

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Scottish Hill Runners
Symington Sports Centre, Symington
Saturday 09 November 2013**

Members present:

David Duncan, David Scott, Alasdair Anthony (Ochil), Gordon Pryde, Richard Gatehouse, Dave Turner (Lomond), Martin Hulme (Corstorphine), Julia Connor, Colin MacDougall, Hugh McPherson (Tinto), Neil Gilmore, Bruce Smith, Hilary Spenceley, Andy Spenceley, Keith Burns, Shane Bouchier, Ronnie Gallagher, Cameron Scott (all Carnethy), Brian Brennan (Westerlands), William Drysdale (Law & District), David Fulton (HBT)

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Gordon Pryde welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a few words lamenting the passing of the late John Blair-Fish and the valuable contribution he made to Scottish Hill Running.

Apologies for absence were received from: Tony Stapley, Chris Upson, John Stevenson, Angela Mudge, Malcolm Patterson, Peter Baxter, Ken MacDougall

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2012 AGM

The minutes were accepted as published. Proposer: Martin Hulme; Seconder: David Scott.

3. Convenor's Report

Gordon Pryde presented his report (see Appendix 1).

4. Secretary's Report

Bruce Smith presented his report (see Appendix 2).

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

Brian Brennan presented his report (see Appendix 3).

The accounts for 2012 were adopted as published. Proposer: Ronnie Gallagher; seconder: Keith Burns.

The meeting endorsed the re-appointment of Tricia Smith as auditor.

6. Subscriptions for 2013

The meeting endorsed the Committee's proposal that the subscription for 2014 remain unchanged at £8 (£2 junior / student, £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	Gordon Pryde (Lomond)	Dave Scott	Bruce Smith
Secretary	Neil Gilmore (Carnethy)	Bruce Smith	Chris Upson
Treasurer	Brian Brennan (westerlands)	Angela Mudge	Andy Spenceley
Committee	David Scott (Ochil)	Ronnie Gallagher	Martin Hulme
	Ronnie Gallagher (Carnethy)	Andy Spenceley	Tony Stapley
	Angela Mudge (Carnethy)	Bruce Smith	Brian Brennan
	Chris Upson (Westerlands)	Andy Spenceley	Cameron Scott

The meeting endorsed the co-option to the committee of the following: Co-opted members for endorsement at AGM:

Tony Stapley (Portobello)	(Membership)
Andy Spenceley (Carnethy)	(Statistician)
Bruce Smith (Carnethy)	(Championships)
Cameron Scott (Carnethy)	(Web Support)

8. Motions

There were no motions raised.

9. Any Other Business

Safety Rules and the Outcome from the Brian Belfield Inquest:

Keith Burns gave an account of the tragedy at the 2012 Buttermere Sailbeck race that claimed the life of Brian Belfield, and the subsequent inquest at which SHR were invited to provide input (Ronnie Gallagher, Andy Spenceley, Peter Baxter, Keith Burns) and which Keith attended.

The outcome of the inquest was a finding of no serious negligence on behalf of the organiser with a narrative verdict with a list of 7 recommendations to which the FRA and UKA have to respond by mid-December.

Peter Baxter who was also involved with helping with the SHR report to the Coroner submitted a personal observation of the proceedings which was read out at the meeting.

A lively debate ensued on the implications to SHR and best course of action we should take.

- SHR will take its time to review our own safety rules
- There will be a sub-committee to see how best to update the rules and guidance.
- Concern was raised that future rules should not be too prescriptive.
- The emphasis should always remain with the runners to ensure they take responsibility for their own actions and their acknowledgment that hill running is a potentially dangerous sport.
- Race Organisers should not be made to feel scared to put on a race for risk of prosecution

Website

Cameron Scott outlined the current problems with the website, which whilst currently stable is subject to very slow response times whilst uploading data such as results.

The chair expressed the committee's appreciation of the work Cameron has done in keeping the website up and running.

It was agreed that in the longer term we should look to improve the website offering to make it more manageable, in the shorter term efforts should be made to ensure a backup is kept of the contents, response times investigated and more help provided for Cameron.

