

## SHR AGM Agenda – 01.12.22

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (15.11.21)
3. Convenors report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. 5-year age categories trial
7. Championship age category - What happens if you change age during the series?
8. Scottish Hill Runners website update and JH to advise on how we can present race results
9. Possibility of limiting winners of championship prize categories
10. Re-election of SHR committee
11. A.O.B

Present: Peter Mackie (Chair), James Callender, Andy Spenceley, Angela Mudge, Graham Arthur, Stewart Whitley, Gordon Pryde, Keith Burns, Hugh McPherson, Richard Gatehouse, Andrew Fullwood, Hilary Richie, Kirsty Dickson, Sharon Taylor, Hugh Robertson, Phillip Kammer, Rob Wilson, Liz Killean, James Taylor, Michael Reid, Del Young, John Hamer, Meg Stuart, Richard Bannister, Jill Stephen (secretary).

**1. Apologies:** Harry Gilmore, Roddy Pugh

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** minutes were approved by Stewart and Jill and there were no issues arising from them.

**3. Convenor's report:** Peter Mackie presented his report (Appendix 1).

**4. Secretary's report:** Jill Stephen presented her report (Appendix 2)

**5. Treasurer's report:** Stewart Whitley presented his report (Appendix 3).

**6. 5-year age categories trial:** In response to last year's members vote to trial 5-year age categories at this year's championship, Andy Spenceley updated the meeting on how it had gone. From a statistics point of view, it had not been as difficult as feared to update the results and obtain them from ROs, with 4 out of 6 providing the specific category information needed. The main issue with the trial had been the lack of runners in each category with some only having one runner. Looking to the 2023 season it was agreed by the committee that numbers of runners competing in the championship were too low for these extra categories, and that we wouldn't continue with them at the moment. The committee would revisit in the future if/when numbers increased. In response to this, Phillip Kammer asked us to think about this further on the basis that for many older athletes the principle of a 5-year age category helps to level the field and encourage participation in older age categories. It was agreed that we will discuss this further at our next committee meeting.

**7. Championship age category - What happens if you change age during the series?** Richard Bannister from Deeside was asking this question on behalf of one of the clubs' members. He was seeking clarification on what the SHR rules were on your age during the championship,

particularly if you move up a category mid-championship. Angela and Andy were able to clarify that you were able to move up an age category during the championship however you only count in races in that older age category from your birthday. So, for example if you turn 50 during the course of the year, you would only count in the V50 category in races from your birthday during that year. You would still count as V40 for all races during that year. It was agreed that we should add this information to the championship page so that it is clear for all competitors.

**8. Scottish Hill Runners website update and JH to advise on how we can present race results:**

For Graham Arthur's website update see Appendix 4. John Hamer spoke to the committee about how he had been working to update and improve on Chris Upson's SHRacing website. He has used this technology to produce a results archive on the Two Breweries page. Stewart is to liaise with John about setting up a small working group with himself, Harry and Graham to see if we can utilise this technology to present results on our website. This would potentially allow us to address members queries about the loss SHRacing website.

**9. Possibility of limiting winners of championship prize categories:** Jill asked the meeting if we could consider limiting the number of prizes that someone could win in the championship. Under the current system someone can win multiple age group age group categories. Jill suggested that they could be limited to winning the highest category (with the exception of the open prize, which could be won along with an age group). This system is often used in individual races to spread prizes. Hilary Ritchie was concerned that would result in people losing recognition for achievements across all categories, and there was additional concern it would be too complicated to implement. Angela suggested that maybe the lower numbers of competitors in this year's championship had made multiple category winners more of an issue than normal and this would return to normal in future championships.

**11. Re-election on SHR committee.** Peter asked if everyone at the meeting was happy for the existing committee to continue. There were no objections, and this was approved by Michael Reid and seconded by Richard Bannister.

**11. A.O.B:** Keith Burns asked the committee if they were aware of the use of poles by some runners during the Pentland Skyline and for confirmation on whether it was banned under SHR rules. Jill confirmed that we had added a statement to our safety guidelines that the use of poles was not permitted. As Carnethy do not use our insurance they were not sent these guidelines by SHR. Keith was concerned that they as they promote the race as an SHR race this could end up being an insurance issue. Kirsty Dickson will contact the Carnethy committee to make them aware of this issue.

Hugh McPherson asked if it would be useful to put a call out to members before SHR committee meetings to ask for any agenda items and for minutes to be published afterwards. This was to help keep members involved and informed of SHR business. It was agreed this was a good idea and Jill will use the new SiEntries system to contact members before the next committee meeting.

## **Appendix 1: Convenor report – 2022**

I've sought to capture some of my brief thoughts on 2022 as my second year as SHR convenor passes in the blink of any eye.

I'll endeavour not to cross over on some of the points raised in the chair and treasurers' reports, to save duplication of messaging.

