

Minutes Of Annual General Meeting of Scottish Hill Runners

Symington Village Hall, Symington

Saturday 12 November 2016

Agenda :

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Adoption of Minutes of 2015 AGM
3. Convenor's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report, Adoption of accounts and appointment of auditor.
6. Subscriptions for 2017
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Motions
9. Any Other Business

Members Present :

Andy Spenceley, Hilary Spenceley, David Duncan, Hugh McPherson, Richard Gatehouse, Les Turnbull, Hilary Ritchie, Roderick Pugh, Keith Burns, David Oliver, Jane Oliver, Ronnie Gallagher, Ian Hawkins, David Scott, Gordon Pryde & Neil Gilmore

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Upson, Tony Stapley and Anglela Mudge.

2. Adoption Of Minutes of 2015 AGM

Gordon Pryde asked the meeting to consider whether the minutes as circulated, accurately reflected what was agreed last year. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

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

Ian Hawkins presented his report (see Appendix 3)

The accounts for 2015 were adopted as published and the meeting approved the audited accounts.

6. Subscriptions for 2016

The meeting endorsed the committee's proposal that the subscription for 2017 remain unchanged at £8 (£2 junior / student, £4 additional members sharing the same address as a full member).

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Gordon Pryde and Neil Gilmore are standing down as Convenor and Secretary and replacements have been found in Roderick Pugh and Hilary Ritchie respectively.

Tony Stapley is standing down as Membership Secretary but will stay on for a short period of time to help the proposed new Membership Secretary, Gordon Pryde, get acquainted with the job

It is proposed that a new co-opted position with responsibilities for web site updates, race results and the SHR calendar be created and that Neil Gilmore fill this role.

There committee would therefore comprise of.

Roderick Pugh	Convener
Hilary Ritchie	Secretary
Ian Hawkins	Treasurer

David Scott	Committee Member
Ronnie Gallagher	Committee Member
Angela Mudge	Committee Member
Chris Upton	Committee Member

Co-Opted Positions

Gordon Pryde	(Membership)
Andy Spenceley	(Statistician)
Graham Arthur	(Web Support)
Neil Gilmore	(Race Results, Website & Calendar)

The Meeting endorsed all these positions.

8. Motions

There were no motions raised.

9. Any Other Business

- Continuation of the SHR Journal – Ronnie Gallagher – *There was discussion around the continuation of the SHR Journal, its cost to the SHR and the problems with obtaining articles. The meeting agreed that the Journal should carry on in its current format but that the committee would discuss how to get sufficient articles for publication at the next committee meeting.*
- Number of SHR Championship Races – Pauline McAdam – *Pauline emailed the committee to propose that the number of SHR Championship races be increased with at least one more race in the short or medium category. There was discussion on the merits and downsides of the current championship set-up. Whilst it was considered that there was merit to the proposal, the general agreement favoured retention of the current system. The meeting agreed that the committee would discuss the issue further at the next committee meeting.*
- Race Entry on the day – Owen Bass – *Owen emailed Gordon Pryde to ask if more consideration could be given to races offering entry on the day and at the same price as pre-entries. The meeting agreed that this was a*

decision for the individual race organisers but that the committee would discuss the issue at the next committee meeting.

- Attendance at AGM – Hilary Spenceley – *Hilary commented on the lack of numbers attending the SHR AGM and there was discussion on what could be done to encourage more members to attend. It was agreed that the committee would discuss the issue at the next committee meeting.*
- Number of SHR Insured Races – Keith Burns – *Keith enquired about the number of races that used SHR insurance in 2016. Ronnie Gallagher estimated this to be about 60 races.*

Appendix 1

Convenor's Report 2016

This is my fourth and final year in the role of Convenor of SHR. I wish to record my thanks to not only the members who have served on the committee over the past year but also those who have served throughout this four year period. Particular thanks have to go this year to Neil (Harry) Gilmore who is coming to the end of his three year stint as Secretary. The work that Harry has put in over this period in his role and by regularly updating the website with News and Results has been invaluable, whilst Harry will be stepping down from the role of Secretary he has agreed to remain as a member of the committee. Thanks also have to be given to Tony Stapley who has served as the Membership Secretary for a considerable period and who has decided to now step back from the role. Anyone who has re-joined the SHR at Carnethy may recall having their subs deposited in Tony's old sock.

