

# **Runfurther Ltd. Annual General Meeting**

**4.00 p.m. 14 November 2015**

**The Pendle Inn, Barley**

## **Members Present:**

Stewart Bellamy, Si Berry, Chris Davies, Andrew Ellwood, Carmine de Grandis, Nick Ham, Kevin Hoult, Sally Howarth, Bill Johnson, Steven Jones, Elise Milnes, Linda Murgatroyd, Barney Nikolich, Nicholas Olszewski, David Ralphs, Kayleigh Ralphs, Andy Robinson, Dick Scroop, Michael Sellors, Kevin Smith, Ken Sutor, Ian Symington, Martin Terry, David Williams.

## **Others in attendance:**

Rosie Delamare, Steve Foster, Adrienne Olszewska, Margaret Ralphs, Georgie Roberts

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted and accepted from:

Nigel Aston, Alison Brind, Janet Hill, Bob Nash, Karen Nash, Peter Stubbs, John Vernon

## **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 29 November 2014 were **agreed** as a true record.

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda

## **3. Chair's Report**

Andy reported that the existing committee had seen Runfurther through its first two years and felt it was now running successfully. We had established very good relationships with race organisers. The only problems encountered in relation to races had been where there had been clashes of sponsors which meant that one or two races in the series this year were effectively ruled out for future years. The members present endorsed this part of the report indicating they were happy with how things had gone.

He apologised for the absence of a slide show due to the lack of availability of equipment and, on behalf of Nick, for the absence of the promised cake that was still in Nick's fridge!

203 runners had signed up for Runfurther of whom 86 had run two races in the current or previous year (82 last year) and therefore qualified as members. 32 had run a minimum of 4 races and therefore qualified for the Giraffe neckwear (27 last year but well down on the peak of 71 5 years ago before the re-forming of the company).

We had worked well with 5 sponsors through the year but had now lost three of these for reasons external to Runfurther, more details of this were included in his written report. Up until a couple of days ago this left us with just Injinji and Ultimate Direction but these were joined yesterday by Pete Bland Sports who will be well known to most at the meeting. He urged those present to buy their running needs through Pete Bland, as many indicated they already did. He indicated the Committee would continue to seek additional sponsors through the coming year.

Andy then raised the need for us to raise the profile of Runfurther by improved publicity and there followed a general discussion on this theme with many helpful suggestions from members present. In particular it was felt that the changes to our Facebook page restricted access to it in a way that discouraged participation by losing other input and involvement. Providing more open access it was felt would significantly spread the word about Runfurther and it was **agreed** that this, along with other publicity related options would be a priority from the committee though they would need people with more internet skills than some of us had at the moment, an issue we should consider when appointing additional committee members later in the meeting.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

A written summary of the report was distributed. For the year ending 31 October 2015 outgoings exceeded income by £64 producing an end of year balance to £1010 (2014 - £1074). With the reduction in the number of sponsors we will need to be careful in the coming year but basically our finances are sound. There will be a significant saving on indemnity insurance that we will no longer need. We do not organise races and it was only taken out to satisfy Clif Bars who will not be sponsoring us next year.

Nick expressed his thanks to Kevin Hault for the preparation of accounts that meet our legal obligations.

The report **was accepted** by the meeting

#### **5. Election of Officers**

The existing officers were **nominated and elected unopposed:**

**Chair - Andy Robinson** - proposed by Kevin Hault, seconded by Carmine de Grandis.

**General Secretary - Karen Nash** - proposed by Steven Jones, seconded by Chris Davies.

**Assistant Secretary - Dick Scroop** - proposed by Sally Howarth, seconded by Ken Suter

**Treasurer - Nick Ham** - proposed by Bill Johnson, seconded by Ian Symington

The Chair then invited other members to stand for the two remaining vacancies to help share the burden of work and to fill gaps in the skills of existing committee members particularly in relation to publicity and computer skills.

Two members were **nominated and elected unopposed:**

**Carmine de Grandis** – proposed by Nicholas Olszewski, seconded by Andy Ellwood.

**Barney Nikolich** – proposed by Martin Terry, seconded by Nick Ham.

**Mike Sellors** also indicated he would be willing to help out and Andy indicated he would ask the new committee to co-opt Mike which he was sure they would agree to do. Up to three members can be co-opted and he urged others to consider getting involved by contacting a committee member.

