



## The Fell Runners Association Limited

Provisional until 2025 AGM

Minutes of 2024 AGM

Village Hall, Chapel Stile | 12 October 2024

### **Preliminary matters**

Reference below to “articles” refer to the FRA’s articles of association (“the articles”) which are linked from the ‘Documents’ page on the FRA website ( [www.fellrunner.org.uk/ articles](http://www.fellrunner.org.uk/articles) ).

### **Attendance and Apologies**

The annual general meeting (“AGM”) of The Fell Runners Association Limited (“the FRA”, “the Company”) for 2024 was held on the afternoon of 12th October 2024, chaired by James Parsons, FRA Secretary. The format followed that prescribed by articles 13-21. The meeting was attended by thirteen (13) members of the FRA. Apologies were received from twelve (12) other members; the majority of these had submitted a proxy voting form, of which a total of nine (9) had been received and verified. The meeting was therefore quorate under article 13. The Secretary thanked all those in attendance.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The previous AGM had been held on the 4th November 2023 in the Shepherd’s Rest Inn, Todmorden. The minutes had been circulated to attendees shortly thereafter and had been made available for inspection on the FRA website, with no queries having arisen nor amendments made.

**Resolution:** The motion to approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM was passed.

### **Ordinary resolutions**

#### **Chairman’s report**

The Chairman briefly summarised his annual report, which had been made available in full on the FRA website prior to the AGM.

The Chairman noted that the finances were in great shape and that membership is continuing to slowly rise; it was noted that female membership now stands at just over 24% and continues to trend upward, in line with increased female participation at races. Inclusion, access and environmental concerns remain the most significant topics for the FRA to deal with in the coming years.

The Chairman signaled his future intention to resign from the role at the next AGM as he will by then have served for 3 years.

**Resolution:** The motion to approve the Chairman's report was passed unanimously.

### **Treasurers report and 2023 accounts**

The FRA accounts and balance sheet for 2023 were made available on the FRA's website prior to the AGM.

Total income had increased marginally from the previous year. At the end of the year there are net reserves of £164,036, an approximate £12,000 increase on last year and a very healthy balance sheet position.

**Resolution:** The motion to approve the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

### **Election of Officers for 2023-2024**

Nominations for the committee positions had been posted on the FRA website along with the meeting agenda in accordance with articles 22 and 23. The nominations for Secretary, Website Officer, Junior Co-Ordinator / Junior Championship and Membership Representatives were elected unopposed.

**Resolution:** Election of Officers as follows:

- General Secretary : Mike Tyrie (Delamere Spartans)
- Website Officer : Colin Bergstrand (Delamere Spartans)
- Junior Co-Ordinator / Junior Championship : James Parsons (Helm Hill Runners )
- Membership Representative : Caroline Lambert (Keswick AC)
- Membership Representative : Doni Clarke (Todmorden Harriers)

The Chairman noted that the new committee was approximately 50% female, which we should be proud of.

### **Establishment of co-opted roles**

In accordance with article 24 the Chairman proposed to extend by a further year the co-option of Charmian Heaton as Commercial Officer and Olga Wood as Communications Officer.

**Resolution:** The motion to approve the co-opted roles was passed unanimously.

The full FRA Committee, including co-opted roles is included at Appendix 1.

### **Vote of thanks for outgoing officers**

The Chairman thanked everyone who had served on the Committee for the past year. This included James Parsons as General Secretary, Jamie McIlvenny as Website Officer, Scout Adkin as Membership Representative and Charmian Heaton who has been extensively involved supporting the Juniors.

### **Informal discussion**

Following the AGM an open discussion about fell running took place between all present, in accordance with article 16. A record of the discussion is published at Appendix 2.

**Date of next meeting**

The date of the next AGM will be published in due course on the FRA website, Facebook Page and Fellrunner magazine but is likely to be October or November 2025.

