

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AGM, JULY 2015

Introduction

This report highlights some aspects of the work of the Executive Committee since the 2014 AGM.

On your behalf we are grateful for the support of the whole Committee during the year and for the many hours they have spent ensuring the organisation functions smoothly. We would also like to give special thanks to the many race organisers and their teams. Without them fellrunning in England would not happen.

FRA Limited Accounts

The Treasurer's report gives full details of the accounts for 2014. Members will note the improvement in the financial position and, following the increase in the subscription rates agreed at the 2014 AGM, this will continue to improve in future years. From 2015 subscriptions moved away from the cumbersome Standing Order system and we would like to thank the membership for their support during the transition.

Safety in Fell Running

Safety within the sport will always be the first concern of the Committee. In 2014, following the Brian Belfield Inquest, revised requirements were introduced and for 2015 these were refined to make them more concise and easier to understand. These changes have been well received. Your Committee is, of course, made up of active fell runners and it has been heartening for us to observe at first-hand how race organisers have adopted and enhanced the new procedures including, for example, the greater use of FRA radios better to protect runners in the sport.

However, the acceptance of safety requirements is still resisted by a few runners and the Committee will continue to support race organisers in denying these individuals any opportunity to jeopardise the safety and wellbeing of the sport.

There was a serious incident on the Corridor Route during the 2014 Borrowdale Race. This was fully reported in *The Fellrunner* and prompted a new section in the FRA Handbook -*First On The Scene*- to advise runners how best to respond when faced with an incident.

Later this year the newly appointed Race Liaison Officers will start work and more details of their role will be published shortly in *The Fellrunner*.

Committee Activities

Your Committee includes many officers who dedicate their time and energy focused in a particular area, enhancing, introducing new initiatives, achieving new successes. One recent new initiative (April 2015) was an Emergency Wilderness First Aid Course which was subsidised by the FRA and achieved positive reports. Whether it is juniors, coaching, organising the championships, the Handbook & Calendar; **Committee members, sub-Committee members and other volunteers** just "get on with it" and their successes and achievements have been reported in *The Fellrunner*.

There is a risk that all this work is done so well that the efforts of these Officers might be taken for granted by the membership; which would be wrong.

Until the recent appointment of Chris Jones the FRA had been without an Access & Environment Officer for some time and the absence of anyone in this key role at a time of important discussions with the National Trust was a serious problem. It now seems that the access issues which faced the sport are resolvable but the experience has been a timely reminder that the sport can only survive if volunteers continue to come forward, year after year, to serve their fellow runners.

In this regard the Committee is proposing a Special Resolution that, amongst other things, will ensure that Committee vacancies arise more frequently than before so that more members can make their contribution and bring fresh ideas into the sport.

The Future

It is normal for the Chair of the FRA Committee to serve for 3 years. This Chair was appointed in 2012 when fell running was experiencing a crisis. Continuing the pattern of the last 45 years, the FRA has worked to overcome the issues, growing stronger in the process, which will serve it well in resolving current and future problems for the good of the sport.

Madeleine Watson Chair / Nick Harris Secretary

July 2015