

AGM proposals 2023

1. To limit the Tay Ten entry fee to £10

Club member proposing: Kenneth GN Stewart

Outline of proposal

To reduce the Tay Ten entry fee to £10 at a time when the “cost of living crisis” means that runners have to be more selective when choosing races. Such a bold move from Perth Road Runners would hopefully send a message to other clubs to follow our lead.

Benefit to the club?

Increased entries Recognition from other clubs of our vision

Other things to consider:

We generate a very unhealthy profit from Tay Ten entries at the expense of fellow runners

2. To lower the entry age to PRR to 16 years of age.

Club member proposing: PRR Committee

Outline of proposal

The entry age to PRR is currently 18.

This proposal seeks to lower this age to 16, to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to run, train, race and volunteer with the club.

It does not seek to admit members below this age, nor is it a ‘stalking horse’/precursor to seek this further reduction in future. The move naturally brings some additional responsibilities to the Club and its governance. Additional safeguarding and other measures – as spelt out in detail here by Scottish Athletics - must be put in place before the admission of 16/17s (henceforth referred to as U18s, remembering at all times that lower proposed age limit of 16). This is likely to take some months, but is achievable by the spring of 2024. It is proposed that U18 members would be admitted to as full a programme of training and racing as possible. This has been discussed at length with SA’s National Club Manager (who will attend the AGM to address any questions or concerns). Tuesday club runs, track/hills training, internal races and race series are all possible with U18s, given small additions of help and, in some cases, training/certification. It is often held that this training and certification is a significant burden and a barrier to our admitting younger members. This proposal is made in the firm – and researched – belief that it is not. There are distance limits for U18s, but these are less stringent than often believed; they are stated here. This is a one-step proposal. It seeks consent from members for the Committee to set up the necessary structures for U18s, have these verified by SA where required, and then proceed to admit U18s without returning for further consent at a future AGM.

Benefit to the club?

Whilst it is not the only measure the Club can/should pursue to do so, it will bring younger members to a club whose average age is now above 50 (and increasing each year). More altruistically, it offers a) an avenue to existing and future U18 runners (among them Perth Strathtay Harriers) to extend or widen their running horizons and b) for would-be runners of this age to be active, be they seeking competition or just greater fitness. This is firmly within the Club's remit and aims of inclusivity, best set out at clause 4 in our Constitution.

Other things to consider?

This proposed move does not wish to tread on the toes of PSH. It offers opportunities for U18s to run for both clubs (potentially joining PRR as second-claim (2C) members, as often occurs with SA clubs and athletes in further/higher education). We are already in discussion with PSH to allay any such concerns. Entry fees are for discussion, but given that U18 members may not all be able to enjoy the full benefits of PRR membership (eg 16s cannot run Championship half-marathons or race in adult PRR XC teams), and to reflect that some/many may join as 2C members, a lower admission fee would be levied.