## **6. Election of Honorary Members**

Andy outlined the provision in the Articles for the appointment of honorary members for 5-year terms. This was intended to recognise people who had provided exceptional support to Runfurther and provide them with an opportunity to be formally involved in our work. He outlined the exemplary contribution that **Jon Steele** and **Brett Weeden** had made as stout supporters of Runfurther since it was set up in its present form. In particular they had helped to promote Runfurther in the areas and races in which they were involved and had given financial support.

The proposal from the committee that Jon Steele and Brett Weeden be elected as honorary members was **agreed** unopposed.

## **7. Review of 2015 races**

Andy gave a brief review of the 2015 races. This included a mention of a number of exceptional performances by Runfurther members: First man and first woman at Calderdale (Ian Symington and Karen Nash); Jasmin Paris's (not RF) new women's course record at the Fellsman; new course records at Three Rings of Shap for Ken Sutor and Karen Nash, both by over an hour; at the 10 Peaks Lakes Stewart Bellamy 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nicky Spinks 3<sup>rd</sup> (new women's record) Mary Gillie 4<sup>th</sup>; Ken Sutor 1<sup>st</sup> at Bradwell, and Kim England (not RF) taking half an hour off the women's record at the Hardmoors 60.

The only negative in this year's programme had been the organisational problems at the Ox – problems with marshalling on the course and many inaccuracies with timings that had to be sorted out over succeeding days.

## **8. The 2016 race series**

The chair circulated the 2016 race programme which he indicated was now up on the website and indicated that 5 of these were already open for entries. A number of races we had wanted to include were not there –because they clashed with other races or arrangements for them had not been finalised early enough or because of clashes of sponsors. He singled out for special mention the races new to Runfurther: the Pennine 39; St. Cuthbert's Way; 10 Peaks Brecon Beacons; and Warrington Way. All of which were very worthy additions and held out the prospect of some great racing.

He noted that we had been unable to include a Lake District race this year and only half a Scottish race, omissions we would seek to remedy next year but there could be no promises as putting together a programme was not easy. Various options were suggested for future years, most of which were known to the Committee but members were invited to continue to feed in suggestions. There was some feeling from the meeting that we should try to include more races in the south but also some opposition to this because of the travel issues. There was discussion of some of the problems with races in the SE in particular (commercial races/sponsors/ expensive/filling up early/etc).

## **9. Points scoring system**

Discussion centred on two related issues. Should women be awarded points in relation to the time of the overall winner or in relation to the first women and should women's points be

included in a joint table as at present or in a separate table as in the past. There were a range of views expressed on all the options including drawing attention to the effect of possible changes on the Team competition. After considerable debate it was **agreed** to continue with the existing system of separate calculation of points displayed in a single table. There were 5 votes against this with the rest being in agreement.

## **10 . Any other business**

- a) There was discussion about the prizes for completing 4 counters. It was **agreed** that next year Giraffe neckwear would be presented to those who had not won one this year and t-shirts to those who had already had the neckwear.
- b) There was a brief discussion on the question of 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance discussed earlier and the committee confirmed that we were not currently planning to renew it.
- c) Dick Scroop gave a brief report on his accident in the Lakes 10 Peaks race in which he broke his pelvis. He particularly wanted to put on record his thanks to John Vernon with whom he had been running at the time and had been a huge help immediately after the fall and stayed with him until he was carried off. Also to the race organisers who had been quickly on the spot and to both Wasdale and Cockermouth Mountain Rescue who had got him off the mountain and into hospital. The work of both Mountain Rescue Teams was exemplary.

In addition he took the opportunity to remind all runners of the importance of carrying a lightweight bivi bag in all such races and, just as importantly in training when you would often be alone. He had never thought he would have an injury but he had and the fact that he had the bivi made a huge differences and, if the weather had been worse, could have been life saving. Skimping for the sake of 120 grams was simply not worth it.

Signed R Scroop, Assistant Secretary

Date: 21.11.2015