

## **Lake District Mountain Trial Association**

### **55th Annual General Meeting**

Held at Wilf's Cafe, Staveley on Friday 29 November 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: 37 members and observers

#### **1. Apologies**

John Nettleton, Mike Hind, Wendy Dodds, Ali Bramall.

#### **2. Welcome**

Edwin Coope, the president, welcomed those attending and thanked Ann Smith for agreeing to take the minutes for the meeting in the absence of a General Secretary. This year's trial had been organised by David Wolfendale and the high standards which the association always tried to achieve were maintained. The courses set by Dan and Karen Parker and controlled by Mike Hind were as challenging as ever and the increased level of entries achieved last year was repeated - due in no small way to the initiatives introduced by Committee. He thanked all who had contributed in any way to the organisation and staging of the Trial, which had returned to Stool End Farm, Great Langdale, for the first time since 1996. Tenants Keith and Jean Rowand remained as helpful as ever. He was pleased to say that the association's financial position remained stable due substantially to the continued support of the Trial's principal sponsor Lyon Equipment, for which he expressed his thanks to Ben Lyon.

#### **3. Minutes of the 54th AGM**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Simon Filmore, seconded by Elizabeth Rocke and signed off by Edwin Coope.

#### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Mountain Trial Event Reports**

- a. **Organiser's Report.** David Wolfendale outlined the main points of his report which appears in full on the LDMTA website
  - i) This year's Trial, the 65th, was held on 15th September at Stool End Farm which provided good access and parking. With the kind cooperation of hosts Keith and Jean Rowand, a barn was used for competitor registration and download.
  - ii) Lyon Equipment remained the Trial's principal sponsor through its La Sportiva brand.
  - iii) Permits for land access were sought from landowners The National Trust and Lowther Estates.
  - iv) Regular supporters providing services for the event included Podium -

Catering; Raynet - Communications; Pete Bland Sports - Mobile shop for equipment sales; Derek Allison - First Aid; Sportident - Timing and Results (Andrew Leaney); Lakes Loos.

v) Entries were managed by David Rosen. From 270 entries, 229 started and 207 completed their courses.

vi) Courses were planned by Dan and Karen Parker, who also prepared the competition maps. Trial controller was Mike Hind.

vii) Weather on the day was kind after overnight rain and high winds.

viii) Prizes were sponsored by La Sportiva, Pete Bland Sports, YHA and LDMTA.

ix) A number of regular and first time volunteers provided assistance on the day - 14 on the field and 5 at check points.

x) The Classic course was won by Neil Talbott (Ambleside AC) in a time of 4.36.23 with Hollie Orr (Black Combe Runners) first lady home in 5.40.43 and 20th place. Zoe Harding (Edinburgh Univ. H&H) was the impressive outright winner on the Medium course in 3.15.34. Ben Kent (Helm Hill) was overall winner on the Short Course in 2.28.08 and won the Harry Chapman trophy for first Under 21. First pair was Kirsty Bryan-Jones / Euan Patton (Dark Peak) in 2.58.10.

b. **Planners' Report.** On behalf of himself and Karen, Dan Parker summarised their report which appears in full on the LDMTA website.

i) Three courses were provided: Classic: 27.2 km; Medium: 19.0km; Short: 12.6 km.

ii) All courses were planned using 15 control sites. Bad Weather courses were available, but not used. They allowed for some low-level routes to be taken, missed out the rockiest terrain and avoided the potentially problematic crossing of the River Esk.

iii) All the map preparation was done by the planners using the Harvey Map. Scales used for the course maps were the largest that would fit on an A3 sheet. This resulted in the Classic using 1:30000, Medium 1:25000 and Short 1:20000.

iv) The Classic course provided significant route choice on most legs with Routegadget indicating that a large number of different routes were taken (including some we had not even thought of). Post-race comments indicated that competitors found it tough, though both the winning time and average of the top 5 times lie very much in the middle range when compared to the last 10 years.

