- Grow and diversify membership, particularly encouraging younger runners and those new to running.
- Maintain the highest standards of governance as a registered charity.
- Continue investing in coaching, leadership and volunteering.
- Deliver exceptional races that are recognised amongst the best in the South East.
- Promote health, wellbeing and friendship through running.

- Increase the positive impact we have within our local community through charitable giving, volunteering and partnership working.
 - Ensure that every member—regardless of age, pace or ambition—feels equally valued within our club.
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Our club's ethos lies in its people – the volunteers, athletes, and supporters who contribute to our shared values. We support and encourage the different constituent parts of our club and celebrate them as a whole to reflect the breadth of interest and activities in the club. We promote personal well-being and camaraderie, athletic achievement and the building of lasting friendships through the joy of running.

Kevin Price

Chair of Trustees

The Stragglers Running Club