

## Perth Road Runners

Established 1985, Affiliated to Scottish Athletics 1986



### MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024, 7:00pm start

NORTH INCH COMMUNITY CAMPUS, ASSEMBLY HALL

The meeting began at 7:06pm.

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Mark Crawford

- Thanked those for their attendance, with over 60 present (in person [49] and proxied [21]).
- Overview of AGM programme provided (as below).
- Made known that AOB is for discussion, no proposals for change.
- Provided an introduction of Committee members.

#### 2. APOLOGIES – Paige Brown

Adam Wooler	Garry Brailsford	Lenny Burnett	Sonjia Crow
Alan Bothwell	Garry Smith	Lisa Aikman	Stephen Brinkman
Sue Bothwell	Graeme Gatherer	Lorraine MacPherson	Stuart Neillands
Andrew Miller	Guy Humpleby	Lucy Ward	Stuart Robertson
Barry Campbell	Iain McKinnie	Maria Dale	Stuart Wilson
Brian Galletly	Jane Dernie	Martin Macdonald	Susan Bothwell
Bryan Jenkins	Jenny Shilton	Nicola Crowe	Tessa Ward
Cath Livingstone	Jill Garvie	Paul McCormick	Tracy Wilkinson Begg
Claire Douglas	John Johnston	Robin Livingstone	Gregor Wells
Duncan Ryan	John McLagan	Ronan McDonnell	Alex Wylie
Elliot Collins	Keri Weatherhogg	Russel Thomson	
Gair McRostie	Kristen Bain	Scott Connor	

#### 3. ADOPTION OF AGM MINUTES 2023 – Mark Crawford

- Kenneth Stewart - Correction to Item 9 Jean Wainwright Salver. Should be 21 years, not 30.
- Proposed: Kenny Cairns
- Seconded: Fabienne Thompson

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 – Mark Crawford**

- Reflection as chair; a successful year.
- Levels of participation have gone up, however still areas where not yet there. Club runs (training/hill training) – one year on seeing the best numbers we have seen for quite some time.
- Internal events (Duathlon, Yahoo, Target Zero etc) saw increased numbers, along with cross-country.
- Mob Match saw 63 runners.
- Other measures of success: 5 coaches, 3 coaching assistants (albeit one stepping down) and 1 more Scottish Athletics official.
- Under 18s (16-17s): unanimously supported by club. 6 now in the club. Great degree of inclusion. Sent out a message that we are open for younger members. Drop in average age within the club.
- Spoke as Chair at National Club Conference re inclusion of 16-17s: thought to be impressive by SA and other clubs in attendance at conference.
- Of the 160 clubs, PRR is the 19<sup>th</sup> biggest club in Scotland, so comparatively, not that small. Can afford to think like bigger club!
- Membership numbers are good.
- Open races (TT/BB): were both a great success, raised more revenue and both are becoming better supported across Scotland.
- Saw some great team/individual performances throughout the year, with several records broken.
- Good governance within the committee, tried to maintain and improve transparency in communications between committee and club.

##### **4.1. MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Clive Bowman**

- 204 members at the maximum for the year.
- 16-17s were an important milestone.
- Have kept the membership at £15 and will stay this price for the next year. Notably, has been this price since 2007.
- Indicated that there may be a discussion re membership prices as prices increase externally.
- Tuesdays have undergone a successful shake-up – reinvented some of the Tuesday run formats. Pleased that that has been well attended.
- Keen to hear feedback on this.

#### **4.2. RACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Mark Crawford**

- Course change for the TT due to safety concerns, this came with challenges but still went through the necessary processes quickly.
- Added new things: U20 categories, catering @ TT. Increased volumes at both races. Especially looking to increase Tay Ten numbers this year. Running out of room at BB. Prize money went up. Dropped chip timing but no complaints from anybody, continued to use Webscorer which worked well. Added trophies to the BB. Now have record prizes to age categories.
- Equal of races of their size and bigger across Scotland.
- Brought in ~£2,700 across both races.
- Very best male runners in Scotland come to take part in BB.
- The challenge is making BB well known within ladies field, whilst still wanting to keep the races friendly.
- Challenges for this coming year: growing TT to same standard as BB; worried about road closure along back straight for safety (£3-5,000 expense) - on notice for this; race inclusion (disability and gender inclusion).