Personally, it's been great to see a return to traditional, unrestricted racing, throughout the 2022 calendar. A chance to chew that fat before, sometimes during, and after races with fellow competitors and the wider hill running family.

98 races went ahead this year with a few more still to run, which I'm sure has been welcomed and is testament to the hard work of RO's up and down the county. Having said that, there has been a notable decline in race entry numbers, the Ben field only drawing 360 and Ben Lomond down to 86. It's difficult to say whether the pandemic, a cost-of-living crisis or both or indeed other factors, have played a part in race participation.

It was great to don my RO's hat again, hosting the Goat Fell race in May for the first time in two years.

There have been some great performances from Scottish athletes and clubs both on the domestic, championship and international stages.

The FRA's in Broughton in October were a particular highlight, Carnethy doing a fantastic job of showcasing how to put on a top-drawer event, in an area less renowned for its big hills, but which certainly packed a mighty punch and drew the hill running community from across the UK to Scotland.

Collectively as a committee, we have endeavoured to ensure that SHR moves with the times, through harmonising the membership process to an online platform and adopting a more streamlined process for the distribution of journals and calendars by direct mail shot, rather than hand delivered or passed between respective car boots. We are also taking account of feedback from members on preservation of and capturing of runners' race data, more of which we will cover during the meeting.

We have sought to address the diversity of the committee, by welcoming new members and volunteers who bring fresh ideas and outlook on what hill runners want and to challenge the status quo.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their continued hard work and efforts keeping SHR functioning and moving forward. A special thanks to Stewart Whitley who has brought a renewed vigour to the Treasury role, following Hugh Macpherson's sterling tenure and departure at the end of 2021.

Moving forward into 2023, as a committee, we will strive to keep evolving and providing a platform that meets our SHR members agenda.

## **Appendix 2: Secretary's report 2022**

It's nice to be able to say that 2022 has been my busiest as SHR Secretary, with most clubs and races back to normal. We've had a full set of SHR championship races, lots of old races return to the calendar, as well as some new ones join, and we've seen many of our athletes compete in international competition. I hope we can build on this next year and see more people competing and running in the hills.

On the more social side, this year saw the return of our annual SHR do. We were a little unlucky that we were unable to secure our first-choice venue at Badaguish and opted for a ceilidh in Edinburgh after the FRA relays. Despite the slightly later notice and last-minute organisation it turned into a fun evening with a good mix of established and new younger members tiring out the ceilidh band. It was great to see everyone having fun after a hard year of racing!

As an organisation, we're still trying to raise our online profile, and are continuing to do this through our Facebook page which is managed by Harry, and our newer Instagram page. Hamish Battle had been managing this for us, but due to an exciting change in careers he has had to step down from this role. We're now pleased to welcome Kirsty Campbell from Deeside Runners, Alice Goodall of Edinburgh Hares and Hounds and Ross Gollan from Shettleston Harriers. Between them they plan to advertise upcoming races, post results and Ross is keen to do some race and runner profiles over winter when racing is quieter. I'm planning. There is a contact email for them all on the SHR contacts page so get in touch with them if you want your race advertised or have some nice hill running photos to share!

I'd like to finish with some thanks you. Firstly, I'd like to thank Hugh McPherson who stood down as treasurer this year. Hugh did a great job for us, and he'll be missed on the committee. We are however lucky enough to welcome Stewart Whitley who has taken over this role and who I'm sure be a great asset to the team. Secondly, I'd also like to thank the committee, it's very much a team effort, and I feel we all work well together.

Jill Stephen  
SHR Secretary

### **Appendix 3: Treasurer's report for AGM on 1st Dec 2022**

I took over as SHR treasurer on 1st Jan 2022. Would firstly like to thank Hugh McPherson who performed the role for previous 3 years. He also did an excellent handover and kept things running for first couple of months in 2022 as it took a while for myself to be set-up with access to online banking with Bank of Scotland.

The SHR accounts run on calendar year basis and summary of 2021 account (up to Nov 21) were shared at 2021 AGM on 15th November 2021. The final accounts for 2021, which are on SHR site, were independently reviewed by Neil Burnett of Carnethy HRC in June this year. So, thanks to Neil for carrying out the review. Also, thanks to David Hirst of Deeside who carried out review of SHR accounts in previous years.

In terms of 2022 accounts, we started year with an opening balance of £7,363.01 and current balance as of 27th November 2022 is £8,268.17. Key areas to highlight are:

#### **Membership income**

We have had £3,453.20 income year to date. Jan-Sept income (£2,735) relates to 2022 subscriptions. Oct & Nov income (£718.20) relates to 2023 subscriptions as renewal for 2023 opened on 1st October 2022. In October, SHR switched to SiEntries for managing subscriptions which offers many benefits (e.g., simplified renewal process, online accounts/MI plus ability to contact membership via email). Cost for using the service is 5% per transaction with a minimum transaction fee of £1.20 (incl VAT). Membership fees will remain as they are for 2023, so slight loss of income due to the SiEntries service charges. However, we feel this is a worthwhile cost due to benefits and we are also hopeful membership numbers will increase due to simplified renewal process.

