

Strathearn Harriers
Annual General Meeting
7.30 pm Friday 27 February 2015

Minutes

Present: Tony Wayte, Fiona Downie, Andrew Aitken, Lynne Aitken, Gordon Morrison, Louise Russell, Nicola Watson, Fiona McDonald, Phil Tipping, Bob Hughes, Andy Scott, Janice Scott, Donna Stewart, Colin Tipping, Julia Greenlees, Jeff Sweeney, Alistair Sexton, Kerry Sweeney, Edward Elworthy, Seonaid Roberts, Lauren Fairweather, Digby Sym, Jim McConnell, Wattie MacKay, Al Nicholl, Phil Mestecky, Liz Mestecky, Mark Dillon, Rowan Dillon, Ruth Howie, Will Manners, Ali Manners, Helen Barker, Ruth Clark, Susan Saunders

Apologies: Cathy Tilbrook, Doug Flint, Dave Graham, George Carson, Fiona Lyle, Wendy Taylor

1 Welcome and Review of 2014 AGM Minutes

Gordon welcomed members attending the AGM.

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were reviewed and accepted. Proposed: Kerry Sweeney; seconded Colin Tipping

2 President's report

Gordon reported on a number of positive events and developments for the club during 2014:

- the average number of seniors attending weekly club runs (excl. Monday runs) was 15
- consistently high numbers of juniors have attended Sunday sessions (recent high of 32)
- some impressive running performances from senior and junior club members

During 2014 Seonaid Roberts stepped down from her roles as Club Secretary, Juniors Admin person and Welfare Officer. Gordon thanked Seonaid for her contribution to the club in these roles, which have now been taken over by Fiona McDonald, Susan Alexander and Mandy Harrison, respectively.

In June Rob Bolton, a founding member of the club and the longest-serving member, accepted the offer of Honorary Life Membership.

All three club races were well attended. The Strathearn Marathon saw its highest entry thus far, the Crieff 10k was a sell-out, and the Simon Wake Comrie Hills Relay raised more than £500 for pancreatic cancer research.

In the 2015 Strathearn Marathon, winning local runners will receive trophies and prizes sponsored by Rob Bolton's firm, Graham and Finlayson.

The new club website went live in January 2015, after much work during 2014 by Al Nicholl in particular, supported by Tony Wayte.

At this point, Gordon invited Tony to make a presentation to Al in recognition and appreciation of his work on the website.

As of 27/2, paid-up membership stood at 95 seniors (with a few still to renew), and 55 juniors, so the outlook for 2015 is positive.

3 Treasurer's report

2014 accounts were audited by Edward Elworthy, and Jeff expressed the club's appreciation by presenting Edward with a gift.

2014 income: £18 519.18

2014 expenditure: £18 535.10

deficit for year: £15.92

Summary of main contributors to club finances

item	income	expenditure	surplus
Strathearn Marathon	4760	2784.80	1975.20
Crieff 10k (+ junior race)	4166 (+74)	2192.87 (+104.23)	1942.90
SWCHR	1230.77	664.60	566.17 (to charity)
membership fees	1333	1067	266
social events	5463.56	6428.07	-378.86
clothing	1290.40	2754.60	-2148.60 (stock)

Closing bank balance for 2014: £7296.82

Current balance (19/2): £11 506

Jeff expects that the club will have a similar set of accounts for 2015 with the exception of the clothing costs, because of current clothing stock levels. The cost of medals for the Strathearn Marathon (£600) will reduce the surplus from the marathon.

The club now has a debit card which should facilitate processes and reduce paperwork.