#### **4.3. CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANISER'S REPORT – Alan Rigby**

- Thanks to everybody who took part, participation went up.
- Race Series Winners:
  - o Championship: Liz Johnston and Michael McConnell
  - o Hills Are Alive: Lynn Gatherer and Elliot Collins
  - o Summer Series: Lorraine MacPherson and Gordon Lindsay.
- The numbers up in Championship, but HAA and Summer Series stay lower than previous years.
- Question posed to club: If you are not taking part in these, what would make you participate? Send Alan an email with suggestions.

#### **4.4. TREASURER'S REPORT – Dean Abberley**

- Within the Tay Ten and Brig Bash, extra investments have been made (radios/webscorer).
- Invested in more coaches and first aid training.
- Track and XC expenditure hasn't changed all that much.
- Has been a strong year financially.
- Gift Aid has been claimed for two years.
- Effects of inflation and cost of living hasn't been felt by the club, have managed any increases.
- Finances are posted on the internet, so drop Dean a message if any questions re finances.

**Mark Crawford**

- A thanks to Dean for his work as treasurer due to him keeping so on top of his role.
- Membership fees have been consistently £15. These would be £33 if we tracked inflation.
- Want them to be as low as possible to be no real barrier to people joining the club, but do need to maintain a fee so that there is a value to participating.
- Club draws in £6,000-£7,000 every year, whilst spending the same.
- Club made about £2,700 on both BB and TT and also received a donation.
- Biggest chunk of expenditure is SA fees: £7.00/head.
- The club exists for its running, so should pay the fees for track/XC. Mark posed the question, however, of subsidising this fee.
- Presentation evening is a big chunk of the expenditure.
- The costs look reasonably stable, but if they grow, how does the club manage this? Possibility of putting membership fees up: would like to avoid this.
- If more people are training/XC – expenditure will go up.
- **Club is on notice for the possibility that membership fees may have to go up for the first time since 06/07.**
- Membership fees of other clubs in Scotland were *shown (we are very low, almost bottom of table)*. Puts it into context of how cheap PRR is as a club.
- There is always the possibility of fluctuation in income from running club races (TT/BB).
- Still at a good price point for the races, and invested heavily in these this year, so should be able to make better margins still this coming year.
- Volunteer request: we need volunteers to be able to run these races and receive this income.

#### **VOLUNTEER PLEA - Kenny Cairns**

- Tay Ten: May 4<sup>th</sup> (week later than usual).
- Really important that the club supports this as it does sell out every year, local clubs are putting it in their championships.
- Need to make sure we have the numbers of volunteers (60).
- Don't see enough people responding – **please** respond either way.
- Shouldn't be in the position to require the Police Youth Volunteers.

#### **MEMBERSHIP FIGURES – Mark Crawford**

- Showed membership figures, continue to climb moving away from covid year.
- Age category figures: Seniors have increased in number with a good many 20- and 30-year olds having joined the club.
- Trying to encourage a younger membership into the club as younger members help to sustain racing and race series.
- Average age has dropped by the over 4 years.

### **Attendee Discussion :**

#### **Neil Muir**

- *We should be considering increasing our membership fee when looking at local clubs.*
- *Had considered putting a proposal forward to raise club fees.*
- *Would suggest £20 (open to discussion)*
- *Would encourage committee to propose this next year, however, membership wouldn't increase until 2026 if discussed.*
- *Still not unreasonable cost for the BB for all that it offers.*
- *If club can be pro-active and raise now, it will probably be a number of years before we need to consider another raise.*
- *Wanted to congratulate the committee for the way money is being invested.*

#### **Kenneth Stewart:**

- *why are the prices going up at other clubs and are they offering something we're not?*

#### **Lynn Gatherer:**

- *higher number of track fees. PRR absorb the track fees currently due to it being low numbers.*

#### **Rhona Younger:**

- *if we lose a race (eg due to weather) it is good to have the buffer.*
- *Possibility of subsidising lower income community in membership fees – being able to put money aside to keep their fee less.*

#### **Mark Crawford:**

- *Not keen on having a non-level structure to membership fees.*

#### **Stewart Reid:**

- *Gift Aid reminder.*

### **5. JEAN WAINWRIGHT SALVER – Ronnie Glen**

- Karen Walters gave an overview who Jean Wainwright was and why she was important to the club.
- Refer to Archive on website for a lot of the history surrounding Jean.
- Originally for the most adventurous marathon, changed to be exceptional services/anything outstanding to the club.
- The memory of Jean may fade over time, but we continue to pay tribute to her because she was an inspiration to the club, particularly women within the club.

### **Honourable mentions:**

Peter Ritchie – in a bid to run every half-marathon in Scotland (just under 100)

Lynn Gatherer: added Buttermere and Glen Clova Xtreme duathlon to her list.

