

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Scottish Hill Runners
Symington Sports Centre, Symington
Saturday 13 November 2010**

Members present:

Shane Bouchier, Keith Burns, Louise Burt, John Donnelly, Bill Fairmaner, Jane Ferguson, Martin Hulme, Colin MacDougall, Ken MacDougall, Hugh McPherson, Angela Mudge, Ian Nimmo, Michael Nowicki, Malcolm Patterson, Claire Piper, Nigel Priestley, Gordon Pryde, Richard Robertson, Cameron Scott, David Scott, Bruce Smith, Andy Spenceley, Tony Stapley.

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Dave Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dave Cummins, Ronnie Gallagher, Richard Horsfield, Chris Lennox, Jethro Lennox, Nick MacDonald, Anne Nimmo, Les Turnbull, Chris Upson, Adam Ward.

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2009 AGM

The minutes were accepted as published. Proposer: Keith Burns; seconder: Tony Stapley.

3. Convenor's Report

Dave Scott presented his report (see Appendix 1).

4. Secretary's Report

Ian Nimmo presented his report (see Appendix 2).

5. Treasurer's Report, Adoption of Accounts and Appointment of Auditor

Martin Hulme presented his report (see Appendix 3).

The accounts for 2009 were adopted as published. Proposer: Bruce Smith; seconder: Ken MacDougall.

The meeting endorsed the appointment of Tony Stapley as auditor.

6. Subscriptions for 2011

The meeting endorsed the Committee's proposal that the subscription for 2011 remain at £8 (£2 junior / student / unwaged, £4 for additional members sharing the same address as a full member).

7. Election of Officers and Committee

The meeting endorsed the nominations for the elected positions on the Committee, as follows:

Post	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Convenor	Dave Scott (Ochil)	Malcolm Patterson	Martin Hulme
Secretary	Bruce Smith (Carnethy)	Ian Nimmo	Louise Burt
Treasurer	Martin Hulme (Corstorphine)	Dave Scott	Chris Upson
Committee	Louise Burt (Fife)	Ronnie Gallagher	Malcolm Patterson
	Ronnie Gallagher (Carnethy)	Dave Cummins	Bruce Smith
	Ken MacDougall (Tinto)	Dave Scott	Ian Nimmo
	Chris Upson (Westerlands)	Andy Spenceley	Louise Provan

The meeting endorsed the co-option to the Committee of the following: Angela Mudge (Carnethy), Malcolm Patterson (Shettleston), Cameron Scott (Carnethy), Andy Spenceley (Carnethy).

8. Motions

No motions were submitted.

9. Any other business

The SHR's Forum

Chris Upson deleted the Forum in September because it was a weak point in the web site's defence against malicious attack (see Secretary's Report). The meeting agreed that the Committee should make a determined effort to reinstate the Forum, the Facebook page for the SHR set up by Malcolm Patterson notwithstanding.

The courses set by the WMRA for the Senior and Masters World Championships

Keith Burns described the course proposed for the Masters World Championships in Paluzza (Italy) in 2011 as being a cross-country-cum-trail race with a maximum continuous climb of 60m, despite there being options for 'proper' mountain running courses in the area. He urged the Committee to contact all members of the WMRA's Council asking them to set 'real' mountain running courses in 2011 and beyond. The Committee agreed to do so.

Angela Mudge commented that the courses for the Senior World Championships in 2011 had been similarly emasculated, and that Sarah Rowell had written to the WMRA on behalf of UKA to protest. The Committee agreed to ask the Hill Running Commission to do likewise.

Annual 'Do'

The following comments were made: (a) Glenmore Lodge is a better venue than Badaguish (Keith Burns); (b) The 'Do' should be held on the evening of the last Championship race (Angela Mudge); and (c) It should be held on the evening of the Tinto Race / AGM (Ken MacDougall). The Committee agreed to consider these comments.

End of accounting year

Shane Bouchier suggested that the end of the accounting year (currently 31 December) be brought nearer to the date of the AGM (currently November of the year following). The Committee agreed to consider his suggestion, as well as whether providing unaudited accounts to the end of October (as done this year) were a satisfactory compromise.

Appendix 1

SHR Convenor's Report 2010 Dave Scott

This has been a busy and stimulating first year in my role as Convenor of SHR. In that role, I have been fortunate to be able to call on the team of dedicated and competent individuals that make up our Committee and allow the SHR to function as well as it does, and I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for their efforts.

Several of our Committee members will be standing down this year: Ian (Nimmo), Ronnie (Gallagher), Dave (Cummins), and Louise (Provan) have all provided sterling service to SHR, some over many years, and I would like to thank them in particular. Ian has generously offered to continue to help out in a non-elected capacity. At the same time, we look forward to welcoming two new Committee members who have volunteered their services. We are still looking for a further member for co-option

to the Committee, and would welcome proposals. [Note – Angela Mudge volunteered later in the meeting.]