v) It was slightly disappointing that, as far as we could tell, no-one on the Short course set off along Mickleden before climbing up Grunting Gill to the first checkpoint. The route everyone took headed up The Band then dropping or contouring into the control. Mickleden was also intended to be a viable route for the Medium course, before heading up Rossett Gill and through Hanging Knotts to Ore Gap, but as far as we are aware only one person did this (or a variant on this).

vi) There were 2 manned controls with timeouts specified, one for just the Classic and Medium courses and the other for all 3 courses.

vii) There were a few comments about the technical difficulty of some controls – eg. “small orienteering-style reentrants”. Initially we had more controls on obvious hill tops but in consultation with the controller, we then felt these could be unfair because competitors tend to stop after dibbing, giving the site away to those approaching. Having said that, on another occasion we’d probably aim to use fewer orienteering-style controls in order to stay closer to the tradition of the event where route choice is more important than technical navigation.

viii) A number of competitors on the Classic got back to the finish after course closing time (17:00). The majority were just over time and were allowed to finish, with the last completed trial at 17.24. However, 3 competitors got back after 18.00, with the last one arriving at 18.45. The problem was exacerbated by communication problems.

- c. **Controller’s and Marshal Coordinator’s Reports** Reports by Mike Hind and Tony Richardson were read out and are available on the website.

## **6. Officers’ Reports**

### **a. Treasurer’s Report**

Geoff Clarke, the treasurer, circulated the annual accounts, which had been checked by Gordon Pitt, the auditor. The closing balance at the year end, 31 October 2019, was £7,684.13, a reduction of £376.56 over the year. After all outstanding payments had been made there was likely to be a small deficit of about £50 on this year’s Trial.

### **b. Membership Secretary’s Report**

Total membership is 112, comprising life members, ordinary members and honorary members (helpers and marshals).

### **c. General Secretary’s Report**

There was no report due to the vacant role of General Secretary.

## **7. Election of President**

Edwin Coope was re-elected as President by acclaim.

## **8. Election of Officers**

The following were elected:

Chairman: Tony Richardson.

General Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Geoff Clarke.

Membership Secretary: Geoff Clarke.

## **9. Election of Committee**

Before the election Edwin Coope thanked Dan and Karen Parker who wished to stand down from the committee after their co-option for the past two years in their roles of Controllers and Planners. He also thanked David Wolfendale, Mike Hind, David Rosen, Wendy Dodds and Dave Fenwick who had indicated their willingness to remain on the committee.

New committee members elected: Allan Miller and Andrew Bradley. The President noted that the committee would co-opt the planner and controller for the 2020 event who would attend as necessary.

## **10. Appointment of Auditor**

Gordon Pitt had agreed to continue checking the annual accounts. He was thanked for his work during the past year and presented with a bottle of wine as an honorarium.

## **11. Resolutions**

There were none

## **12. Date of Mountain Trial 2020**

Next year's Trial will be on Sunday 13 September. The venue will be the West Lakes. It was later noted under AOB that the Fellrunners Association Fixtures Calendar gave the venue as Loweswater Village Hall. However this venue was provisional until permissions had been granted

Andrew Bradley will organise. The planner will be Pete Nelson. The controller will be Mark Seddon. Edwin thanked all three for agreeing to help in their various roles

## **13. Awards**

Awards were made to trialists on their completion of 21 Classic trials since the first trial in 1952. This year Edwin Coope presented awards to Mark Seddon (first trial in 1987) and Allan Miller (1996). Edwin thanked Mike Pearson for producing the awards, Mike's own framed photographs of Langdale.

## **14. AOB**

Edwin Coope thanked everyone for attending and Tony and Pauline Richardson for organising the AGM.

The AGM was followed by an excellent hot buffet meal provided by Wilf's. After this, Jasmin Paris gave a most inspiring illustrated talk entitled "Three Rounds, Two Ultras, One Baby" which was enjoyed by about 50 people. A retiring collection amounting to £316 was made in aid of the "Medecins Sans Frontieres", the charity nominated by Jasmin.