At the AGM last year a point was raised suggesting that it would be appropriate to seek feedback from Race Organisers on the SHR Safety Rules Guidelines. These Rules and Guidelines have now been in operation for around 2 years. A news item had been placed on the website asking for comment but I would suggest that this is an ongoing process. If anyone feels that they have a comment to make please send this to the committee who will give it their consideration. As a result of comments already received I confirm it is still the intention to purchase a timer device which will be available for use by Race Organisers.

This year the committee decided to repeat the successful format from last year of having a function following the Dumyat Dash. At this event this year we again had an excellent lunch and the prize giving for both the Championship and the Long Classics. Following the lunch we had a very inspiring talk from Jasmin Paris on her exploits this year in finishing the 3 big rounds of the Bob Graham, the Ramsay Round and the Paddy Buckley. This year Jasmin broke both the ladies records for the Bob Graham and the Paddy Buckley and also managed to set the overall record for the Charlie Ramsay, a really amazing feat! I am sure Jasmin's tips on how to approach an attempt will be of great help to anyone who is contemplating an attempt on any of these rounds. Special thanks have to go to Jasmin for agreeing to give us this inspirational talk and to Dave and Angela for organising another successful event.

The SHR Championship, had a total of 75 runners who completed the series and are entitled to a highly sought after Championship mug. This is a little bit down on the completers from the past couple of years. Both Senior Championships had first time winners this year with Stephanie Provan (Deeside) winning the Ladies and Joe Symonds (Shettleston) winning the Men's event. Both Stewart Whitlie (Over 50s) and Ewan Paterson (Over 60s) won their respective age categories for the fifth year in a row. In the Ladies as well as winning the Over 50s Veronique Oldham won the Over 40s for a 6th time. Jocelyn Scott (Fife) emulated her husband's achievement by winning the Ladies over 60s Championship, Tom had been a winner of the men's event back in 2010. In the team events Shettleston managed to stop the run of wins that Carnethy had been on, Shettleston also managed to win the men's over 40 championship which is the first time in its history that Carnethy have not featured as winners. In the Ladies team events the winners of the Senior Championship was Deeside and Fife retained the Over 40s title. In the Fife team, our new Secretary (Hilary Ritchie) now has an "unbroken" line of 10 mugs

for completing the consecutive championships. Whilst nobody completed sufficient races in the Junior Female event it is always good to see promising juniors making progress and I am sure that it will not be long before Hamish Battle (Aberdeen Metro) the winner of the Junior Male Championship is pushing the top seniors. Thanks again are due to Andy for continuing to update the stats for the championship.

The Long Classics had this year a new winner in the Ladies event with Jill Stephen of HBT and Al Anthony of Ochil's won the men's for the fourth time. Jill also won the Bog and Burn where Joe Symonds also completed a double by winning this alongside the SHR Championship.

A navigation course was again provided for any member who wishes to improve their skills that are necessary for sound hill craft. Thanks again must go to Steve Fallon for running and to Dave Scott who assisted at another very successful navigation course in the spring. I am sure that the Committee will continue to give consideration to putting on similar events in future years'.

Membership numbers and finances continue to be in good shape. Members continue to exceed 500 in number and the audited annual statements are available for your approval and comment today. Whilst the Accounts may show a deficit we have sufficient reserves and see no need to increase the membership subs this year.

One very piece of very sad news was the tragic early death of Martin Hulme. Martin was certainly one of the nicest persons I ever met and incredibly passionate about his passion for both hill running and mountaineering. Martin was 3 times second in our Over 50s championship and once third. In 2010 he was 2nd in the Over 60s championship and was the winner in 2011. He also regularly climbed abroad and I can recall his enthusiasm when he told me about his ascent of the Matterhorn. Martin also served on the committee of the SHR and was for a number of years the Treasurer. Martin died following a run on Cruach Ardrain and our thoughts are with Martin's family at this difficult time.

I thank again all members of the Committee who have given much effort during my tenure as Convenor during the past four years. It is great that Hilary Ritchie has agreed to take over the position of Secretary and Roderick Pugh has also agreed to fill the position of Convenor. In their positions, along with the rest of the committee the SHR will continue providing a great resource for hill runners in Scotland.

