

Dumfries Harriers AGM
Monday 8th November 2021
Nunholm Sports Bar

Present: Jane Lenza, Willie Martin, Dougie Kerr, Nicky Wood, Carolyn Davis, Keith Ainsley, Carol Elliot, Gordon Patterson, Liz Kerr, Fiona Nelson, Jason Little, Lynn Goodwin, Gordon Kerr, Alistair

Apologies: Chris Wood, Steve Head , Gordon Stewart, Christine Proudfoot, Bill & Jen, Colin Ferguson, Andy Goodwin, Alex Bryson, Jane Gilchrist, Gillian Ainslie, Daz Wilson, Linda Stewart

Jane Lenza opened the meeting, this being the 1st AGM since November 2019 due to Covid-19.

Chairpersons Report - none this year

Secretary's report (submitted by Steve Head and read out by Jane Lenza.

Firstly my apologies for not being able to attend. Report will be a little different this year, but hopefully give you some food for thought.

Without doubt my first task is to offer all those who served for an extended period of time on the committee a massive thank you. While to most the club will have seemed dormant for long periods of time, there were still many jobs that had to be performed to keep the club alive. I would especially like to thank Nicky and her team for putting on the virtual Doonhamer 10k/club championship and Carolyn, who stepped up to the plate and took on the onerous role of Covid Co-ordinator; without Carolyn's efforts our club runs could not have taken place.

I would like to think that as we look to the next year, we as a club grasp the opportunity of a fresh start and look to re-club, with new ideas and initiatives and with fresh faces becoming more involved. It is true to say that during the last 26 years many of the things that have been put in place for the structure and running of the club are there to meet the requirements of governing bodies, our own financial well-being and the benefit of the sport. That being said, there are still vast opportunities for change.

To get the club to where we are at present it has mostly relied upon a gallant few, who have built many aspects of the club. As several are now taking a much deserved break it is down to others to pick up where they have left off and I hope for some great ideas coming forward from the new committee in the coming months.

Treasurers Report.

Balance in TSB Bank £8606.75 on the 04/10/2021. Willie did not have the previous years accounts to be signed off.

He advised that the account is getting changed to more modern one with access via online banking- He will take this forward asap.

The only income the club has received, is from membership fees as no events have taken place.

The main outgoings are to Scottish Athletics for Subs and SAL.

Nicky broke even on medals she had for Doonhamer Virtual Race in 2020.

Membership Report

Dougie reports that there are 56 current full members and No Jog Scotland. It is forecast that we will lose memberships come the new year with some current members having already joined new clubs.

Jog Scotland

Jog Scotland leaders Nicky, Willie, Carolyn and Dougie took the decision to give up Jog Scotland nights in December 2020 due to the majority of the current role, being ready to make the transfer to club training nights. The club gained 8 new members from this group who are still attending club nights regularly.

Steve has proposed the reintroduction of Jog Scotland in the new year (on a Thursday) if there are enough members willing to take on a leaders role and help out.

Out of the current Jog Leaders, only Willie and Steve Head willing to continue to do it next year.

More Jog Scotland volunteers are needed. Frank Stewart and Liz Kerr showed interest in becoming Jog Leaders on the night and this will also be offered to members who did not attend.

Club race report

The virtual races held in 2020 broke even with expenses after medals had been purchased for the Mabie 10K and Doonhamer 10K in advance. The cost to enter the virtual race was £5. Which covered the cost of the medal, Entry Central fee and postage.

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson - Jane Lenza (Proposed Nicky Wood, Seconded Emma Knowles)

Secretary- Steve Head (Last Year in post) (Proposed Jane Lenza, Seconded Dougie Kerr)

Treasurer- Willie Martin (Proposed Nicky Wood, Seconded Carol Elliot)

Membership Secretary- Dougie Kerr (Proposed Nicky Wood, Seconded Keith Ainslie)

Race Director- Nicky Wood has stepped down and the position is now vacant.

Coach - Steve Head

Jog Scotland - Steve Head & Willie Martin (Proposed Jane Lenza, Seconded Dougie Kerr)

Welfare & Child Protection Officer - Emma Knowles (Proposed Willie Martin, Seconded Gordon Paterson)

Grand Prix Coordinator - Jane Lenza (Proposed Liz Kerr, Seconded Willie Martin)

Trail & Hill Coordinator – The members in attendance at the meeting agreed that as we no longer have many members taking part in hill and trail races then this would be removed from the roles.

