

STRATHEARN HARRIERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held at Crieff Community Campus
Friday, 22nd February 2013**

MINUTES

Present: George Carson, Phil Tipping, Phil Mestecky, Liz Mestecky, Andy Gallagher, Colin Tipping, Fiona Downie, Gordon Morrison, Richard Prentice, Karen Prentice, Tony Wayte, Nicola Watson, Susan Saunders, Fiona McDonald, Digby Sym, Peter Gaylor, Jeff Sweeney, Sol Sweeney, Edward Elworthy, Fiona Lyle, Kerry Sweeney, Jim Alexander, Allan MacInnes, Wendy Duigan, Gordon Grant, Seonaid Roberts

Apologies: Ali Manners, Will Manners, Beth Fotheringham, Jim McConnell, Elaine Davison, John Davison, Shelagh Wake, Cathy Tilbrook, Doug Flint, Rachel Gallagher, Michael Aldridge, Kirsty McKay, Wendy Taylor, Rhian Evans, Julia Greenlees, Dave Griffiths

1. Welcome and Review of 2012 AGM Minutes

George thanked everyone for their attendance.

George highlighted two matters arising from the 2012 AGM:

- (a) Charitable Status: Treasurer has investigated whether it would be worthwhile for the Club to apply for charitable status. He had discovered that there was also an option to apply as a community sports group without going down the full charitable status route. We could apply for gift aid under both options but there would be a need to have our annual accounts audited which would incur a cost. There were also plenty of funders who were happy to help not for profit organisations. Overall it was considered not worthwhile given that any savings would be small as our subs were only £10 per year and there would be an administrative burden. The saving in 2012 would have been £60 (based on the £3 section of the subs which came to the club) or £220 if relief were available on the full sub.

In response to a question from Nicola it was confirmed that it would not be necessary to have the accounts professionally audited for gift aid purposes. The main obstacle was the administrative burden.

- (b) Club Records/PBs: Club Records for 10km, half and full marathons have now been published on the Club website. The Committee had considered the request for members' PBs to be published on the website but had not found an easy method. It was agreed that as there were other websites with such a facility this idea would not be pursued.

Andy Gallagher proposed acceptance of the 2012 AGM Minutes and this was seconded by Gordon Morrison and AGREED by the Meeting.

2. President's Report

George reported that membership continued to increase. There had been a total of 137 members at the end of 2012 and currently 117 members had renewed their subs. This was split 33 ladies/40 men/44 juniors.

He was able to report on another successful year

George wished members to note that our closed Facebook group is only for SH members and parents of Junior Members. Although members can invite other people to join this is not the spirit of the group and any non-members will be removed.

George also noted that there was a multi-sports Facebook group where Harriers could advertise other activities and we were happy to support members' activities provided these did not conflict with club events.

George concluded by recognising that the Club's success was down to the efforts of many but he wished especially to thank:

Judith Tipping – for her catering support

Lesley Johnstone – for taking on the catering role

Susan Saunders – for taking over the role of organising club kit

He also wished to thank all the many members who had helped out at club races. The Club would not exist without such volunteers. George finished by noting his thanks to the committee members for their hard efforts.

3. Proposed Change to Constitution

George reported that the Club was currently working towards PACES (Perth & Kinross Accredited Clubs Excellence Scheme) accreditation. PACES membership is recognition that the club offers quality sporting opportunities, is well run, efficient and effective, that we take sporting activities seriously and demonstrate good child protection measures. The other benefits of PACES membership are free sports coach workshops, and first aid courses. We have now met most of the requirements including a new disciplinary code which can be found on the club website and the final requirement was a small change to Section 4 - Membership of the Club Constitution.

It was agreed to make a small change to the proposed wording and the amended Section 4 (attached to these minutes) was proposed for adoption by Gordon Morrison, seconded by Nicola Watson and AGREED by the Meeting. The amended Constitution was then signed and dated by George and Seonaid.