4 Captains' reports

Training

A good range of training was provided in 2014:

- during summer:
 - 2 runs on Monday – a morning run organised by Colin Tipping (averaging 5 runners), and an evening hilly run in Comrie organised by Emily Greaves (av. 4 runners)
 - structured sessions on Wednesday (av. 8 runners); this session attracted a greater range of club members, with lots of different people attending at different times
 - Friday morning (av. 9 runners)
- during winter:
 - Monday and Friday morning runs unchanged
 - Monday evening run discontinued over winter
 - structured session on Wednesday changed to traditional Crieff town run (av. 9 runners)
 - Sunday morning run alternating between Crieff and Comrie (av. 8–9 runners)

Races

- Club runners took part in races of all distances and locations in 2014. Several club members took part in ultramarathons and we had a team in the Clydestride relay.
- The 5x5 once again attracted good numbers and was an enjoyable day for all taking part.
- The team captains had chosen 5 races to focus on in 2014.
 - We entered a ladies team in the National Road Relay but not a men's team.
 - We had intended to attend the Hartley relays but due to an oversight in organisation we weren't invited this year.

- We had three teams in the Devil's Burdens race in January. All teams ran well and the men's team finished 15th.
- The full XC season has been poorly represented this year and we had no entries in to the National XC this year.
- The SWCHR was very successful: 29 teams entered the race, five of which were Strathearn Harriers (three of which finished first in their age categories). The surplus was £566.17 which goes to a local upper GI research charity. Kerry thanked everyone who contributed to the safe and enjoyable running of the race.
- Kerry reminded members that they can access the club achievement standards on the new website under Racing > Achievement standards. Runners who achieved these standards were recognised at the annual dinner dance in January.
- There were also two away-days organised last year which were well attended. One was local and one was on the WHW.
- Phil and Kerry thanked everyone for their support during their captaincies, and took the opportunity to wish the new team captains all the very best for 2015.

Club championship

Tony reported that both men's and ladies' championships were well-attended and well-contested, with good numbers of runners in all championship races.

The men's champion was Wattie MacKay (Will Manners runner-up), and ladies' champion was Wendy Taylor (Nicola Watson runner up).

The men's championship consisted of 10 races and the women's of 11 races.

7 women and 8 men completed the club championship for 2014, with 51 members entered in at least one race.

The races best attended by Harriers were the Club 5k in March and Gartmorn (22), while the Milnathort Dash had fewest Harriers racing (11).

Changes for 2015 championship:

- three hill races have been added, to provide more variety: Birnam Hill race, Dumyat Hill race and Meall nan Tarmachan; because hill races are harder and attract a generally higher standard of competitor, they will attract an additional appearance point
- Pitlochry 10k has replaced Perth 10k (which received some negative feedback)

5 Social secretary's report

2014 was a busy year for Susan in her first year as Social secretary. Events included:

- orienteering event, Easter egg hunt and picnic at Comrie Croft in April (Susan thanked Fiona Downie and Seonaid Roberts for their help in organising this)
- annual trip to Badaguish in May (Susan thanked Kerry and Phil T for organising the different runs, Graham for organising the bike ride and George for organising the Saturday evening entertainment)
- to celebrate the club's 30th anniversary, the 5x5 relay and BBQ/film show was held in July (Susan thanked Colin T for organising the archive club photos for the filmshow)
- in October Susan formed a social subcommittee to help her organise the different club social events; members of this subcommittee are Tracey Oates, Liz Mestecky, Ruth Howie and Karen Prentice
- pre-Christmas evening in December with mulled wine, mince pies and biscuits
- annual dinner dance in January 2015 (Susan thanked the subcommittee and George for setting up mic and sound system)

Susan promised more enjoyable social events in 2015.

6 Junior Section Report

Graham reported that 2014 was a very successful year with great spirit, fun and participation from all involved – the young athletes, coaches and parent helpers.

Early in the year, a survey of the junior membership was conducted and the junior coaching team received positive feedback. From this, a long-term development plan was created to help achieve the goals of the junior section. This was supported by the main committee and funding for coach development agreed. Coach development is considered by Scottish Athletics as essential for the progress of athletics in Scotland.

The junior admin role has been taken over by Susan Alexander. Graham thanked Seonaid for developing a very professional system and process to follow.

