

# Minutes Of Annual General Meeting of Scottish Hill Runners

Symington Village Hall, Symington

Saturday 8 November 2014

Members Present :

Andy Spenceley, Hilary Spenceley, Manny Gorman, Jonathan Whitehead, David Fulton, Hugh McPherson, Richard Gatehouse, Dan Gay, Alasdair Anthony, Ronnie Gallagher, Angela Mudge, Keith Burns, Tony Stapely, David Scott, Bruce Smith, Brian Brennan, Gordon Pryde & Neil Gilmore

## **1. Welcome and Apologies for absence**

Gordon Pryde welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke briefly about the work done by the SHR Safety sub-committee in the last year. He introduced Keith Burns as chairman of the sub-committee to speak.

Keith spoke about why the SHR took a different approach to the FRA, the process for agreement on the rules and guidelines and finished by asking for feedback on the rules.

Manny Gorman stated that as a race organiser, he was relieved to see the new rules and guidelines as there was clearly a common-sense approach taken.

Dan Gay stated that the wording of the guidelines was helpful for race organisers.

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Upson, Martin Hulme, Les Turnbull, Graham Arthur, Malcolm Patterson and David Duncan

## **2. Adoption Of Minutes of 2013 AGM**

The minutes were accepted as published. Proposer : David Scott; Seconder : Keith Burns

## **3. Convenor's Report**

Gordon Pryde presented his report (see Appendix 1)

#### **4. Secretary's Report**

Neil Gilmore 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 2013 were adopted as published. Proposer: Ronnie Gallagher; Seconder: Keith Burns.

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

#### **6. Subscriptions for 2015**

The meeting endorsed the committee's proposal that the subscription for 2015 remain unchanged at £8 (£2 junior / student, £4 additional members sharing the same address as a full member).

Keith Burns asked if income was healthy enough to do this. Brian replied that the aim was to keep a year's worth of money in the bank. As the SHR currently has more than this, the feeling was that there was no requirement to raise any more money at this time.

#### **7. Election of Officers and Committee**

The Committee proposed that everyone stayed in their current role. Bruce Smith and Cameron Scott are both standing down from the committee and Graham Arthur is being co-opted onto the committee as web-master.

Gordon Pryde	Convener
Neil Gilmore	Secretary
Brian Brennan	Treasurer
David Scott	Committee Member
Ronnie Gallagher	Committee Member
Angela Mudge	Committee Member
Chris Upson	Committee Member

### **Co-Opted Positions**

Tony Stapeley	(Membership)
Andy Spenceley	(Statistician)
Graham Arthur	(Web Support)

The Meeting endorsed these positions.

### **8. Motions**

There were no motions raised.

### **9. Any Other Business**

Request to change the way the SHR Championship works with age categories – Manny Gorman.

Manny outlined his view that there can be injustices when someone misses out on a age category prize because someone from the older category above gets it, as well as getting a prize in their own category. Manny proposes revised categories –

Open (all ages, as it is at the moment)

Senior – Up to age 40

V40 – Only 40s

V50 – Only 50s

V60 – Only 60s

V70 – Only 70s and 80s

Points of view were taken from several people at the meeting and it was agreed that the committee would discuss the proposal at the next Committee Meeting and make a decision on how the 2015 Championship would be run.

Low Numbers at the “SHR Do” and AGM – Keith Burns

Keith noted that numbers were dropping for both these events and that a way to counter this might be to have a race, the AGM and a ceilidh all at the one location (e.g. Glenmore Lodge).

Points of view were taken and it was agreed that the committee would discuss the proposal at the next Committee Meeting and make a decision.

## Appendix 1

### Convenor's Report 2014 – Gordon Pryde

This is my second year in the role of Convenor of the SHR and I thank all the Committee for their support and work over the past year. For the following year most of the committee are intending to continue in their current posts. The one position where there will be a change is the position of webmaster. Cameron Scott is due many thanks for updating and coping with the problems associated with the website over his period in the position.

At the AGM last year there was a lively debate on what was the best course of action for the SHR to take following the Coroners Inquiry into the tragic events at the Buttermere Sailbeck race in 2012. The meeting agreed to the creation of a sub-committee whose remit was to take its time and produce a revised set of rules that should not be considered too prescriptive and would stress that the emphasis should always lie with individual runners to take responsibility for their own actions.

