

Strathearn Harriers
Annual General Meeting
7 pm Friday 7 February 2014

Minutes

Present: Gillian Mardon, Wattie Mackay, Julia Greenlees, Colin Tipping, Phil Tipping, George Carson, Maddy Watson, Susan Saunders, Nicola Watson, Alistair Sexton, Will Manners, Ali Manners, Helen Barker, Allan MacInnes, Andrew Aitken, Peter Gaylor, Graham Martin, Jayne Martin, Digby Sym, Gordon Morrison, Shelagh Wake, Ruth Howie, Kerry Sweeney, Jeff Sweeney, Dave Graham, Edward Elworthy, Tony Wayte, Fiona McDonald, Fiona Downie, Cathy Tilbrook, Seonaid Roberts, Liz Mestecky

Apologies: Phil Mestecky, Jim Alexander, Wendy Duigan, Fiona Lyle, Wendy Taylor, Fran Loots, Grant Carstairs

1 Welcome and Review of 2013 AGM Minutes

George welcomed members attending the AGM.

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were reviewed and accepted. Proposed: Gordon M; seconded Nicola W

2 President's Report

George reported that the club has achieved the Perth and Kinross Accredited Clubs Excellence Scheme (PACES) award. The PACES award confirms that the club is run efficiently, takes sporting activities seriously and demonstrates good child protection measures.

George confirmed his intention to stand down as President of the club after four years. Although a position he has enjoyed and regards as a position of honour, he doesn't feel he can do the job – and the club – justice, given his other commitments.

George stressed that the club's on-going success is due to the activities of the committee and the many and varied contributions of the growing membership (catering, marshalling, organising races, etc.).

Current paid-up membership stands at: 93 adults (14 still to confirm) and 56 juniors.

Finally, he reminded attendees that all committee positions are made vacant on the night of an AGM and that all members are entitled/encouraged to put themselves forwards for election.

3 Treasurer's and Social Secretary's Reports

Tony reported from Phil M's Treasurer's report that the club's finances are healthy, with a balance of £9201.77 at the end of 2013, nearly £2000 higher than at the end of 2012.

The key drivers of this performance have been surpluses from:

- Marathon = £1557.29
- 10K = £1351.20

- SWCHR = £580.40*
- Membership (after SAF Levy) = £503.00
- Junior operating surplus[#] = £323.58

Offset by

- Charitable donations = -£975.00*
- Net loss on clothing orders@ = -£502.34
- Social events (inc Ceilidh) = -£221.63
- Race entries for club members = -£170.70

*All surplus from SWCHR are passed on to charity

#Junior bag pack raised £560 some of which has been spent on equipment

@Note that we still hold stock of vests and hats worth £825

The ceilidh will make a planned loss of about £600.

Assuming that activities for 2014 are similar to 2013, it is likely that the club will see an annual surplus of £1000–2000.

There was some discussion as to whether the club accounts should to be audited, to protect the club office-bearers, especially as the club membership is growing and the club finances are increasing. There is no requirement to do so.

There was also some discussion as to whether the club should consider spending some of the surplus (having a base/clubhouse/storage, reimbursing members who transport others to events, wet weather clothing, shoes/kit for juniors to share/recycle, etc.). Tony advised that since we now have storage at Dallerie, it was doubtful that the cost of such additional space could be justified. Tony also confirmed that there are plans to invest in further training for coaches for the juniors. It was agreed that members should not be out of pocket for their voluntary activities for the club. Tony also asked that, if members have suggestions for spending club money, they contact him directly for discussion with the new committee.

Tony reported from Phil M's Social Secretary's report that 2013 had been another busy and active social year for the club. The highlight was the weekend at Badaguish. In his report, Phil thanked all those who helped and participated in the different events throughout the year. Again, Tony sought members' suggestions for other social activities the club could hold.

George thanked Phil M for all his work as Treasurer and Social Secretary and for all his contributions to the club.

4 Captains' Reports

Ladies Captain

Kerry reported that in 2013 more women attended club runs and races than in previous years. 29 women took part in at least one race and 7 women completed the club championship – more than ever before. Many women took advantage of the new wildcard option and several recorded PBs for different distances. Of special note, Wendy Duigan is the first woman to receive gold achievement awards in two different distances.