4. Treasurer's Report

Phil circulated his report (attached) to the meeting and highlighted the following points:

- The Club was larger in terms and number and level of activity. In 2010 turnover was £7k and at the end of 2012 was £16k.
- Our finances had traditionally been driven primarily by the races we put on. In 2012 there had been 2 significant changes:

- we had lost our sponsorship from The Famous Grouse Experience which had taken a lot of costs out of our 10k race and allowed us to charge very low entry fees; and
- We put on the Strathearn Marathon as a new race in the calendar.
- we had increased the 10k entry fee by £2-3 to cover the shortfall and had ended up with a larger than expected surplus of £1300. We had aimed to breakeven on the marathon in year 1 but ended up with a £1k surplus. The SWCHR always breaks even as all surpluses are given to our Pancreatic Cancer Research Charity.
- In total a surplus of £1100 was achieved for 2012 which resulted in a closing balance for 2012 of £4969 (vs £3837 at the end of the previous year) – a very healthy situation.

Phil did not anticipate any major change to finances in 2013. The ceilidh was expected to close with a £65 loss compared to a £650 loss in 2012 due to the change of venue and the efforts of the ceilidh committee; Crieff 10k expected to bring in a similar level of surplus, no substantial entry fee increase anticipated; marathon surplus might increase slightly – costs should remain the same.

In response to a question from Nicola, Phil advised that the entry for the marathon would be capped at 250. Fiona L asked whether there would be any sponsorship for the marathon? Phil replied that due to the healthy state of our finances no sponsorship was being sought for any aspect of the club at the moment. He confirmed that Run4It had provided vouchers, prizes, race numbers and sweets but they considered they hadn't got a lot out of the race. Fiona L asked whether the Club made a profit on sale of kit? Phil advised that we aimed to cover costs. We charged slightly less than cost for club vests and slightly more for other items but overall did not aim to make a profit. Fiona L noted this would be an opportunity to increase income. Phil considered that with a healthy surplus this was unnecessary. Gordon believed that the single biggest opportunity for income was the marathon where we would breakeven at around 85 entries. Phil confirmed that the financial year end was 31 December in response to a question from Nicola.

Phil reported that membership levels and social activities in 2013 were likely to remain similar to 2012 with the exception of the ceilidh where considerable sums had been saved.

Phil then turned to the Junior Section finances. Last year the section had recorded a £300 loss and the previous year a very small loss. The main cost was coach education. Digby and he were currently attending a Level 2 course. Coaching courses were quite expensive although funding assistance had been provided by PKC and Sport Scotland returned a proportion once the course was completed so a substantial amount of the £300 loss would be returning to the Club – it was really a cash flow issue. There had been some fund-raising over the year but he would like to propose that the Club agree to an 'overdraft' of £500 for the Junior Section without requiring further committee or AGM approval. Any amount beyond that would require the approval of the Committee. Edward proposed that this proposal be approved; this was seconded by Jeff and AGREED by the meeting.

Phil reported that stocks of club vests were currently very low so a re-order was required incurring a cost of around £1.5k. Obviously they would then be sold to the membership but we would be carrying stock over to subsequent years.

Overall Phil considered 2013 should be another financially positive year, provided our expectations for the marathon were fulfilled, with a total surplus of somewhere around £2k and a balance of approximately £7k.

He welcomed suggestions on how to use the surplus e.g. we had considered paying for a professional coach. This was considered a good idea.

George proposed that we provide our Club champions from next year onwards with zoodies with 'Champion' in gold lettering on the back. Previous Club Champions would be encouraged to purchase these zoodies. It was also suggested that we provide replica trophies for the Club Champions and recipients of the President's Trophies. The meeting considered these suggestions; Karen P proposed acceptance; Kerry seconded and the meeting AGREED.

Phil T suggested that we could establish a small fund to help Club members who could not otherwise afford to e.g. enter races, but kit, running shoes. Digby added that the biggest expense was cost of travel to races. Colin agreed this was a good idea and should be at the discretion of the committee/Welfare Officer. This proposal was AGREED by the meeting.