AGM Time

It was pointed out that the AGM attendance does not reflect our younger membership. The committee will consider the possibility of changing the time of the AGM to one more likely to attract more members.

Appendix A
Convenor's Report 2013

This has been my first year as Convenor so firstly I would like to thank all the committee for their assistance in the past year. I would particularly like to thank Dave for his assistance in giving me the benefit of his own experience in the role. Particular thanks must also go to Bruce whose 3 year stint as Secretary has now come to an end, Ken who has decided to stand down from the post of Newsletter Editor and Cameron who will not be continuing in the role of webmaster. Fortunately Bruce is planning to remain as a committee member and will be available to pass on his experience to Neil Gilmore of Carnethy who I am pleased to say has agreed to take up the post of Secretary.

A number of issues were raised at AOB at last year's AGM so I will give some feedback on these.

- The SHR Championship had an additional category for the over 70's this year. Congratulations have to go to Keith Burns who managed four straight wins in the category, Charlie Love finished as runner up.
- The issue of un-entered runners in races was highlighted as an issue that could result in serious issues around miscounting. Whilst we accepted that we cannot stop someone running alongside a race we agreed to advertise the dangers and confusion that this practice could cause. An additional comment at the Safety section was included in the current year's calendar. Fortunately there has been no need to consider banning individual miscreants from SHR insured races, which was detailed as a possible sanction if the practice were to continue.
- An additional comment was included in the Race Organiser's Pack with a recommendation that RO's allow slower runners to officially start longer races' earlier. It is at the discretion of Race Organisers if they wish to do this, to alleviate the disappointment of timing out of competitors, but this does not seem to have been an issue this year.
- As was requested the 2012 Journal detailed the first 10 in all the categories.

It is pleasing to report that the number of runners completing the three championships was up this year. The Senior Championship had 99 completers (2012; 74), the Long Classics 44 (2012; 30) and the Bog and Burn 57 (2012; 34). Whilst not an SHR event the committee welcomed the concept of the new downhill series. Thanks are due to Andy for doing the stats for the championship and to Chris for co-ordinating the Long Classics and Bog and Burn. Trophies in all categories for the Championship and Long Classics will be presented at the annual "do" on 30th November. Angela has sourced a new trophy for the Ladies Championship which will be awarded annually.

Counting races for the Long Classics was reduced to 4 from 5 as a result of the cancellation of Glen Rosa and the Glenshee 9. The cancellation of these races was primarily due to changes in the way that the new Police Scotland body's insurance policy was handled. Hopefully a new policy co-ordinated by the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland (MRCoS) will allow MR teams to once again provide cover at hill and mountain events, including races.

For future year's championship the topic of limited entry races has been discussed. It was agreed that for races with limited entries that Race Organisers be asked if they will consider setting aside a waiting list, with admin help available from SHR if that is required.

Appendix B

Secretary's Report 2013

As this is my 3rd and final year as secretary it is pleasing to see SHR continue to be at the forefront of running in the Scottish Hills. Our championships continue to provide runners with a tough competition (and even tougher weather conditions) throughout the country and our membership seem to be content with the way SHR is being run (which makes the secretarial duties much easier).

The current popularity with hill running can be mixed blessing, especially for the run4it SHR championships. There were concerns that the popularity of Carnethy and the relatively low entry limit for Goatfell would lead to some contenders missing out the chance to complete the championships, but discussions between SHR and the Carnethy organisers ensured that the usual suspects got to start the season early with some points in the bag (or at least a tick towards a mug in some our cases). For Goatfell special thanks must go to Angela Mudge, who managed the reserves list so efficiently that, again, those who wanted to were able to take part.

Race organisers will use pre-entry systems for many reasons to aid race-management and debate continues about when the optimum time is to open these entries. Runners should consider carefully whether they are going to be able to take part in a popular race. Entering on spec, 6 months in advance just 'to get an entry' should only be done if you are sure you are going to take part, otherwise you risk excluding other runners who just didn't happen to be at their PC at the right time.