I would also like to thank Fiona Cummins, who has acted as our Auditor for the past 3 years and will be standing down. Again, we are looking for someone to take on this hopefully straightforward role. [Note – Tony Stapley volunteered later in the meeting.]

The major thrust of SHR activity is focussed on the championships it organises. All offer different challenges, and ensure that there is always a series to suit, whatever one's preferences. This year the Senior Championship saw another great selection of races well spread out through the year, from Chapelgill in March to Glenshee in August, with 90 runners qualifying for the coveted SHR mug. The issue of limited entries in some races caused concern at times, and the Committee resolved in future to ensure that any races selected for the Senior Championship could accommodate the numbers expected. The Committee also made a particular effort this year to select the 2011 Championship races in good time, to avoid conflicts with other championship organisers.

The Bog and Burn Championship and the Long Classics Series organised by Chris Upson again attracted good fields: 70 runners completed the Bog and Burn and 39 the Long Classics, similar numbers to last year.

The championship year ended with the annual prize giving and "do", which again was held at Badaguish and organised by Ronnie. Although many of the category winners could not be present to collect their trophies, there were plenty of stand-ins available for the obligatory photographs! A special feature this year were the new trophies for the Senior Championship provided by Run4It, and presented by Ian White – many thanks to Ian and his company for sponsoring and supporting us in this and other ways throughout the year. The Committee will be reviewing the sponsorship deal with Run4It and it is hoped it will continue in 2011.

Martin (Hulme) will be reporting on our finances elsewhere, but suffice to say we continue to generate a surplus each year. At the last AGM, there was some discussion concerning excess funds. This discussion continued in Committee, and it was agreed that "excess funds" should be defined as anything in excess of twice our average annual expenditure over the past 5 years. For the 5 years up to and including 2009, this was £5750, suggesting that at the end of that year we had excess funds to be used for development of £885 (£6635-£5750). In practice, during the year development funds of around this sum were spent on sponsoring 2 navigation courses, a donation to the National Trust for footpath maintenance on Ben Lomond, and a donation to Scottish Hill Racing for website maintenance. The Committee are open to further suggestions as to how excess funds might be used for the good of the sport.

The organisation of the 2 navigation courses was a source of personal satisfaction to me during the year, one at Peebles in May and another at Fort William in October. In total 35 members participated in these courses, which were run by Bruce Poll of Lochaber AC. Favourable terms were offered to SHR members, and this encouraged a number of non-members to join. Feedback from participants was universally positive and we hope to run further courses next year subject to demand.

One of the key issues to be dealt with by the Committee during the year was race safety, in particular the need for appropriate kit, and under-age runners. With regard to the former, all race organisers taking out SHR insurance were contacted to make them aware of the safety requirements, and the present SHR race insurance Sign-Off Form is undergoing revision to clarify those requirements. In addition, an audit form is being developed which can be used as a tool to monitor race safety. With regard to under-age runners, measures have been agreed depending on whether a race is insured by SHR or SAL.

Ian will be reporting elsewhere on other aspects of SHR's activity, so it just remains for me to thank the members of the Committee again for their efforts, and to look forward to working with them and the membership over the coming year.

Appendix 2

SHR Secretary's Report 2010 Ian Nimmo

Dave has covered most of the ground – which is exactly what I'd have expected, as he's worked very hard for the Committee in the past year. We owe him a big vote of thanks.

Membership and insurance

At the most recent count we have 504 paid-up members, ten more than last year. Over the last five years membership has ranged from 474 (2006) to 517 (2007), so we seem to be on a plateau. Around 80% of members elect to get their mailings electronically, which is a big help: it saves us time (stuffing envelopes) as well as money (for photocopying, envelopes, labels and stamps). For example, posting out the two lots of AGM papers to that 80% would have cost us around £600.

Another plug for the electronic world: subscriptions. The most convenient – to us – way for you to pay your subscription is by standing order, and the web site now explains how to do so. Since it's inconvenient to change a standing order the Committee has a strong incentive to keep subs at their present level.

Over the same five-year period the number of races with SHR insurance has more than doubled, from 22 to the current 49. When race organisers take out SHR insurance they sign up to our safety code. Dave has already mentioned we're planning an audit process to help race organisers identify any areas they need to work on safety-wise. This may seem a bit heavy-handed but it certainly isn't intended to be. As we all know accidents happen, sometimes at unexpected times or places.

Committee meetings

We've met four times since the last AGM, once face-to-face and three times by telephone conferencing. Face-to-face is preferable but hard to arrange and telephone meetings seem to be a reasonable compromise. They make it easy for folk living away from the Central Belt to be involved in what's going on.

Dave has covered most of the things the Committee has talked about – done, even – in the last year. One he left to me to raise is whether we should publish the Minutes of these meetings, say in a protected area of the web site. Alternatively, we could put a synopsis of the meetings in the Newsletter, as the FRA does in *The Fellrunner*. We'd be interested in your comments. My view, for what it's worth, is to elect a Committee in November, let it get on unimpeded for a year and then sack it the following November if it's made a mess of things.

