

**Strathearn Harriers
Annual General Meeting
Strathearn Artspace, Crieff
7.30 pm Friday 9 March 2018**

MINUTES

Present: Gordon Morrison, Fiona McDonald, Tony Wayte, Jeff Sweeney, Nicola Watson, Andrew Aitken, Julia Greenlees, Ruth Clark, Cathy Tilbrook, Andy Gallagher, Aaron Dawson, Andrew Brown, Iain Thomson, Gavin Roberts, Colin Tipping, Wattie Mackay, Fiona Downie, Nathan Crighton

1. Welcome

Gordon welcomed members attending the AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Judith Tipping, Jim McConnell, Fiona Lyle, Lynne Aitken, George Carson, Mirela MacInnes, Rachel Gallagher, Judith Tipping, Doug Flint, Douglas Simpson, Jim Alexander, Shelagh Wake, Wendy Duigan

3. Review of Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM for the 2016 year, held on 10/3/17, were reviewed and accepted.

Proposed: Tony Wayte; seconded Andy Gallagher.

4. Reports

4.1. President

Gordon introduced the Annual Report which had been made available to members prior to the meeting, describing it as a brief account of the club's activities and outcomes (athletic, social and financial) during 2017. Committee members spoke to different sections of the report, so these minutes either summarise key points from the report or record additional information given at the meeting, and should therefore where appropriate be read in conjunction with the report.

Governance

It was noted that the club remained an Unincorporated Association.

In April 2017 the club had undertaken a review of its governance and risk management, with the assistance of an independent advisor provided by Scottish Athletics. The outcome was positive, with no major risks identified for the club and its governance generally good. However a number of aspects were identified which could be improved, clarified and/or formalised, and as a result some changes had already been introduced and others would be presented to this AGM for approval. These were:

- Risk Assessment and checklist for club runs
- Formalised Data Protection policy - it was also noted that this would have to be revisited in the coming year as a result of the soon to be introduced GDPR Legislation.
- Code of Conduct (see agenda item 7)
- Two additional clauses to Club Constitution a) Conflict of Interest b) Extraordinary General Meeting (see agenda item 6)
- Purpose, Values and Vision

Club membership and local engagement

At the end of 2017:

- Adult membership was 117, comprising 58 men and 59 women (compared with 116 (57M, 59W) in 2016)
- Junior membership was 60, comprising 37 boys and 23 girls (58 (34B, 24G) in 2016)

Encouragingly, 19 new senior members have joined the club in the past 5 months.

The club appreciates the active support it received from people, organisations and businesses across Strathearn in 2017, who provided time, facilities and/or sponsorship which enabled the successful running of the club's three races. As a club, we believe that we deliver value to the community and that this is reflected in the support we receive from the community.

A change to the membership card system was noted, with a digital membership card now available to download from members' Paysubsonline accounts.

4.2. Welfare lead

The club continued to work in accordance with UKA and SA regulations, and Mirela has taken an active role in ensuring this. More detailed information and documents relating to the club's welfare policy can be found on the club website.

4.3. Treasurer

The full accounts for 2017 are in the Annual Report.

Jeff thanked Edward Elworthy for reviewing and endorsing the accounts for 2017.

Key points in the financial outcomes for 2017 were:

Overall outcomes

The club finished the year with a surplus of £1,376.63 (compared to a surplus the previous year of £284.93).

Opening bank balance: £7469.10

Closing bank balance: £8340.71

(plus closing clothing stock of £2120.00)

Main elements of surplus / deficit

Strathearn Marathon- net surplus after charity donation	£369.00
Crieff 10k – net surplus after charity donation	£1878.25
Membership fees – net surplus after Scottish Athletics levy	£1673.35
Junior section costs	-£877.88
Social events – net deficit	-£457.64
Clothing – net surplus	£132.90
Miscellaneous costs	-£1683.56

Charitable donations

£249.69 to Logos

£470.95 to Research Pancreatic Cancer

£100 to the Comrie Pipe Band for their support during the Marathon and Crieff 10k

£100 to Comrie First Response for their support during the Marathon.

4.4. Captains

Club runs/Training.

Monday runs 9am at Taylor Park continued to be organised by Colin, and Friday 9am runs round the Knock were also well supported. Andrew outlined changes to Wednesday training. The use of the

cage at Dallerie over the winter period, courtesy of Morrison's Academy, was a real boon. Strength and conditioning had been introduced as part of the sessions, and numbers attending had increased.

Racing

Details of many individual performances in local and National events are shown in the Annual Report. Four teams had taken part in both the Devils Burdens and Comrie Hills Relays, with Mens, Ladies and Mixed Vet teams winning prizes in the latter event.

4.5. Juniors

Juniors meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with a recent average of 14 members attending each session. With Andy Aitken now qualified as our second L2 Coach in addition to Phil Mestecky junior coaching is on a firmer footing than before. Junior training has involved regular time trials and a bleep test has been introduced. A good number of juniors had shown regular and significant improvement.