Kerry reported that we had a ladies team at the cross-country relay event and in all three league meetings, but we won't have a full team for the National XC (due to injury). She encouraged all women members to consider participating in the XC events.

The club had three teams in the SWCHR, and Kerry thanked all those members who assisted on the day.

The club also had three teams in the Devils Burdens relay race.

Kerry reported that attendance at training runs is increasing, and she thanked Colin for organising the Monday runs.

For 2014, Kerry articulated the goals of continuing to improve attendance at both training and at races.

Mens Captain

Phil T reported that the quality of the club's male and female runners has increased over the last few years, as well as the numbers.

Looking ahead, he wants members to target 5 events in particular:

- National Road Relay (30/3)
- SWCHR
- Hartley relays
- Devils Burdens (2015)
- National XC (2015)

He encouraged members to join Scottish Athletics (£18 membership). Being an SA member is a requirement for entry to the national events, but SA membership entitles members to £2 discount on all entry fees for SA-approved races.

Phil is pleased that attendance at training has improved, especially in the first few weeks of 2014, and welcomes suggestions regarding training and training runs.

Phil appealed to members to reply quickly to his emails about forthcoming races and team events as this would make the task of organising teams much more efficient.

There was some discussion about targeting the club's elite runners for particular team events. It was agreed that it is appropriate for the club to be ambitious and competitive in events, and at the same time, it should promote an inclusive approach to all runners. It was acknowledged that uncertainty about some events' dates and members' personal commitments sometimes means that race quotas are filled before members are able to enter.

Club championship

Tony reported that the club championship would be similar to last year. Most race dates are fixed. Changes from 2013 championship include:

- removed: Balfron 10k and Forfar 10k
- added: Dunblane 7.5 mile and Stirling 10k (if it doesn't clash with SWCHR)

It was agreed that the wildcard option is good for those who prefer off-road running and for those who cannot attend mid-week races.

5 Junior Section Report

2013/2014

Digby reported that at the end of 2013 there were 66 juniors (compared with 47 at the end of 2012); there were 31 girls and 35 boys.

There has been a regular turnout of 20–35 juniors on Sunday mornings and the development squad has 20 or so members.

The transition for older juniors is going well.

There have been good performances in racing, in particular, the U17 boys winning the their event at the Hartley relay.

Track work was done regularly at Perth and Grangemouth.

50 children ran the 1-mile race at the Crieff 10k.

Digby welcomed Dave Graham as the club's second child protection officer.

Digby explained that the juniors coaching team are requesting club funding for more coach training.

5-year plan

Graham reported that he will be producing a 3–5-year plan for the juniors section over the next two months. This will be developed in consultation with the junior athletes, their parents and helpers, the coaches and the main club committee. The plan will be developed in accordance with Scottish Athletics guidelines and ethos. The aim is, ultimately, to have lead coaches for four different age/stage groups, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined. The plan will take some time to implement, and will articulate a vision for the future of the junior section of the club.

6 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. Andy Scott; Sec. David Graham)
- Secretary: Fiona McDonald (Prop. Seonaid Roberts; Sec. Fiona Downie)
- Social Secretary: Susan Saunders (Prop. Phil Tipping; Sec. Fiona Downie)
- Men's Captain: Phil Tipping (Prop. Tony Wayte; Sec. Jim Alexander)
- Ladies Captain: Kerry Sweeney (Prop. Janice Scott; Sec. Andy Greaves)
- Media and Communications: Tony Wayte (Prop. Seonaid Roberts; Sec. Kerry Sweeney)

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

- Crieff 10k organiser: Nicola Watson
- Races coordinator: Gordon Morrison
- Welfare officer: Seonaid Roberts/Dave Graham
- Junior section representative: to be confirmed

In recognition of all that Phil and Liz have done as committee members, George presented Liz with gifts to both of them on behalf of the club.

And in recognition of his contributions to the club, Gordon presented George with a gift on behalf of the club.

7 Any Other Business

Having been a member of the club for 26 years (and a previous president), Jim McConnell expressed support for the achievements of the club's committees over the years.