All seven members of the sub-committee input much considerable time and effort into producing these revised Safety Guidelines and Generic Safety Rules. These are now available on the SHR website. This year's Two Breweries was the first SHR insured race which adopted these for their event. The revised Safety Guidelines stress the philosophy of hill running being that for senior competitors it is the individual runner who is primarily responsible for their own safety whilst competing. It is expected that all competitors will adhere to the rules, not only is non-compliance with the rules cheating it is also vital to maintain credibility with our insurers.

I thank all members of the sub-committee but special thanks must go to Keith Burns who acted as convenor for the group. During the course of the process there seemed to be innumerable drafts which Keith co-ordinated excellently.

The other issue that was raised at the AGM was the subject of the website. Considerable problems were being encountered with the operation of the website which involved considerable input from Cameron in dealing with and rectifying these problems. As has been said Cameron is no longer continuing in his role as webmaster but fortunately Graham Arthur, the organiser of the Jura Fell Race has agreed to take over the role of webmaster. It is being proposed at the AGM today that he be co-opted onto the committee to take over this position. This committee are aware that improvements are needed and Graham will co-ordinate this task.

The SHR Championship, had a total of 86 runners who completed the series and are entitled to a highly sought after Championship mug. Jasmin Paris won the Senior Women Championship with maximum points and completed in every race. The Senior Men's championship went down to the last race and was won for the second time by Al Anthony. I personally must apologise to Deeside (the Ladies team winners) and James Waldie (Under 23 winner) for not announcing them as the winners in their respective categories at the SHR Prizegiving. Deeside and James were tied on points in their respective categories but won their categories on the basis of head to head results. Another apology is also due for not correctly announcing the third place in the senior's men championship

Both Al and Jasmin achieved the impressive feat of not only winning the Championship but also were winners in the Long Classics Series. In the Long Classics two Lochaber runners, Jon Gay and Diane Baum completed in all 10 races. Thanks are due to Andy for continuing to update the stats for the championship and to Chris for co-ordinating the Long Classics and Bog and Burn.

Many have benefitted over the years from the navigation courses that the SHR provide. Thanks again must go to Steve Fallon for running and to Dave who assisted at another very successful navigation course in the spring. It will again be the intention to run further courses in the spring of next year. Mention was made last year of running an Outdoor First Aid course this year. Whilst no First Aid course was organised it is the intention that such a course will be run next year. If you are interested in attending any of these courses keep an eye on the website for the announcement of details.

It was decided to discontinue the issuing of the Newsletter this year. The feeling of the committee was that there was little demand or need to continue the publication of a regular newsletter. It will still be the intention to produce an Annual Journal so any articles should be forwarded to Ronnie, who will edit the publication of a journal.

The SHR finances continue to be in good shape. The audited annual statements are available for your approval today. The draft statement circulated for 2014 to date show that our reserves are considerably greater than the normal expenditure that is likely to be incurred in one year, which is the minimum that the committee consider it is appropriate to hold. The intention will be to again support development and social activities in 2015. If any member has any suggestion on what else we could spend money on for the benefit of the membership we would be happy to consider it.

The SHR prizegiving and "do" was this year held in the McLaren Hall in Killin, following the last championship race at Meall nan Tarmachan. Both the catering and ceilidh band were excellent but the numbers attending wasn't as large as it has been in previous years. Perhaps there is a need to reconsider the timing and format of this event. The committee would welcome feedback on how a greater involvement from the membership could be attained.

I finish by again reiterating my thanks to all the Committee for their help over the past year.

## Appendix 2

### Secretary's Report 2014 – Neil Gilmore

This is my first year as SHR secretary and I thought that for my report, I would compile it from the experiences I have had as secretary over the last 12 months.

Last year, at the Nebit Downfall race, Bruce Smith approached me to ask whether I would be keen to take over his role as secretary on the SHR committee.

"Don't worry" he said "You don't have to do very much".

I think that was Bruce's ploy to make the role sound attractive, but I'm glad Bruce asked me and glad too that I was confirmed as secretary at last year's AGM.

As Gordon has already described, as well as confirming the new committee, last year's AGM saw the discussion of safety issues and the formation of a sub-committee to review and re-write the SHR Safety Rules and Guidelines.