Original Signed

Mike Tyrie

General Secretary

The Fell Runners Association

17th October 2024

## Appendix 1: FRA Committee 2024-2025

Following the resolutions passed at the AGM, the FRA Committee for 2024-2025 will comprise of the following personnel:

### FRA Committee 2024-2025

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Chairman                                | Stuart Ferguson (Northumberland Fell Runners)  |
| General Secretary                       | Mike Tyrrie (Delamere Spartans)  |
| Treasurer                               | Simon Long (Saltwell Harriers)   |
| Membership Secretary                    | Patrick McIver (Howgill Harriers)  |
| Fixtures Secretary                      | Andy McMurdo (Pennine Fell Runners)  |
| Magazine Co-ordination                  | Judith Cole (Settle Harriers)  |
| Race Liaison Officer (Lead)             | Clive Thornton (Esk Valley Fell Club)  |
| Website Officer                         | Colin Bergstrand (Delamere Spartans)   |
| Environment and Access Officer          | Kathryn Miller (Clayton-Le-Moors Harriers)   |
| Junior Co-Ordinator                     | James Parsons (Helm Hill Runners)  |
| International Selection Committee Chair | Duncan Richards (Helm Hill Runners)  |
| Coaching and Education Co-Ordinator     | Nicky Spinks (Dark Peak Fell Runners)  |
| Championships Co-Ordinator              | Nic Barber (Helm Hill Runners)   |
| Welfare Officer                         | Julie Carter (Gateshead Harriers)  |
| Liaison to other Athletics Bodies       | Nic Barber (Helm Hill Runners)   |
| Membership Representatives              | Ben Abdelnoor (Ambleside AC)<br>Kelli Roberts (Helm Hill Runners)<br>Caroline Lambert (Keswick AC)<br>Doni Clarke (Todmorden Harriers) |
| Commercial Officer (co-opted)           | Charmian Heaton (Ambleside AC)   |
| Communications Officer (co-opted)       | Olga Wood (Preston Harriers)   |

## **Appendix 2: Open discussion about fell running**

### **Incident Reporting**

The Chairman mentioned that work was well underway to launch an on-line Incident Reporting form which will be available from the home page of the FRA web site. The intention is to make the process easier and therefore encourage more reporting of incidents and near misses. These provide essential information to help inform improving the experience and safety of fell races.

### **Championships 2025**

Nic Barber spoke about the plans for 2025, with the full programme of events now in place.

Similarly, James Parsons, in-coming Junior Co-Ordinator, spoke through the events and dates for the junior champs races.

### **Key issues facing fell racing**

There was a general discussion that agreed that access, environmental concerns and inclusion were the main challenges facing fell racing.

On the topic of environmental concerns, Kathryn Miller, Environment and Access Officer, spoke about the agreement we have from David Broome to use (free of charge) an environmental impact assessment checklist. This will enable us to free up time from landowners where they are being expected to complete these and in some circumstances are refusing due to lack of time / resource.

Kathryn also spoke about Welsh Fell Runners who have added a document called "Climate change and environment guidance" to their website. This document makes a number of suggestions (not mandates or rules) for race organisers and participants to consider, covering such topics as environmental impact, travelling to races, re-cycling / re-use and campaigning. Whilst there was a consensus that it is not the role of the FRA to become an advocating body on climate change and the environment, it was recognised that we do have a stake and a role to perform, especially in areas such as making travel to races as sustainable as feasible.

In respect of inclusion, the Chairman noted that female participation continues to rise, although there is more to be done. In part, female participation has not had sufficient focus due to the recent priority given to transgender. On this subject, transgender continues to be an on-going issue, with further work to be done to protect the female category. This remains a key topic for athletic governing bodies in general, with the potential for more guidance on categories coming from UK Athletics in future.

The Chairman also noted that we are making really good progress on junior participation, with entry numbers up, year-on-year.

## **FRA planned developments**

As ever, the Handbook is due out by the end of the year. To be included with this year's Handbook, is the return of the (legendary?) car sticker! We hope members will like them.

As part of its environmental responsibility, the FRA is responding to requests from members to make the magazine available electronically. We are looking at making it available "on request" via an e-reader. More news on this in the future. Note, there are no plans to include the Handbook in this initiative and we plan for this to remain hardcopy only.

We are looking at developing our website to include "live feeds" from senior championship races next year.

It should be noted that once again, there is no rise in the annual subs for 2025. This is thanks to close management of our finances and the gradual rise of membership which means we remain in a strong financial position.

## **Rule changes**

There are some rule changes coming in for 2025. Two worthy of mention:

- Rankings in the "older age" categories (MV70, WV65 and any newly created higher age categories) can include a Long race.
- Removal of the requirement for there to be a minimum of 5 competitors in an individual age category (the so-called "meaningful competition" rule).