5. Ladies' Captain's Report

Kerry reported that 15 ladies had competed in the Club Championship in 2012 with 2 completing it. In 2013 the format of the Championship had changed with lots of different races and she was keen to encourage more ladies to compete in more races. Over 33 different races had been attended by the ladies; many PBs had been recorded at different distances; there had been ladies at every cross country league event and championship and one lady at the Nationals. We had not always turned out a full team but she hoped to improve on turnout this year especially to achieve a full team for the Nationals.

SWCHR: 32 teams had competed; good weather this year. There had been 4 SH teams plus reserves; lots of volunteers to help including some members who ran and helped. Our Lady Vets team had come 1st in category; the Ladies team were 2nd; Men's Vets and Men's teams both came 4th in category. She would be happy with a similar amount of interest in 2013.

Kerry's aim for 2013 was to get more ladies out not only at races but at training runs: including taking people out of their comfort zones and trying new things. She was planning a run involving adults and juniors running different distances. Kerry would like to see junior parents becoming included more in the Club. Kerry was also planning an away-day run which would offer a variety of distances and suit all abilities.

6. Men's' Captain's Report

Phil T reported that the aim for the Club championship was to encourage members to compete and improve performance. In 2012 4 men had completed the championship compared with 9 the previous two years with 35 men competing in at least one race. However he noted that the championship had been less attractive in 2012 than in 2011 and the decision had been made to overhaul the championship with several new races and a slightly different format with the aim of rewarding and encouraging people to do as many races as possible. The Championship would be evaluated again at the end of the year.

Phil T reported that the inaugural Strathearn Marathon had been held in 2012 with 156 entries and 115 running on the day. Overwhelmingly good feedback and the race will be held again this year with the same group of organisers.

Phil T reported that 3 teams had been entered for the Devil's Burdens Relay and we had achieved our best placing yet for both men's (10th) and women's teams (5th). He noted this reflected the dramatic improvement that we have in both strength and depth for the women and what the men can do when something near a full strength team is mustered.

The 5x5 relay had again been held in July and it was proving a popular annual event.

Two teams had competed in the Clyde Stride Relay. In August Phil T. had organised a 2 day run from Dalwhinnie to Fort William.

Phil T had produced club records which were now available on the website and the club achievement awards also acted as an incentive to race and improve. Phil noted that many of the records dated back to the early 1980s.

Phil T's conclusion was the club was growing steadily and the quality of races and events we organise is also growing steadily. He hoped that the changes planned for the coming year would increase both the numbers of harriers training and competing and improve performances as well.

Susan asked when SH members would be able to enter the marathon? Gordon confirmed that there would always be places for Club Members. Allan suggested that allowing SH to enter now could act as an incentive for other runners to enter? Phil T asked members to let Liz know if they could help as without enough helpers we could not organise the race. Allan advised that volunteers may be available through SSE which gave its employees a health day.

7. Club Run Proposal

The Meeting considered the proposal for club runs which had been prepared by the Club Captains. Allan asked whether track sessions would be included? Phil T asked for approval of the outline programme and then Kerry and he would discuss the details of the sessions but he confirmed there would be opportunities for track work. Phil M advised that it was possible to run track sessions concurrently with the junior by allocating different lanes. In response to a question, Phil T advised that the proposed Thursday night sessions would be from 6.30-7.30 pm to coincide in with the Junior Section. In response to a question from Phil M, Phil T confirmed that he and Kerry would work on a programme for the Thursday night sessions and would communicate it to the membership.

There was also a discussion on whether there should also be someone responsible for coordinating the Monday runs to decide on routes, communicate with members, welcome new members etc. It was generally agreed that the Monday run was well attended although numbers did fluctuate from week to week particularly over school holidays.

There was also a discussion on how to make the Wednesday (now proposed to be on Tuesdays) run more attractive to members as many people perceived it as being too fast for them.

Phil M considered that all Club runs had to be actively promoted and supported.

Discussion also on how to avoid someone turning up for a club run and there being no-one else present.

In response to Nicola, it was confirmed that Club runs were open to anyone over age 16: although noted that for longer runs a shorter option should be available for young adults.

In response to a question, Gordon confirmed that the recent club survey had found that our most effective method of communication was email followed by Facebook and then the Forum. Allan thought it would be useful to have details of club runs on the Forum.