Mandy Harrison has taken over from Seonaid as Welfare Officer. She attended a number of courses (Safeguarding and Protecting Children and In Safe Hands). Her disclosure has been issued, and she is looking forward to fulfilling her role.

Coach development

- Jim Alexander has attended coach training
- Nicola Watson will attend a coach assistant course in March
- Digby has attended practical workshops and seminars with national coach mentors
- Parent helper numbers have increased which bodes well for future coach development.

Statistics

- Current membership: 56 (18 in the development squad), with a good intake of new members
- Boy/girl ratio as is quite balanced now; more teenage girls are attending, which is pleasing, because this is a group which Sport Scotland have identified as being the most reluctant to participate in sport
- A number of athletes come regularly from Braco and Auchterarder
- Attendance at Sunday training sessions has typically been 20, until February this year when attendance has jumped up to 30
- Attendance at development squad varies for many reasons, but remains healthy

Training programmes and races

- The development squad have had core/functional assessment introduced, with conditioning programmes resulting
- Movements Dynamics package will be implemented in 2015 (licence obtained courtesy of the Scottish Athletics coaching team)
- Events attended: Gartmorn, Craigie Strawberry races, Crieff 1 mile (on same day as 10k) and cross-country races (Graham thanked Jim Alexander for supporting the juniors at the cross-country races)
- Other activities included an annual track day, easter eggstravaganza and the mince pie (sweetie) run

Other areas of benefit

- Many juniors are achieving great results in athletics and other sporting competitions at school and regional levels,
- Juniors helped at main club events such as the marathon and Simon Wake relay;
- Foundation for D of E attainment

- Sundays are so much more enjoyable after an early morning training session!

7 Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected to the main committee:

- President: Gordon Morrison (Prop. Tony Wayte; Sec. Fiona McDonald)
- Treasurer: Jeff Sweeney (Prop. Edward Elworthy; Sec. Wendy Taylor)
- Secretary: Fiona McDonald (Prop. Fiona Downie; Sec. Julia Greenlees)
- Social secretary: Susan Saunders (Prop. Fiona McDonald; Sec. Tony Wayte)
- Men's captain: Phil Mestecky (Prop. Andy Greaves; Sec. Andre Aitken)
- Ladies captain: Liz Mestecky (Prop. Ruth Howie; Sec. Julia Greenlees)
- Media and communications: Tony Wayte (Prop. Andrew Aitken; Sec. Lynne Aitken)

Five roles are also co-opted onto the committee; they are:

- Crieff 10k organiser: Nicola Watson
- SWCHR organiser – Kerry Sweeney
- Strathearn marathon organiser – Phil Tipping
- Welfare officer: Mandy Harrison
- Junior section representative: Nicola Watson will continue pro tem as junior rep until the juniors team has reviewed this arrangement and considered alternatives.

8 Any other business

Karen Westley asked whether we could fund raise or, given the healthy state of the club's finances, we could donate some money annually to a small and/or local charity. Several charities could be chosen and then one donated to annually.

The following points were made during the subsequent discussion:

- this suggestion has come up previously at committee meetings but has stalled because an appropriate charity/amount couldn't be selected
- the SWCHR already raises money for charity
- the club used to donate to selected charities before the SWCHR began to donate its profit
- the profit from our club races is increasing, and likely to continue to do so, so we're being overly cautious in curbing expenditure
- the amount to be donated could be a specified percentage of club surplus or of the profit made by our races – this would be good PR for the club
- deciding which charities and amounts are deemed appropriate can be fraught depending on individuals' priorities

Fiona Downie described a method for de-personalising the process of individual charity-giving: people who want to be involved can put an amount of money in an envelope with a named charity, all envelopes go in a hat, and then one picked at random – all money goes to the charity named on that envelope.

Gordon proposed and the meeting agreed that we invite club membership to suggest appropriate charities, and the most popular one will be selected, with the committee to decide the amount to be donated.