

Minutes of SHR Annual General Meeting Symington Sports Centre, Symington Saturday, 8th November 2008

Members present:

Keith Burns, Louise Burt, John Donnelly, David Duncan, Ronnie Gallagher, Martin Hulme, Ian Nimmo, Malcolm Patterson, Don Reid, Hilary Spenceley, Andy Spenceley, Tony Stapley, Jamie Thin.

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Jamie Thin assumed the chair in the absence of the Convenor and welcomed members.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dave Cummins, Anne Nimmo, Ailish Nimmo, John Blair-Fish, Richard Horsfield, Euan Jardine, Jethro Lennox, Angela Mudge, Nigel Priestley, Chris Upson, Bill Smith, M Sneddon, Allan Smith, I Roberts, R Reid, G Morrison, H McLean, S Cromar, A Breaks, N Bowman, I Blunk, P Amphlett, Denis Bell, A Brett, R Bannerman. J Robson.

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2007 AGM

The minutes were accepted as published. Proposed: H Spenceley; Seconded: R Gallagher.

3. Convenor's Report

Dave Cummins report was read by Jamie Thin in his absence. A copy is appended to these minutes (see Appendix 1).

4. Secretary's Report

Malcolm Patterson presented his report, a copy of which is appended. (see Appendix 2).

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Louise Burt began by presenting the 2007 Accounts and a summary of the account for 2008 to September.

She thanked Fiona Cummins for auditing the 2007 Accounts and providing her with a structure for recording account details. The £900 shortfall in income compared to expenditure was due to the cost of developing the new website, and to the fact that donations which have been made to the Development Fund have not matched the cost of the insurance policy. On the plus side, the costs of producing the newsletter have been reduced thanks to Jamie and Malcolm, we are now receiving an income from SHR merchandise due to the generosity of Scott McKendrick, and the cost of Calendar production has been largely offset by increased revenue from advertising. At the end of 2007, the account stood at £3811.

The 2008 account details have been included in response to a request raised at last year's AGM to present more up-to-date records. These accounts haven't been audited and only go up to the end of September. Income from SHR merchandise and Calendar advertising have both increased in 2008. At the end of September, the a/c stood at £6207, and whilst there are

substantial bills not included (eg August newsletter, SHR mugs/trophies) the account is very healthy as we go towards 2009.

Proposed that the accounts be accepted: R Gallagher; Seconded: K Burns.

6. Subscriptions for 2009

The committee followed the Treasurer's recommendation that the subscription remain at £8 (£2 junior/student/unwaged, £4 for additional members sharing same address and newsletter as a full member). This was endorsed by the meeting.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Nominations for elected posts were as follows:

Convenor - Dave Cummins (Highland HR);	proposed I Nimmo, seconded C Upson
Secretary - Malcolm Patterson (Shettleston H);	proposed K Burns, seconded J Lennox
Treasurer - Louise Burt (Fife AC);	propd M Finbow, seconded A Spenceley
Committee - Ronnie Gallagher (Carnethy HR);	proposed I Nimmo, seconded M Patterson
Committee - Chris Upson (Westerlands CCC);	proposed M Patterson, seconded I Nimmo
Committee - Jamie Thin (HBT);	proposed I Wellock, seconded M James

The meeting endorsed these appointments. It also endorsed the following co-options to the Committee: Ian Nimmo and Andy Spenceley. It also approved of the appointment of Fiona Cummins as Auditor.

The meeting was informed that the constitution allows the Committee to co-opt another two members and it is still seeking volunteers to fill these posts. It was suggested that a note should be sent round to all club secretaries asking for volunteers.

8. Motion:

"That SHR charges an extra £2 a year in membership fees for anyone who wants to receive paper copies of SHR newsletters, instead of electronic copy by email. This reflects the actual cost to SHR of posting out 3 newsletters per year."

Proposed: J Thin, Seconded: L Burt

After discussion, this motion was rejected by the meeting (2 for, 10 against). Proxy votes were then counted (15 for, 4 against) and the motion was declared to be carried by 17 votes to 14

NB: Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided that, because the Constitution had not been followed this vote should be declared invalid. (Rule 7 states that: "All resolutions will be carried on a simple majority of paid-up members voting at the meeting, with the exception of any resolution proposing a change to the Constitution, which shall require a two thirds majority. Following any vote, if three paid up members demand the use of proxy votes, then proxy voting sheets shall be collected and included in the ballot.")

9. Any other business

There followed a general discussion and amongst the points made were:

SHR Annual Prizegiving and “Do” : Glenmore Lodge was felt to be the best venue, offering good facilities. Members also liked the fact that the Do, when at Glenmore, can be associated with the Meall a' Bhuachaille race.

Proxy voting: In the light of the voting patterns with the above Motion, concerns were expressed about the use of proxy votes. It was recommended that when a motion is proposed by the SHR Committee, rather than by individual members, then this should be made clear on the agenda papers.

Relations [with the Scottish Athletics Hill Running Commission](#): There was a lively debate on this issue. It was generally welcomed that there is more joint working with the HRC on matters such as the British championship and international fixtures, and there is now the possibility of formal SHR representation on the HRC. On the other hand, it was felt that some things still needed to be done separately, such as the Scottish championships and race insurance.

Malcolm Patterson, Secretary, Scottish Hill Runners 25/11/08.

APPENDICES

1. Convenor's Report 2008 - Dave Cummins

Good afternoon everybody and firstly I must apologise for not being able to be present at this year's AGM due to family commitments – a new daughter born last Wednesday some 4 weeks early. Thank you to Jamie for kindly agreeing to step in and chair the meeting.