Publications: Calendar, Newsletter and Journal

Mentioning the Newsletter brings me to our main publications: the Calendar, Newsletter and Journal. Thanks to Chris Upson and John Hepburn we produced the printed Calendar in time for the Carnethy 5 and we also have the on-line version which has the advantage of being easy to update. At the beginning of January we put an outline version of the Calendar on-line. No-one has complained as far as I know and we plan to do the same again this year. At the moment we're asking race organisers to give us the info about their races next year and many have already – for which thanks. If you know of any new races or changes, please let us know – e-mail Chris or Dave or myself.

Louise Provan has produced three Newsletters this year, in the Spring, Summer and Autumn. They're mostly aimed at people who don't have access to the web, to keep them up-to-date.

The Journal is for more substantial articles and Ronnie is currently gathering material for it. If you'd like to write something, or if you know of interesting pieces say from your Club's Newsletter or web site, please pass them on to him. His deadline is Christmas – he spends his holiday on the editing.

Website

Our main way of publicising stuff is the web site, and Chris has recently set up a link enabling you to get RSS feeds from it. We've come to depend heavily on the site, as has been brought home to us over the last couple of months when it has been disrupted by hackers. Chris and his colleague Bill Fisher have spent a lot of time and energy in trying to restore it to health, which fingers crossed they've managed to do. Unfortunately Chris has had to take the Forum off the site, as it was a route in the hackers were exploiting.

Malcolm Patterson has set up a Facebook page for SHR, and it would be interesting to hear your views on it, especially vis-à-vis the Forum.

Back to the web site: we want to keep it up-to-date with news and would like to thank the many race organisers who send us their results so promptly. I can imagine the last thing they'll want to do once their race is over is sit down in front of an Excel spreadsheet...

And finally

I've really enjoyed my time on the SHR's Committee. I think for its own good the Committee needs to keep bringing in new faces and retiring the old ones. It's great that Ken and Cameron have volunteered. I'm sure they'll find it rewarding without being time-consuming and wish them, and the rest of the Committee, the best of luck. If you'd like to join them just let Dave know...

Appendix 3

SHR Treasurer's Report 2010 Martin Hulme

You should have a copy of the audited and signed off financial statement for 2009 and an unaudited summary of the accounts for 2010 until the end of October.

First of all I'd like to thank Louise Burt our previous treasurer for producing the financial statement for 2009 as her final task whilst handing over the books to myself for this year. I would also like to thank her for all the help she has given to me in getting started, particularly to begin with, using the purpose designed excel spreadsheets that itemize all transactions.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Fiona Cummins, the retiring auditor who has put in a lot of work over several years in her ex officio role, and that effort was recognized in committee by offering her a small token of our appreciation with a book token. So a wee round of applause for both Louise and Fiona please would be nice!

Turning to the audited accounts for 2009 first, I think the only thing I would like to highlight is the healthy surplus of nearly £1100 generated over the previous year, and it was this projection at last year's AGM that prompted the discussion as to how we should spend what could be considered excess funds that Dave has already highlighted.

Turning to this year's unaudited summary accounts [see below] I would like to highlight that our principle source of income comes from the annual subscription, and the final figures for 2010 are 504 members, up on last year, with some people joining as a direct result of the subsidy offered to members in the two navigation courses.

The main unavoidable costs to SHR remain with providing insurance cover for members and for producing the Journal and Calendar. These have been offset by generous donations from clubs and individuals, for which we are very grateful and indeed rely on if we are to stay healthy financially. We also receive a guaranteed source of income through advertising in the calendar and website.

The figures for Badaguish and the navigation courses are provisional as all the costs are not yet shown (hence the bold italics), but the overall subsidy for the two courses will be about £540. Unfortunately we will make a loss this year from the annual 'do' at Badaguish of about £340, due principally to some no shows for accommodation and the meal, but part of this sum includes the cost of the disco.

So when I take into account the remaining major expenditure for this year, I expect the end of year balance to be much the same as last year, of about £6580. I think that the lack of increased surplus for this year compared to 2009 reflects the wishes of last year's AGM that we should spend your money in a way that benefits the membership in a variety of ways, in development via the navigation courses, for the annual event of the year, and for the trophies prizes and catering offered to members in the various competitions. However we can still go into 2011 with a surplus exceeding twice annual average net expenditure of about £800, which we can consider as available for future development.

Finally I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for providing me with clearly presented receipts and invoices for prompt payment. I now try and telephone banking as much as possible but there are still quite a few transactions that require cheques, and with Bruce as my main co-signature on the cheque book, I sometimes turn up at the Monday lunchtime run over the Arthur's Seat tops with said object, getting suspicious looks from some of the Standard Life participants!