There was some discussion on whether the Club Captains or run coordinators should decide and publish details of routes beforehand. This would help runners who turned up late but some members preferred to have the freedom to make a group decision on the night.

Finally acceptance of the Club Captains' proposal for Club Runs (as below) was proposed by Tony and seconded by Jim and ACCEPTED by the Meeting.

- Monday morning runs: over winter all runs would be in Crieff and in the summer would alternate between Crieff and Comrie
- Tuesday evenings: over winter all runs would be in Crieff and in the summer would alternate between Crieff and Comrie
- Thursday evenings (in summer months) – structured training
- Saturday morning runs (in winter months) – structured training

Colin T volunteered to coordinate the Monday morning runs and Kerry and Phil T would coordinate the other club runs. This was AGREED.

8. Social Secretary's Report

Phil M reported that the social programme in 2012 had been pretty similar to that in 2011 and good attendance had been recorded at all events. He outlined plans for 2013.

George advised that a new event would be held on Friday, 8th March – a film night at Comrie Cinema Club.

The Eggstravaganza would be on Sunday 24th March – a combined junior/adult event organised by the orienteers in the club – location tbc.

Phil M considered that the pub quiz could be replaced by another fund raising event.

The ceilidh would again be at Academy Hall.

Wendy and Lawrence were interested in organising a climbing event.

He welcomed any suggestions for social events.

9. Junior Section Report

Liz reported that there were 47 Junior Members at the end of 2012 ranging in age from 9-17. This was up from 42 in 2011 and 24 in 2010. Sunday training sessions were going strong with

between 20 and 30 regularly turning up. A Development Squad had been initiated for older and faster runners – 15 members. They trained on Thursday evenings with regularly 10-12 turning up.

Liz reported that Phil and Digby were in the process of gaining Level 2 coach qualifications. We had five other club members trained up to Assistant Coach or Jog Scotland leader level. In addition we had 8 parent helpers who are either PVG disclosed or in the process of getting disclosure. Three of these will be put through Assistant Coach courses in 2013.

In 2012 we had acquired a club tent thanks to a £720 grant from Tesco and also coaching grants of £500 which covered approximately half of Phil and Digby's courses. A portion of these costs will be returned by Sport Scotland upon completion of the course.

The Junior mile race made an £80 deficit and the Junior Prize giving evening cost just under £150. Fundraising brought in approximately £250 leaving an overall deficit for the year of just over £400.

In recent months the junior section has become more organised in training planning. Phil has been elected head coach by the coaches and helpers and, with help from Digby, has implemented a more structured plan and more coordinated coaching approach.

This is helping everyone, coaches and juniors to get the most out of the training sessions and we hope will lead to improvements in performance and participation.

Liz wished to thank Martin Forsyth for allowing his minibus to be used to take juniors to races.

10. Election of Officers and Committee

The new Committee was elected as follows:

President:	George Carson
Treasurer:	Phil Mestecky
Secretary:	Seonaid Roberts
Social Secretary:	Phil Mestecky
Ladies' Captain:	Kerry Sweeney
Men's' Captain:	Phil Tipping
Media/Communications:	Tony Wayte

George noted that in addition to these elected positions there are three co-opted roles – Races Organiser – Gordon Morrison; Welfare Officer – Seonaid Roberts and Junior Section Representative - Liz Mestecky.

George wished to welcome Tony to the Committee and thanked Gordon for all his work in the PR Position. George noted that the new co-opted position of Races Organiser held by Gordon would involve coordination between the 10k organiser (Liz), Marathon organiser (Phil T) and SWCHR (Phil T who would be shadowed by Kerry this year with the aim of Kerry taking over in 2014).

11. Any Other Business

Fiona D reported on a proposal by Will, Gordon G and herself to offer Run Fit conditioning sessions to members. Digby asked whether juniors would be able to attend but Fiona preferred to start with the adult section. It was hoped to organise a conditioning session at Badaguish on the Saturday afternoon. There was interest in such sessions and Fiona agreed to organise dates which would be offered to members.

12. Close of Meeting

George thanked everyone and formally closed the meeting at 9 pm.