

## Chairmans Report 2013 – Dark Peak Fell Runners AGM

Paul advised before I took over as Chairman that there was very little to do. Circumstances have conspired to make this not so. As a result the committee generally have been busy. Most of the decisions that get made get shared largely amongst the committee and hopefully we get most of them right. We are all individually pretty good at focussing on where & when our next run is but we should all spare the odd word of thanks for their hard work. Many thanks from me.

I am not going to detail the running achievements at the sharp end for both individuals & teams for I feel they speak for themselves – well done. There is now a degree of diversity in terms of our club races that remain top quality – thanks to Nicky Spinks for her Summer & Winter Series, Dave Holmes for his Summer Sharpeners, Andy Harmer and Tim Tett (if we can claim them as “our” races) for his winter city races & orienteering events that are always focused & lots of fun. Apologies to those not mentioned & thanked. It is right there is some focus on Wednesday running from the Sportsman or one remote meeting place so that folk can meet up during or after a run. Equally the club is big enough, in my opinion, for the Away Warts to run from a second venue in our bigger more remote Dark Peak hills.

The biggest administrative change is the on going conversion to a Limited Company by Guarantee. Rob Moore, like the rest of us, has more productive things he can do at work and at home but our thanks must go to him for keeping the ball rolling. The principle has been voted on but there has been on going discussion within the committee to get the Articles right. Rob will no doubt report tonight but fingers crossed we are nearly there.

We are all aware of the access issues that we strive to adhere to. Bob Berzins, again with John Daltons help, maintains an Access section on the website via the Members tab. We all need to try to absorb this information because rest assured there folk out there are all too keen to make merry if we transgress. There is also a subject that is bubbling under regarding night running. Gone have the days when we had 6runners x 20Lumens – now more like 25 x 200Lumens. Running across semi agricultural land & through farm yards at night is sensitive and is on the radar of the Peak Park. Fortunately the issue is more on the Western Pennines & Hayfield at present & again Bob is on the case. Members should be aware that Bob, and John, spend time & effort going to Access & Stange Forum meetings & the like largely so that we can look after our interests – thanks both.

In line with guidance from the club I have discussed with Ian Fitzpatrick & Roy Gibson that they should budget for the Skyline & Burbage races, on the back of fag packet that is, to break even. Rather ironically the cancelled Skyline led to a substantial excess with many runners donating their entry fees. As a result Ian & DPFR have donated close on £2,000 to the Mountain Rescue and other amounts to the Edale Village School & Church roof. Roy also directs surplus cash to the Mountain Rescue & the Peak Park. Going forward the committee will probably have to make a decision as where to direct any surpluses as “competing” requests surface from the likes of local conservation concerns and more recently, via the FRA, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI).

It is a little bit of a concern that we still get new, and arguably not so new, people turn up with no kit & no idea of what to expect and the ethos of being self reliant. Myself, Mark Harvey & Ann Watmore have spent some time looking at this. Apologies to Ann & Mark for I have let this drop but with their help I intend to pick this up soon.

We have spent a little bit of money on a new laptop for John Dalton in support of his sterling work maintaining what seems to me to be the most functional website in fell running. Thanks also to Willy for his varied input on that front. We have also spent some money on the club hut with time & effort from Rob Cole, Roger Baumeister, Roy Small & illumination (doubles as a toaster / microwave?) in the ladies section from James Fulton & Sons. As no doubt Tim Hawley will advise money in the bank is down a little bit but this seems of no concern.

Thanks everybody.

Tom Westgate

AGM, 8 May 2013, Maynard Arms