

**Strathearn Harriers
Annual General Meeting
Crieff Golf Club, Crieff
7.30 pm Friday 8 March 2019**

MINUTES

Present: Gordon Morrison, Fiona McDonald, Tony Wayte, Jeff Sweeney, Nicola Watson, Andy Gallagher, Iain Thomson, Kerry Sweeney, Rachel Gallagher, Jim Alexander, Lauren Fairweather, Keira Reid, Fiona Downie, Jason Miles-Campbell, Mirela MacInnes, Allan MacInnes, Josie Goodfellow, Julia Greenlees, Irene Smith, Becky Hughes, Janine Grant, Doug Flint, Cathy Tilbrook, Susan Alexander, Nathan Crighton, Stuart MacAviney.

1. Welcome

Gordon welcomed members attending the AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Jim McConnell, Fiona Lyle, Ruth Howie, Emily Greaves, George Carson, Colin Tipping, Judith Tipping, Finlay Downie, Becky MacKenzie, Phil Mestecky, Liz Mestecky, Derek McGlashan, Rowan Mestecky, Nick Gough, Beth Blue, Richard Collingwood, Phil Tipping, Andrew Brown, Ruth Clark, Fiona Murchie.

3. Approval of Minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 22/6/18, were reviewed and accepted.

Proposed: Jim Alexander; seconded Andy Gallagher.

4. Reports for the 2018 Year

President

Gordon reminded members that Annual Reports were first introduced in 2015, published in advance of the AGM to allow members to view, and formed the basis of the summaries presented at the AGM by the Office Bearers and Committee Members.

For 2018 there were no major changes to the governance of the Club – it remained an Unincorporated Association (but see item 7). That reflects the view taken by the club committee after a review in 2017, with input from a Scottish Athletics advisor, that the structure is acceptable given the Club's current responsibilities and financial risks.

During the year the Club had fulfilled GDPR requirements on schedule, developed a proposed revised constitution for approval/adoption by this meeting (item 7), adopted a framework of activity areas for the operation of the Committee using working groups, and worked on job descriptions for the various Committee positions.

Secretary

Iain noted that the Club Membership was healthy in 2018 – Seniors 120 (117 in 2017) and Juniors 59 (60 in 2017). Male/female ratios in the Seniors were about equal, whereas boys significantly outnumber girls in the Juniors. He also paid tribute to the

huge number of voluntary hours committed to the club by coaches and assistants, parent helpers, members who assist at club races and events, and the Committee.

Iain also made some comments on membership numbers. First these represent the total number who signed up during the course of the year, not the number active at any one time. As well as natural turnover a significant number join for a short time and then leave. He noted also that the Club's policy on encouraging/welcoming runners of a wide range of running abilities had been successful.

Iain concluded by encouraging members to be active in recruitment of new members, to participate in as many of the Club's activities as possible, and to encourage others to do the same. He noted that the Committee was very open to changes to serve the needs of members, and encouraged members to communicate their views and ideas on this to them.

Juniors

Nic summarised a particularly successful year for the Juniors, with member numbers remaining healthy. Attendance at training was good, and an increasing number of Juniors were participating in racing/competition in a variety of events. Particularly encouraging were the numbers who raced in the cross-country season.

Captain

Nic noted that numbers of senior members taking part in races were similar to the previous year, and that in 2018 these were in a very wide range of races locally, nationally and overseas. Team races proved particularly popular with very good numbers of teams in the Devil's Burdens and Comrie Hills Relays. Nic encouraged more members to transfer this enthusiasm to become involved in other races throughout the year.

The Club-organised races proved very successful. The Strathearn Marathon had a record entry, the Crieff 10K had sold out well in advance, and the Simon Wake Comrie Hills Relay had seen a spate of late entries after a slow start to result in an excellent event.

Social Secretary

Kerry indicated that it had been a mixed year for Social activities. Some events had proved very popular, notably the Sunday Social Runs and the Mince Pie Run. She also noted that finding dates for some events had proved difficult, and that two significant events had to be cancelled because of lack of bookings. The Club will engage in a consultation survey with the members to establish which types of events they are willing to support, and this will guide future policy.