Individual successes in racing are detailed in the Annual Report. There was good participation of juniors in the East District Cross-country and the second open Junior Cross-country at Cultybraggan in early 2018 had shown a good increase in numbers to 53. Juniors had participated in the National Road Race Relays and also in the age-graded track races at Grangemouth. The latter had been a particularly good experience with juniors being able to choose a distance and participate in a race with all age groups taking part. Further racing involved Parkruns (with several juniors winning races), hill races, junior mile and track days.

4.6. Media and communications

Over 100 reports had appeared on the club website detailing members activities/club events in the course of the year. It was noted that the Club now has an open Facebook page, as a result of an initiative by Maddy Watson, and already has engaged a good number of non-members. Other specific Facebook pages exist for each of the club organised races.

Any members undertaking fund-raising efforts for charity are welcome to provide details to Tony Wayte for coverage on the club website and in the local press.

4.7. Social Secretary

Dinner, Club 5x5 Relay and Barbeque and Ladies Christmas Night events had taken place during the year. All were successful and the organisers these events were thanked. Thanks were also due to George Carson who had co-ordinated as Social Secretary for part of the year.

4.8. Future Plans

Gordon introduced the new Purpose/Values/Vision document and noted that the club already does successfully some of what the Vision describes. The Vision itself may evolve, but for the club to thrive and progress in the future there is a real need for a wider range of the membership to become actively involved in planning and organising. Members are asked to consider the content of the Vision, discuss with other members, and see where and how they each might make a contribution.

Specific opportunities already exist - the club is currently looking for people to come forward to shadow Nicola Watson and Kerry Sweeney in organising the Crieff 10k and Simon Wake Comrie Hills Relay respectively in 2018, and then take over as race organisers in 2019. Two committee members, Jeff Sweeney and Tony Wayte, have indicated that they will step down from their roles at the end of 2018.

But the scope to contribute is not limited to committee roles - the junior section would benefit from having more qualified Coaching Assistants, and the club would welcome members or parents taking leadership for example in organising social events and/or regular club runs at different times/places.

4.9. Questions on reports

Colin Tipping noted that membership was perhaps around 1% of the local population, which was a significant achievement for the club. He suggested that a market probably exists to increase this to 2%, particularly among those who exercised but hadn't considered or taken a step towards engaging in running. A good discussion ensued with lots of ideas, including the possibility of an open week in late spring to attract new members.

5. Approval of Amendments to Club Constitution

The two proposed amendments on 1. Conflict of Interest and 2. Process by which members may call for an Extraordinary General Meeting were presented to the meeting and carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Membership Code of Conduct

This was unanimously endorsed by the AGM.

Cathy Tilbrook queried item 9, specifically why it was stated that the Club Committee could refuse membership to an individual without the need to state reasons. It was noted that this was part of the Club Constitution, but it was agreed that the Committee could have another look at this point.

7. Election of officers and committee

The following were elected to the main committee, based on a show of hands:

- President: Gordon Morrison (Prop. Tony Wayte; Sec. Jeff Sweeney)
- Treasurer: Jeff Sweeney (Prop. Gordon Morrison; Sec. Tony Wayte)
- Secretary: Iain Thomson (Prop. Julia Greenlees; Sec. Jim Alexander)
- Men's captain: Andrew Aitken (Prop. Nicola Watson; Sec. Iain Thomson)
- Ladies captain: Nicola Watson (Prop. Andrew Aitken; Sec. Kerry Sweeney)
- Media and communications: Tony Wayte (Prop. Fiona McDonald; Sec. Gordon Morrison)
- Social Secretary: Kerry Sweeney (Prop. Iain Thomson; Sec. Emily Greaves)

Andrew Aitken had taken over as Men's Captain from Phil Mestecky earlier in the year. Phil had given a number of years of excellent commitment to the role and taken the club forward.

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

- Crieff 10k organiser: Nicola Watson
- SWCHR organiser: Kerry Sweeney
- Strathearn marathon organiser: Cathy Tilbrook, who had taken over from Phil Tipping during the course of the year. Phil had organised the marathon since its inception and established it as a popular event in the Scottish racing calendar.
- Welfare officer: Mirela MacInnes
- Junior section representative: Nicola Watson
- Coaching Representative: Andrew Aitken

8. Any other business

Julia Greenlees raised the issue of the environmental credentials of the club, and suggested steps which could be taken at club races. It was noted plans were already in hand to introduce measures at the Crieff 10K and the Strathearn Marathon to reduce the amount of plastic water bottles used, and a lift sharing scheme was in place. It was agreed that further initiatives would be encouraged and introduced as appropriate.

Nicola Watson noted that in line with the club's values of being inclusive to all runners a non-binary category of entry had been introduced for the Crieff 10K and Strathearn Marathon.