OK, enough of the lecturing, well come to think of it whilst I'm on my high horse, a wee word about safety kit. Runners should ALWAYS take a set of waterproofs, map and compass to races – it's not hard, most you have them, so just keep the bumbag in your car or pack it with you shoes and shorts. Race organisers are still getting runners turning up for races inadequately prepared for conditions, besides, just because it doesn't say you have to carry kit, you can still take it anyway – no one will penalise you.

Talking of members, our numbers this year continue to grow with 531 paid up members (as opposed to 502 last year) – the split between male and female is 78% to 22%, which is pretty much where it's been since 2010. Thanks to Tony, who can't make it tonight, for the figures and for keeping the memberships database up to date. A pretty thankless but necessary task for us.

Sadly we lost one of our most active, vociferous and loyal members when John Blair-Fish collapsed whilst out cycling. His presence will be missed, not least at this meeting.

Back to the championships again and this year most of the competitions went down to the last race. Overall victories for Finlay Wild, who also secured a 4th straight Ben Nevis win and astonishingly ran the Cuillin ridge in under 3 hours, and Angela Mudge, who also found time to raid the European race scene as well as co-ordinate Goatfell entries. Thanks as usual to Andy Spenceley for his consummate co-ordination of the championship scoring and reportage, I'm sure you'll have seen his report on the website with details of all the category winners – if not seek it out.

Talking of website, Gordon has touched on this as well, but we really would appreciate the input of any of our members who work (or have worked) in web-design to help us keep our website and social media up to date (you do know 'scottishhillrunners are on Twitter don't you?)

Back to championships here's a brief overview of the races for 2014. A long lie-in next year and the first race is at Scolty, a wee short starter, followed up not long after with the Medium at Dollar which also doubles as the Scottish counter in the British champs. The first Long of the season is the Glenshee9, followed later in August by the Lomonds of Fife (and THAT descent). The season concludes with the tried and trusted 2 Breweries and a newbie the Tarmachan hill race.

I'd like to end by thanking the membership for trusting me to look after the secretary's post for the past few years and wish Harry all the best for his tour of duty.

Appendix C

SHR Treasurer's Report 2013, Brian Brennan

You should have sight of the signed-off Financial Statement for 2012, and an unaudited summary of the accounts to the end of October 2013.

If we look at the Financial Statement for 2012 you will see that we again made a profit of income over expenditure. This year's figure of £401.86 is slightly smaller than that of the previous year. This was due to our Expenditure increasing by just under £670 while our Income rose by just over £500. Primary reasons for the increase in expenditure were the costs of Prizes and Trophies, Newsletter costs, and the subsidy to the SHR Prize giving and social while there were reductions in Journal costs and we did not hold a Navigation course last year so no subsidy was required. Our Income rose due to an increase in the number of subscriptions and the tireless efforts of Tony Stapley, our Membership Secretary, who hunts down people and extracts their subscription. I would like to thank Patricia Smith, who audited our 2012 accounts.

Turning to the summary accounts for the year to the end of October 2013. Our subscription income has held up reasonably well although slightly down at £3407. Expenditure on Prizes and Trophies is down and Newsletter costs have gone as we now send it electronically. Major costs like Insurance and Printing went up considerably though we still think we get a good deal in these areas. We held a Navigation Course this year which went very well and only required a subsidy of £68. These accounts do not show the costs of either the expenditure or the income associated with the SHR Social and Prize Giving, with the exception of a £100 deposit, due to it not taking place until the end of this month in Grandtully, Pembrokeshire just off the A9. This is likely to require a small subsidy.

We are likely to finish the year with Expenditure and Income roughly in balance. We have no wish to continue Making a 'profit' from members and we believe that we have too big a cash balance. Our aim is to reduce it to a figure around the value of one year of SHR expenditure, approximately £5,000, by using the extra funds to subsidise additional Navigation and First Aid courses and we are also aware that funds will have to spent on maintaining/improving/remodeling our website.

The accounts are fundamentally healthy and we intend to maintain the subscription fee at the level of £8. At some point we may well have to increase it but that should only happen when either our normal expenditure/income account starts to run a deficit, or when we have concrete plans to spend the additional funds raised for the benefit of you, our members.

I will do my best to answer any questions you may have on either the summary accounts to date or the 2012 Financial Statement.

[Extract of Audited 2012 accounts follow]