Thank you to all those who have stayed on after the Tinto prize giving to attend this year's AGM. It remains a well worn cliché, but this really is the most effective medium you, as members, have to input into the future direction of SHR policy. Please feel free to make the most of this opportunity in the open forum at the end of today's meeting. The Committee office holders will make every effort to keep the formal business of this afternoon's meeting to a minimum to allow sufficient time for any issues raised to be discussed fully.

2008 has been a relatively quiet year for the Committee in terms of key decision making and policy development, but there has, of course, still been a considerable amount of administrative work carried out on your behalves by Committee and co-opted members, and I'd like to thank them all once again for all their hard work and input during the year. Thank you Malcolm, Louise, Ronnie, Chris, Jamie, Ian and Andy. Euan Jardine has however decided he no longer wishes to continue as the 4th general Committee member. This means that we now have 2 co-opted and 1 full Committee position vacant. Moreover, as demanded by the Constitution, the current convenor, treasurer and secretary positions will need replacing next year as our 3-year tenures are then up. Without the support of some new faces coming onto the Committee and taking on some of the (not excessive !) workload, SHR as an organisation will encounter significant difficulties in

the future. The Committee would then be very happy to hear from any volunteer who is at all interested in taking up any of the current vacant positions and/or may be interested in taking up an office bearing position at next year's AGM. Do remember that the travel commitments are not perhaps as onerous as may first appear, given that well over half of our meetings are now held by 'phone.

Unlike the economy, Scottish hill running seems to be going through something of a boom at the moment, given the increased popularity of many races and the three different SHR-organised (Championship, Long Classic Series, Bog and Burn) competitions this year. It's very pleasing to report that 50 runners completed the minimum 4 races to count in the overall standings for the inaugural Long Classics Series, whilst over 100 finished this year's Championship and were recipients of special memento mugs.

Competition in all categories in all competitions was fierce and congratulations are due to all prize winners. There have also been several excellent placings by some of our top runners and SHR members in various national international events throughout the year. Very well done to them all also.

The Committee have then been very pleased to witness a significant number of successes in the sport here in Scotland this year. My perception is that the vast majority of SHR members are satisfied, if not very satisfied, with the general state of affairs and see no need for drastic or significant change in the short, or even longer, term. Membership for 2008 has shown a very small drop on 2007 levels (515 compared to 521), but 500 plus members is still, I believe, a very healthy figure. Many of you will be aware that Ian Nimmo is also responsible for co-ordinating SHR race insurance. He reports that 34 race organisers took out SHR insurance cover in 2008, an identical number to 2007. Given the apparent continuing demand for SHR race insurance cover, the Committee to intend to offer this service to members again in 2009, but the cost cannot yet be finalised as the cover will only commence from 1st February.

SHR Membership does, I believe, represent excellent value to its members and the organisation does need continued support, especially in terms of existing members continuing to renew membership, if it is to be able to continue to offer its current level of services. This includes the annual end season prize giving 'do' and social, which was staged last week at Crianlarich. This was a big success and those attending had a great time, but booking numbers were down on previous years and such an event can only continue in the future if numbers attending justify it. I think Jamie would like to say a little more about this during the open forum at the end. Something else that will be discussed is the issue of relations between SHR and Scottish Athletics Hill Running Commission. David Armitage, current convenor of the Commission, has come along and would like to take the opportunity to share his thoughts on this matter with you and hopefully initiate a positive and constructive follow-up discussion.

I would just like to close by saying thank you to all SHR members who help make hill running in Scotland what it is and provide such positive backing for those of us on the Committee. It goes without saying that we always have the best interests of the sport as our top priority and hope that in the process we can be as democratic and accountable as possible. 2009 will be a new year with new challenges and hopefully a lot of great running and races for us all – the Committee look forward to your continuing support over the coming 12 months. Thank you.

2. Secretary's report Malcolm Patterson

SHR, I hope you'll agree, delivers a range of excellent publications. We once again produced our "bible", the Calendar of Hill Races – thanks especially to Chris for coordinating this, and to Louise for securing the advertisers. We are currently working on the 2009 edition, and can I issue a reminder to race organisers to confirm details of their races with us as soon as possible.

We published our renowned end-of-year Journal, once more expertly compiled by Ronnie, plus three Newsletters (in April, August and September), thanks to Jamie's editing. We continued to cut the production costs of the Newsletter - which we feel now has a lesser but still important role given the development of the website - particularly by encouraging more of you to receive it by e-mail.

Your secretary has once again devoted a good deal of his efforts this year into the maintenance and development of the SHR website. In this he has been ably assisted by all other committee members, and especially Ian and Chris. The website is now firmly established as our principal method of disseminating information about Scottish hill running in general and more specifically about the role and services of SHR, both to members and to the wider world.

Chairman Dave, in his report, has already referred to the insurance cover which SHR once again provided free of charge to its members. I would just like to add that the cost to SHR of providing this service - £770 - represents a significant proportion of our expenditure, and duplicates the Scottishathletics service, which already offers insurance cover for hill races. I would also ask members to take account of your committee's strenuous efforts to work more closely with Scottishathletics – through its Hill Running Commission on which two of the committee serve – for the healthy development of the sport of hill running in Scotland, and recognise that this divergence in insurance provision remains a major obstacle to making progress.

The Committee remain concerned at the relative lack of juniors participating in hill races, and determined to continue to make efforts to encourage more of them. Its not all negative - juniors continue to turn out in significant numbers for some races (maybe we should look more closely at the reasons for this) – and Scotland hosted a very successful Junior Home International in October. We just need to do more, and this is one way in which closer working with Scottishathletics - who take the lead in the development of junior hillrunning – can and should pay dividends. Another initiative we hope to implement in 2009 is the production and promotion of a separate calendar listing of all hill races suitable for juniors.

It remains for me to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work, and all the wider membership for their encouragement and support for what SHR does. I wish you all a great season on the hills in 2009.