Safety in the hills has been a big issue throughout the country as a result of the Sailbeck enquiry. I received regular correspondence from the FRA secretary keen to know quickly what the SHR approach and response would be. However, I think the unhurried and measured approach that the sub-committee took was correct and they have delivered a very good and sensible set of safety rules and guidelines.

I think this is a quality piece of work and sets the right tone for our sport – with personal responsibility paramount within a workable framework for the race organisers.

Also during the year I was exposed to the quarterly SHR committee meetings. Three of these took place at the Four Marys pub in Linlithgow and one was a phone conference from our respective homes.

I remember being quite intrigued as to what shape and form these meetings would take and they proved to be a very interesting experience.

Formal agendas were followed but often there were a number of tangents leading off the discussions. It all proved to be very informative and lively.

There is a huge amount of hill running experience within the committee and sometimes it was difficult to remember to take minutes when entertaining anecdotes and stories were recounted.

Trying to take minutes while at the same time consuming a pub supper proved pretty difficult. Especially as there were often separate conversations taking place at opposite ends of the table.

The business of the committee meetings has rightly centred largely on the safety issues over the course of the year, but also our normal business of championship races, the long classics, the Bog & Burn races, finances, use of development funds, mountain rescue cover and the annual SHR "Do" have all been discussed and directed from the committee meetings.

Over the course of the year, I have taken over the admin around the SHR email address accounts and responded to any queries and issues that have arisen from that.

Allied to that, Dave Scott gave me some help with the intricacies of the SHR website and I've recently taken over posting up news stories and race results as they come in.

It's clear that the website in its current form isn't ideal but it does serve an important purpose in that it gives the basic information people are looking for – race details, results and things of interest to the Scottish hill running community. I will try and keep this as up to date as possible.

It's worth reminding members that if there are any news stories, race reports or anything else that they want to share with the SHR members then they should contact

me and get them posted onto the website. I've been trying to check the email addresses daily as I appreciate it's important that news stories, race notifications etc. get posted online as soon as possible.

Out with the responsibilities of the secretary's role I have been trying to get to as many of the excellent races that are on the SHR calendar as possible and enjoying the highs and lows of racing in the Scottish hills.

Most importantly from this first year as secretary, I have enjoyed the role very much. It's proved to be a little bit different to what I expected this time last year.

The existing committee members have been very welcoming and have made it very easy for the "new boy" to settle in so I would like to thank them all very much for doing this.

## Appendix 3

### Treasurer's Report 2014 – Brian Brennan

You should have sight of the signed-off Financial Statement for 2013, and an unaudited summary of the accounts to the end of October 2014.

If we look at the Financial Statement for 2013 you will see that we again made a profit of income over expenditure. This year's figure of £178.47 is smaller than that of the previous year. This was due to our Expenditure staying more or less unchanged while our Income went down by just over £250 due to a reduction in paying members despite the tireless efforts of Tony Stapley, our Membership Secretary, who hunts down people and extracts their subscription. Although overall expenditure was very similar there were big reductions in the Newsletter costs, and the subsidy to the SHR Prize giving and social. Printing costs for the Calendar and the Journal were up by over 10%. We held a Navigation course last year and this was subsidized by £68. I would like to thank Patricia Smith, who audited our 2013 accounts.

Turning to the summary accounts for the year to the end of October 2013. Our subscription income has increased by several hundred pounds but our advertising income has dropped by £130. Expenditure on Prizes and Trophies has increased considerably due to the loss of our previous sponsorship deal and our contribution of £150 towards British Athletics Fell Championship vets medals. Major costs like Insurance and Printing went up slightly though we still think we get a good deal in these areas. We held a Navigation Course this year which went very well and it only required a subsidy of just under £90. Unlike last year, due to timing of the event, these interim accounts show the costs of most of the expenditure and the income associated with the SHR Social and Prize Giving. This is usually subsidized but with the low turnout this year the subsidy will be bigger than 'normal' at over £500.

With a couple of bills still expected we are likely to finish the year with Expenditure exceeding Income by roughly £300 or so. We believe that we have too big a cash balance and our aim is to reduce it to a figure around the value of one year of SHR expenditure. Following an ongoing review of our website, funds may well have to be spent on maintaining/improving/remodeling it.

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 would only happen if our normal expenditure/income account continued to run a deficit, or if we developed concrete plans to spend the additional funds raised for the benefit of the membership.

I will do my best to answer any questions you may have on either the summary accounts to date or the 2013 Financial Statement.