Appendix 2

Secretary's Report 2016 – Neil Gilmore

This is my third year as SHR secretary and consequently the third AGM I have attended in this role.

It's also my last as secretary as Hilary Ritchie has agreed to take over the duties for the next three years.

I think it is important that the committee roles, especially those of Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer are rotated. There is a wealth of hill running and life experience amongst those who compete in the Scottish Hill races and I feel it is good to allow new members onto the committee. They can provide fresh views and ideas and so help Scottish Hill running evolve.

With Roddy Pugh taking over from Gordon as convenor and Hilary taking over the secretary role, I know that SHR will be in safe hands. These are two well-kent faces on the Scottish Hill running scene and I wish them all the best for the next few years.

With my time coming to a close as secretary, I've been looking back at the last three years and what I have been involved with.

I confess that my first year was very much a learning experience. A lot of the year was taken up with the SHR sub-committee forming up new safety rules and guidelines. The team involved with this did an excellent job and with the rules now having been in place for a couple of years I think they are well respected and adhered to throughout the country.

Taking on the job of getting the website up to date with regular news items and prompt posting of race results was a little daunting at first but with a decent process installed I think I have managed to achieve this and have heard favourable remarks about the quality of information delivered via the website.

I would like to thank Graham Arthur for all his help in connection with the "nuts and bolts" side of the website. Graham joined the committee a year or so ago with the remit to be "web-master". He has moved the SHR site onto a new server and we've noticed how much more reliable this now is. I'm not aware of any breakdowns in the site in the last year whereas there were significant problems before that. That's been a real benefit to the SHR.

And getting the SHR facebook page more up to date with regular postings was another aim over the last year and a half. Now we are regularly getting between 4000 and 5000 views of most news items so it is good to know that SHR issues are getting good exposure.

Away from my own sphere of work there has been some excellent work by the committee on other aspects.

The SHR Championship, Long Classics and Bog and Burn competitions all take up administrative time and I thank all those involved in the committee for the time they put in on this, especially Chris Upson and Andy Spenceley.

Ronnie keeps a close eye on all the SHR insurance aspects and this is a hugely important part of the SHR role. It allows our RO's to organise inexpensive quality races.

And finally, I would like to thank Dave Scott and Angela Mudge for all their work on the annual SHR "Do". In the last two years it has been moved to holding it after Dumyat Dash along with the SHR prize-giving and I think this has really paid off.

All comments on it that I have heard have been very favourable and the choices of guest speakers at these Do's has been inspired. Olly Stephenson last year and Jasmin Paris just a couple of weeks ago gave great accounts of their particular adventures. Fascinating talks from them both and the perfect stimulus for us all to get out and about, particularly in the hills, even more.

Although I will no longer be SHR secretary I would like to carry on working with the SHR. The committee have agreed that a co-opted position on the committee should be assigned for someone to take care of the race results, news items and SHR calendar and I have agreed to take on this role.

I know from my experience over the last three years doing this that it is very time consuming, but I'm happy to do it for a while yet.

So, in summary, the last three years have been very rewarding. My thanks to all the committee who have helped me perform my role. They all made me very welcome when I joined and I hope that we can welcome Roddy and Hilary just the same.

In particular, I would like to thank Gordon Pryde for his four years as convenor and Tony Stapley for all his many years on the committee and in particular for all the work he has done as membership secretary. Tony isn't leaving immediately as he's going to help Gordon get to grips with the membership work and gradually let go the reins. So hopefully we'll see his red sock cash flow system still in operation at the membership table at the Carnethy 5 next year.

I am pleased to stay on the committee and thank everyone on it for allowing me to do so and take care of the website, calendar etc.

And I'm delighted that Gordon will be staying on too to deal with all the membership issues.

Appendix 3

Treasurer's Report 2016 – Ian Hawkins

SCOTTISH HILL RUNNERS AGM TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2016

This is my first AGM as Treasurer and I have decided to alter the style of report from that of my predecessor(s). In the past the Treasurer has commented on the audited accounts for the previous year plus the unaudited income and expenditure for the 10 month period up to the date of the AGM. I will, of course, discuss the main points from the 2015 audited accounts. However, instead of looking at year to date numbers for 2016 I have, instead, prepared a forecast outturn for 2016 and will discuss those numbers instead. In this regard, attached to this report are both the 2015 audited accounts and a forecast for the full year to December 2016.