Club Championship/Media and Communications

Tony noted that the numbers participating in the Club Championship had been disappointing, but there had been close competition. Maddy and Lauren fought out the Women's Championship, with Lauren just edging ahead. The Men's Championship went down to the last race, the Club 5K, with Wattie triumphing again, just ahead of Tony and Andy G. It was good to see Andy G entering a race some way out of his comfort zone to edge into 3rd place just ahead of Ben. Tony also noted the new Achievement Standards/Ladder introduced for 2019.

Tony drew attention to the numerous race reports, bulletins, newspaper articles, and website updates which kept members informed of everyone's running activities.

As this was his last year he wished Jason well (see item 7) in taking over this important Club role.

Treasurer

Jeff introduced the Club Accounts. It had been a successful year financially. Significant contributions to Club funds came from memberships (after Scottish Athletics fees), the Crieff 10K and the Strathearn Marathon. Charitable donations were made from these two events to Crieff Foodbank, and the full surplus from the SWCHR was donated to support research into pancreatic cancer.

There was an increased but manageable deficit from the Club Social events in 2018.

The Accounts had been endorsed by Edward Elworthy.

Future Plans

It was noted that the Club had made a £500 donation to the Crieff Junior Parkrun which is about to start up. (Note – this sum will appear in the 2019 accounts).

2019 will see a big event come to the Club as we are hosting the Hartley Relays. Andy and Rachel Gallagher have taken on the role of Organisers, but will need lots of helpers.

Succession planning for a number of roles was progressing well, and the number of people volunteering to become involved was welcomed. In particular Keira and Mike had taken responsibility for the SWCHR in 2019, and Nic had recruited a good number of new people to assist her in what will be her last year as Organiser of the Crieff 10K, with a view to have a full team in place for 2020. Nic did note that she still needed a person to take charge of the catering for 2019. Similarly new members had joined the Strathearn Marathon organising team.

5. Questions from the Meeting Regarding Reports

There were none.

6. Election of officers and committee

The following were proposed for election as officers and members of the Club Committee:

- President: Gordon Morrison (Prop. Rachel Gallagher; Sec. Andy Gallagher)
- Treasurer: Jeff Sweeney (Prop. Iain Thomson; Sec. Gordon Morrison)
- Secretary: Iain Thomson (Prop. Tony Wayte; Sec. Ruth Clark)
- Men's captain: Nick Gough (Prop. Nicola Watson; Sec. Gordon Morrison)
- Ladies captain: Nicola Watson (Prop. Kerry Sweeney; Sec. Jeff Sweeney)
- Media and communications: Jason Miles-Campbell (Prop. Tony Wayte; Sec. Andrew Aitken)
- Social Secretary: Kerry Sweeney (Prop. Stuart McAviney; Sec. Andrea Norwell)

Gordon noted that these elections would take place under the rules of the current Constitution, but that in future the proposed revised Constitution would introduce some changes as noted in item 7 below.

Iain explained that as there were single candidates for all posts the above names would be presented to the AGM in the form of a secret ballot for individual approval. This was done and all of the above easily reached the minimum number of 5 votes required. They were duly elected to serve on the Club Committee. Tony was thanked for his long and valued service to the Club.

7. Approval of Revised Club Constitution

Gordon introduced the proposed revised Constitution for the Club. It had been noted at last year's AGM that the constitution required updating, and work had been done over the past year. The process had included advice from a specialist advisor paid for by Scottish Athletics. As a result the revised Constitution reflected good governance and modern best practice, and would also facilitate the Club becoming a charity in the future, were the committee and membership to decide that change was desirable. There had been full consultation with members on a draft document, and changes had been made as a result of the feedback received.

Gordon noted a couple of the more significant changes from the previous Constitution:

1. Committee Members would normally serve for a maximum of five consecutive years, which will mean for example that Gordon and Jeff will not be eligible to stand for election in 2020.
2. Proxy voting will become an option, which should make it easier for more members to participate in the Club's decision-making at General Meetings.

The revised Constitution was put to the meeting and was approved unanimously.

8. Meeting closed

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and members thanked for attending. Cathy Tilbrook thanked the Committee for their work supporting the Club.