Michael Wardlaw – completed 50 marathons within 11 years.

Clive Bowman – Glencoe Marathon

Elliot Collins – West Highland Way

Aga Mroczkowska – Man vs Coast

Duncan Ryan – pacing exploits at London & New York marathons

**Winner: Maria Dale** – completed Tokyo in 2024 (4:15) and 6 Marathon Major finisher. Ran 3:54 in Sydney marathon (first sub-4).

#### **6. MOST IMPROVED RUNNERS – Alan Rigby & Richard Ward**

Highly commended:

Alan Bothwell (PBs across the board)

Kev Riddell

Elliot Collins

Willie Laing

**Winner: Dean Abberley**

Highly commended:

Rhiannon Laing

Ann Reid

Sonjia Crow

Lorraine MacPherson

Maria Dale

**Winner: Liz Johnston**

#### **7. CLUB PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**

Members voted on the night

Runner Ups: Clive Bowman, Mark Crawford and Roy Mitchell

**Winner: Duncan Ryan**

#### **8. LONDON MARATHON BALLOT – Ronnie Glen**

Winner: **Michael Wardlaw**

Reserve: Andrew Miller

#### **9. PROPOSALS – None.**

**Discussion (Mark Crawford): Race Series**

- Number in Championship is waning and would like to get that back.
- Do we need to change the nature of the Championship, and perhaps the Summer Series?
- Opening up a discussion for the next 12 months to get an idea of where this change needs to be.
- The committee will begin the discussions and put some ideas forward, but won't be able to change anything without the club's help.

## 10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair: Mark Crawford** (Neil Muir proposer, Ronnie Glen seconder)

**Vice Chair: Ronnie Glen** (Veronica Muir proposer, Kev Riddell seconder)

**Secretary: Paige Brown** (Fabienne Thompson proposer, Fiona Angus seconder)

**Treasurer: Charles Woodhead** (Grant Wooler proposer, Clive Bowman seconder)

**Champs Organiser (shared): Alan Rigby** (Liz Johnston proposer, Fabienne Thompson seconder) & **Mike Dales (HAA)** (Fiona Manson proposer, Stewart Reid seconder)

**Race Organiser (shared): Mark Crawford** (Dougie Robertson proposer, Kenny Cairns seconder) & **Kenny Cairns** (Gillian McGuire proposer, Mike Dales seconder)

**Race Committee New Members (not voted):** Rhona Barclay, Liz Johnston, Gillian McGuire, Tom Rhodes new to committee.

**Website Organiser: Tom Rhodes** (Charles Woodhead proposer, Stewart Reid seconder)

**Coach Liaison (not voted): Richard Ward**

**Welfare: David Stokoe** (Stewart Dallas proposer, Neil Muir seconder)

**Kit & Clothing: Stewart Reid** (James Fotheringham proposer, Kev Riddell seconder)

**Membership Co-ordinator: Clive Bowman** (Gordon Lindsay proposer, Dougie Robertson seconder)

**Press Officer (shared): Liz Johnston** (Fiona Angus proposer, Gillian McGuire seconder) & **Kenny Cairns** (James Waldie proposer, Rhona Younger seconder)

### IMPORTANT DATES

- WpR challenge underway.
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- Foodbank run 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Run to York Place with donations. Request for an indication of numbers.
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- Yahoo 10<sup>th</sup> December: inviting guests, two tributes from KRR and DRR. Possible recce run on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December / 8<sup>th</sup> December.
- Xmas evening: 21<sup>st</sup> December. May still be places.
- 
- Annual Presentation Dinner Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: change of venue, Black Watch Museum.
- 
- 40<sup>th</sup> year of the club, may link up with KRR to celebrate.
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- DRR vs PRR parkrun Mob Match – Perth parkrun Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- 
- Mike Dales – Emirates Indoor Track Date – 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## **11. AOB**

Clive Bowman – Automatic membership roll over: general consensus for Clive to look into it.

Neil Muir – Many thanks to Committee members and volunteers across the year.

Fiona Angus – appreciation for the work Clive has done for Tuesday nights, but still room for improvement with varying levels of abilities, how do we make room for new people that are in between speed groups. Mention of a rota for a meet and greet. Clive happy to try and resurrect that format. Consider the distance that new runners are able to run. Consider programmes such as couch to 5k.

Mark thanked committee and race committee; XC captains (Kev and Fabienne); Maria and Finlay Dale thanked for their shed as a storage space; to organisers of the internal events; Fiona Manson for Hartley; coaches and coaching assistants – Kev Riddell stepping down.

21:00 meeting closed.