2015

In the final analysis, the audited accounts show a deficit of £971 versus a 2014 surplus of £739. A swing of this magnitude would normally give cause for concern. However, as my predecessor, Brian Brennan, reported at last year's AGM, the timing of several items of expenditure had a significant influence on the result for the year.

These items included hall rental costs of £142 for the 2014 prize giving "do" held at Killin which were not billed to us until 2015 and have, therefore, inflated the 2015 deficit for that event. Stripping that item out of the 2015 figures and the subsidy for the SHR prize giving falls to a more "normal" £470.

Of a more sizeable nature was the £600 or so timing differences for the navigation course. This mis-match of income and expenditure between 2014 and 2015 forces us to show a deficit of £584 against the 2015 Nav course. In reality the deficit was far lower.

In addition to the above mentioned items, there was also a one off expense of £342 relating to window stickers which is shown as a separate item within Other costs.

The cumulative effect of the above mentioned items is in the order of £1,084 and clearly this has had a significant bearing on the reported deficit of £971 and the year on year comparisons.

The outturn at December 2015, in terms of the funding position, was extremely healthy. The SHR's bank account balance at that date was in credit to the tune of £7,718.

Before closing off on my comments for 2015, it would be wrong of me not to thank David Hirst who stepped in during the year to undertake the audit. I am pleased to say that David has kindly offered to audit the 2016 accounts and I would be grateful if this could be approved at the AGM.

Also, a special mention is due to Brian Brennan who was tremendously helpful and patient with me during our "handover" period following last year's AGM. Our bankers took several months to reflect me as the new Treasurer and set me up as a signatory to the SHR account. I am thankful to Brian for his assistance during this elongated transfer process.

2016

I have prepared the attached forecast for 2016 using the actual figures for the 9 month period to September and estimates for the last 3 months to December. As with all forecasting the actual

experience will inevitably show some differences. Nevertheless, I believe it more helpful for comparison purposes to compare full year 2016 with 2015.

Looking firstly at Income, and Subscriptions are estimated to be down on last year but only by £70 or so. This would accord with my understanding of membership numbers which show a small fall year on year. We are also off the pace in terms of Donations by circa £300. This is a more material figure and is primarily due to a large donation last year (2015) from Cosmics of £300 which contained some back dating the more normal annual donation from Cosmics being £100.

The SHR prize giving and lunch was only held recently but early estimates are for a deficit of around £425. This would seem to be a worthwhile subsidy for what has become a well liked end of year event.

Taking the Calendar and Journal together and the combined deficit here, estimated at £1067, represents a considerable drain on the SHR's financial resources. For 2016 the advertising income associated with these publications is down by £145 which is a reflection of the difficulty we have found in attracting advertisers in recent years. I know from our discussions that the Committee are fully supportive of the subsidy required here and have no plans to cease either publication. However, in a digital age it may be that we revisit this cost heading in years to come?

The Nav course was attended by 7 participants and with income and spend on this item aligned in 2016 we will report a small deficit of £195.

Prizes and Trophies costs are very similar to last year at just over £1,200. Finally, taking the Website, Office and Other expenditure headings together (excluding the aforementioned window stickers costs) the year on year movements are immaterial,

The overall result for 2016 is forecast as a deficit of £641. This is well down on last year's £971 shortfall but, as discussed above, that figure was heavily influenced by one off and timing differences. In reality, the 2016 outcome represents a worsening position compared to an adjusted 2015 result, mainly due to lower donations and advertising income.

The Committee has been aware for some time of the likelihood of a further deficit in 2016 on top of that encountered in 2015. As you would expect, there is a recognition that deficits cannot continue indefinitely and a determination to ensure that expenditure is carefully monitored and "value for money" obtained. Our feeling is that there is no requirement at this juncture to raise the annual subscription rates and it is, therefore, recommended these remain at the same levels as the current year. In arriving at this decision the Committee is comforted by the considerable sums deposited at the bank which I estimate will be in excess of £7,000 at the end of 2016.

Ian Hawkins
November 2016