Social Secretary - Nicky Wood (Proposed Willie Martin, Seconded Jane Lenza)

Ladies Captain - Nicky Wood (Proposed Dougie Kerr, Seconded Emma Knowles)

Men's Captain - Dougie Kerr (Proposed Nicky Wood, Seconded Willie Martin)

Media Rep – Carolyn Davis has stepped down and the position is now vacant

Club Kit Coordinator - Carolyn Davies (Proposed Jane Lenza, Seconded Dougie Kerr)

Club Website IT Coordinator - Jason Little (Proposed Keith Ainslie, Seconded Dougie Kerr)

Club Championship 2022

After a brief discussion the members agreed on the proposed Race: The Gelston 5 Mile Road Race, being the Club Championship race in 2022. This is depending on whether it goes ahead due to COVID restrictions however the aim is to keep it to a local shorter race.

Membership Fees 2022

After an in-depth discussion, the general feeling of the meeting was that standard membership should remain at £10 per annum for this year, while we are facing ongoing COVID restrictions around events, and that the SAL Membership should continue to be £21. Some members felt that while the club has a healthy bank balance, the cost to the members should not be increased.

The changes were proposed by Keith Ainsley, seconded by Gordon Patterson.

Membership Fees agreed to be £10 and £21 (Sal)

Covid Restrictions

Nicky & Carolyn explained about club runs needing to take down a register to keep in line with Scottish Athletics COVID guidance. There was extensive discussion around how this should be managed so as not to take up so much time. It was agreed that we would continue to use Facebook to take a register and club members would sign up before the night. If they need to cancel, they can do so on the same post.

Nicky will contact SA to find out what restrictions are in place surrounding the use of our Facebook to organise runs out with club nights for insurance purposes.

Routes for club nights will be a set 4 or 5 routes arranged by Dougie Kerr and Nicky Wood and posted on the website and club Facebook page.

Club Members are keen for guidance for structured training sessions from the club coach. As Steve was not present, this could not be discussed any further but will be revisited at the next committee meeting if he is in attendance.

Club members in attendance raised concern about the number of current non-members still on the Facebook page. It was agreed non-members should be removed from the Facebook group as soon as possible.

Santa Dash

This year's Xmas Santa Dash will take place on Tuesday 21st December at 6pm leaving from David Keswick Centre. Dougie has enough suits left from previous years and the members will be asked to make a donation to the club charity fund for this.

Grand Prix/Handicap

Jane informed the meeting that Grand Prix 2022 would retain the same format as previous years, with similar events being listed with a focus on more local races. This may change due to COVID restrictions.

Social Events

Nicky will look to arrange a Xmas meet up for club members in the next few weeks. A vote will be taken via Facebook for the best date for everyone and most popular will go ahead. Members felt the previous set up of heading to Robert the Bruce throughout the day as a drop in would be the preferred format.

Club Kit

Carolyn informed the meeting that apart from Club Vests and Club race T-Shirts, the club has very little in the way of Club Kit to offer members. Nicky suggested Carolyn could update the album "Club Kit" in the Facebook group to keep members informed.

Any other business

Two emails from current members were read out and points & suggestions that had not already been discussed were raised.

- Facebook - seems to only be used for posting weekly runs, email suggests that maybe could encourage more use of it. Nicky advised she would get more clarity on what can be posted within it due to current restrictions.
- Member has requested hill reps or sprint reps to be added into the occasional club run. We discussed that this need to be arranged by the club coach for insurance purposes. To be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- Member asked why there was no Club Championship this year- Nicky stated that as she had stepped down from the race organiser's role, she was not willing to undertake this again as she had done in 2020. For these types of events to go ahead we need willing members to step up and organise them.
- Members have requested that committee meeting details (time and date of meeting and minutes post meeting) be shared with members to allow them to come along if they wish and to keep up to date with what is happening. Current members may not understand what the committee does and it should be open to people to just come along without taking on a role.
- Website – members feel it requires to be updated. Jason has requested that members let him know what they want the website to look like. Suggestions and improvements can be sent to Jason via email. The onus is on the club members to take ownership of the website and Jason is not responsible for designing this.
- Club nights- Concern was raised around the number of members not looping back on dark nights. Club members in attendance at club runs will be reminded of this by Dougie and Nicky.
- Committee Vacant Roles- It was discussed that current committee roles would be put to the club members who did not attend the AGM via Facebook. Previous committee members have been asked to pull together some job descriptions of what the role entails and try and entice some new members in. Nicky suggested that jobs can be shared roles too so no pressure to take on a role on their on.
- Member question- Monthly running competitions- Is there scope for monthly running competitions just to keep people motivated, most steps in a month, most miles/kms covered, highest elevation, most running activities achieved in a month, could be small prizes up for grabs, fastest times, most national running events attended. This was discussed and again this needs someone to take it on. At present the current committee has enough to undertake so anyone willing to take it on would be most welcomed.

Committee meeting

Next committee meeting date tbc and members informed.