

Club Forum 2025

Executive Summary

Thank you to all members who attended the forum (on 2 Sept 2025) and contributed to the survey.

The forum highlighted strong member satisfaction across key areas including coaching, events, and social activities. Members praised the inclusive nature of the club and the variety of offerings, while also suggesting improvements to accessibility, communication, and clubhouse usage. There is enthusiasm for expanding social and trail events, enhancing coaching visibility, and using the budget to directly benefit members and support community engagement. The clubhouse remains a valued asset, though access and atmosphere could be improved.

Summary by Topic

Ideas for Use of Budget

- **Direct Member Benefits:**
 - Continue to subsidise race entries, physio/massage sessions.
 - Consider a club lottery for more expensive race entries.
 - Coaching development and training.
 - Reduced membership fees.
 - Subsidise club kit / merch (e.g. warm weather).
 - **Facilities & Equipment:**
 - Invest in club assets like gazebos, flags, tables.
 - Improve clubhouse facilities (e.g. lockers).
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Sponsor youth running initiatives and school awards.
 - Host inclusive charity events (e.g. open 5K fun run).
 - Local publicity and outreach.
 - **Social & Retention:**
 - Increase subsidy for annual dinners, themed parties.
 - Small monthly/quarterly awards (e.g. "member of the month") with vouchers or merchandise.
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Clubhouse

- **Positives:**
 - General consensus that a base is an asset for the club – and a clubhouse better than using a local pub or leisure centre.
 - Useful for changing before/after runs; warm in winter.
 - Convenient location with good transport links.
 - Good value and long-term base; includes track access.
 - Flexible for social events (e.g. pizza nights).
- **Concerns:**
 - Limited access unless committee members are present.
 - Aged appearance; lack of open bar.

- o Storage issues and concerns about valuables.
 - o No opportunity to connect with other clubs who offer different sports.
 - **Committee Commitments:**
 - o Storage of valuables:
 - Communicate that there are lockers available to use in the women's changing room (but not the men's)
 - Expand club storage at Trevor Bailey to provide space to hold small valuables during Tuesday evening runs
 - o Explore whether using the new pavilion at the Streatham and Marlborough Cricket Club nearby would offer any advantages over Trevor Bailey – and feedback to members at the AGM.
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Race Calendar

- **General Feedback:**
 - o Members are impressed with the variety and inclusivity.
 - o Really good feedback following our parkrun "Mob Match" with Crystal Palace Fun Runners.
 - **Suggestions:**
 - o Parkrun tourism and ladder revamp.
 - o More trail run daytrips (perhaps quarterly and member-led).
 - o More runs to support fellow members in races.
 - o Recognise personal achievements beyond medals.
 - o Some members feel a little intimidated by The Dash.
 - o Some would like more events where children can take part.
 - **Committee Commitments:**
 - o Arrange the return parkrun Mob Match fixture with Crystal Palace Fun Runners.
 - o Incorporate more parkrun tourism into the next edition of the parkrun ladder.
 - o Continue to use the Sunday Social Runs to support fellow members in races.
 - o Recognise a broader range of achievements in the club newsletter e.g. first-times or parkrun PBs
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Social Events

- **Popular Activities:**
 - o Pizza socials, post-Dash gatherings.
 - o Talks and guest speakers.
 - o Parkrun meetups with coffee.
 - **Suggestions:**
 - o Increase funding for social events.
 - o Host quiz nights at external venues (e.g. Crown & Greyhound).
 - **Committee Commitments:**
 - o As above, incorporate more parkrun tourism into the next edition of the parkrun ladder.
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Coaching

- **Discussion:**
 - Overall, most feedback on the coaching offer was very positive; people who had used it / are doing Thursdays were positive about it, and people who didn't know about it were impressed by the offer – particularly given that our coaches are volunteers.
 - The main barrier members raised to participating in coaching was a lack of knowledge/familiarity about the offer – notwithstanding that these are a regular newsletter feature. There were a few further elements to this:
 - that it would be helpful to know when the coaching blocks start
 - that some members might feel a bit nervous about coming for the first time
 - that some people have a perception that coaching sessions are only for people who are 'good'
 - Another bar mentioned was the (real or perceived) requirement to attend every session for Thursdays, which is a commitment people feel difficult to achieve. We noted that this is to help members get the most out of sessions and to be able to improve.
 - One member mentioned that they had not found the coaching surgery they had attended with another DPR coach that helpful because there was not a plan or suggested action, but that a follow-up discussion with Susan had worked better.
 - The requirement to run 10 miles a week was less mentioned as a bar for participating in Thursdays, but was still a factor for some members.
 - One further suggestion was to consider introducing a more social run offering on a Thursday – noting that this has not been successful previously.
 - Other unrelated feedback raised by individual members was that the earlier sessions on Tuesdays work better, but there may not be a group with a suitable pace for them running at 6.30; and that more help for new members to be 'inducted' and navigate the club's offer would be helpful.
 - **Suggested Actions:**
 - Renewed communications push on the club's coaching offer, and particularly promoting Thursday sessions – as well as existing newsletter content, to also:
 - Feature in Tuesday announcements more regularly, especially when a new coaching block is about to start.
 - Show more information (perhaps via video/pictures) on what Thursday (and Tuesday) sessions are like.
 - Feature more information on Thursday sessions on the club's social media
 - To explain attendance expectations for Thursday sessions more clearly, including the extent to which it is possible to DIY
 - For members not currently doing 10 miles a week, to provide some generalised advice/tips or a plan on how they can increase their mileage
 - Re-promote the offer of the club's subsidy for coaching courses to broaden/deepen the club's pool of coaches.
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Other

- Improve website navigation.
 - Friendly check-ins for inactive members.
 - Consider earlier or later run times for parents.
 - More help for new members to navigate club offerings (e.g. buddy system).
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