#### **Donations/Advertising**

Sincere thanks to Cosmics, Carnethy, Deeside and Durisdeer race who very kindly made donations totalling £950 in 2022. We also received £635 income for web & journal advertising so thanks also to Pete Bland, Run & become, Protay, MM Kong, Top Out Brewery & Ascent Fitness for advertising with us.

#### **Insurance**

We switched insurance provider in September 2022. The initial insurance policy fee was £1,232.95 per annum paid in January 2022. However, this policy was cancelled in Sept and we received a rebate of £469.54. The new insurance policy with Royal & Sun Alliance was effective from 19th September and per annum cost is £413.20.

#### **Journal & Calendar costs**

There were costs of £570 for printing 400 copies of fixtures calendar and £595 for printing 400 copies of the journal. Special thanks for John Hepburn who waived his costs for all the formatting work needed to support preparation of these documents. There was a cost of £107.29 to support postage of these in 2022.

#### **SHR Prizes and prize giving**

There were costs of £172.20 for Bog & Burn prizes and £616.94 for SHR championship prizes. Costs for Long Classics series prizes are tbc before end of November and not included in these accounts. Costs for Prizing giving Ceilidh in October were £1,080 with an income of £185 in ticket sales (£5 for non SHR members).

Stewart Whitley

SHR Treasurer

Date of issue : 27th November 2022

## Appendix 4: Website update

Many additions, and substantial programming improvements and database re-design have been implemented in the current SHR website and database over the last few years. It has long been due for a radical upgrade.

The **final** addition just now has been the facility to upload **race reports** and to access these from the Race Results table.

One of the earlier updates was to include race maps and to facilitate uploading them, and then to enlist the assistance of a volunteer to upload, where reasonable, all existing old race maps from the SHRacing website.

Some of the main development areas have been in the Admin side of the website, where you have to log in, and the SHR database, where logging in is much more sensitive. The database is the core of the website, without which it would not function, and one or more other Scottish hill runners have been enlisted as backup for its essential maintenance, and possess the necessary access details for their tasks.

The **database** is a permanent and essential item – websites can come and go – and a radically improved and more functional website will soon be rolled out. The new website will present the following features. There will be a trial version alongside the current website for anyone to comment and provide input/requests.

1. A new **menu system**.
2. New **appearance** on every page, with **colours, graphics** and easier navigation to all parts of the site.
3. **News** section redesigned, searchable by **date**, and hopefully, eventually, searchable by **text**.
4. **Race results** can be **filtered** according to various criteria and can be **ordered** in ascending or descending order by clicking on the top of any column.
5. A **Runners** table will be introduced. This involves a number of issues which are now becoming possible to resolve.
  - a. Runner info from the old **SHRacing** database will be incorporated where it is feasible and practical to do so.
  - b. Runners will be linked to races they have done together with all reasonable statistics.
  - c. Runners, like races and race instances, have to be identifiable by their own unique ID in order for a database to work in a fast and reliable manner. Whereas we nearly all have a unique SIEntries number, that number is private to the individual and SIEntries. Now that SHR are using the SIEntries club membership system, all SHR members will have a unique SHR membership number.
  - d. I propose using this number to ID runners in the database, and for “SHR numbers” to be allocated to any runner – member or not, past or present – who wishes to have one. These will be preserved on the SHR database. Trying to maintain the runner database in the old SHRacing database without an automated system had gone beyond the limits of human time and labour. The new system will just happen automatically so long as a runner provides

their “SHR number” when they enter a race - through SIEntries or any other means – or notify the SHR later on. Much, much easier if it just comes in with the results from the RO.

- e. Runner statistics can be open to discussion. The old “percentage of winner’s time” had a lot of anomalies. I propose a comparative performance system based on variable factors such as race lengths, gender, age category, and so on.
  - f. Runners can be found by a search on their name or their number, as in SHRacing.
  - g. Selecting a runner can bring up all that runner’s races. Further functionality possible, as may be requested.
6. A **Clubs** table will be introduced, and data imported from SHRacing as far as reasonable.
7. There will be an **editor** for any **Admin** easily to update their own area on the website, such as Juniors, Insurance and What We Do.
- a. This editor could also be made available for **ROs** to upload their own race reports for submission.
8. A downloadable **Race Results** template for race organisers to email back their results in a consistent format for adding to the database.

The accuracy of info in Clubs, Runners and Races will depend very much on whatever into the runners, clubs and ROs send in. Once more automated data-entry systems, like those for Maps and Race Reports, have been set up, there will be jobs to delegate to knowledgeable volunteers in the setting up of the **runners** and **clubs** data, as has already successfully been done with the **maps**.

Graham Arthur, 1 December 2022