

# **HMRRC General Business Meeting Minutes**

## **February 13, 2008**

Call to Order (Cathy Sliwinski): 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Cathy Sliwinski, Mike Kelly, Chuck Terry, Doug Bowden, Jennifer Senez, David Newman, Paul Mueller, Joe Benny, Ken Klemp, Robert Irwin, Brenan Tarrier, Josh Merlis, Sara Brenner, Ed Gillen, John Kinnicutt, Marcia and Tom Adams, Jim Tierney

### **Reports of Officers**

President (Cathy Sliwinski): After welcoming the members new to the meeting, Cathy informed the group that there was a possibility of filling the current vacant Club Clothing position. Cathy announced that Vince Juliano will be the Chairperson for the Safety Committee. Cathy congratulated and thanked Doug Bowden for his many years of service to the club as Race Committee Chairman. While still looking for a permanent replacement for the Race Committee Chair position, Cathy and past President Nancy Briskie will split the position's responsibilities.

Executive Vice President (Mike Kelly): Mike reported the progress made on outreach for the Shrader scholarships including contacting all Sec. II coaches, advertising on the HMRRC website and an advertisement in the Pacesetter. The Distinguished Service Award notice and application will be placed in the next Pacesetter.

Executive Vice President – Finance (Chuck Terry): Chuck provided a summary of the 2007 HMRRC Financial Report. Chuck, responding to a question, stated that he did not believe that the positive balances in the club's accounts would affect the club's not-for-profit status. Marcia Adams thanked Chuck for all of his efforts to update the club's finances.

Secretary (Deb Beach): Deb reported (via memo to C. Sliwinski) that this year's banquet was a tremendous success with 110 attendees. Deb wanted to especially thank Al Maikels for serving as master of ceremonies, Brian DeBraccio for providing the music for the evening and Doug Bowden for the distribution of the club's awards during the banquet.

Treasurer (John Kinnicutt): John submitted the financial reports showing cash flow from the January business meeting until the February business meeting and the cash flow report showing 2008 year-to-date transactions.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Membership (Ed Gillen): Ed reported that there were 48 new members, 89 renewals and 3 donations totaling \$43 since the last meeting. Ed questioned why the Times Union is not publicizing the results of HMRRC races, in particular the Winter Series results. Marcia Adams suggested the club reach out to the Spotlight papers. Ed suggested providing options on race applications to allow for more people to become members. Ed updated the group on progress made on transferring the membership database to a new online format with the Wild Apricot software. It appears that online renewals will be able to be accomplished on the club's website via the new program. A question was raised if there will be a fee imposed for this service. Ed

reported that the club would have to determine if it would absorb this cost or pass it along to the membership. Ed announced a possible April or May time line for the new system to be up and running.

Volunteers (Marcia Adams): Marcia reported that she sent paperwork to the committee and is awaiting a response. She will have a full report at the next meeting.

Public Relations (Rob Moore): Not present and no report.

Race Committee (Doug Bowden): Doug reported on past races including Winter Series 3, 4 and 5. Winter Series #3 directed by Rob Moore and Will Dixon enjoyed nice weather and had 218 finishers which was the most in five years. Winter Series #4, directed by Josh Merlis, had 232 finishers. Winter Series #5 dodged a bullet in terms of weather and had 223 finishers including 126 in the Grand Prix 10 miler which was the most in at least five years. Overall there were 1,055 finishers in the five winter series races. Ed Thomas has awarded 30 winter series participant awards to date. Upcoming races include the club's Winter Marathon and Marathon Relay. On March 8, the Runnin' of the Green (Island) will be held. The Tri-City Valley Cats Home Run 5K is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 at 9:00 a.m. Sanctions and insurance was approved for races through the June 15<sup>th</sup> Father's Day race, except for the GHI Workforce Team Challenge. Doug plans on sending out Certificates of Insurance shortly and will be applying for the Team Challenge and Valley Cat's race this week. Doug also announced that USATF has a new disclaimer policy which will apply to races sanctioned in 2008, beginning with the Runnin' of the Green (Island). The new policy requires all volunteers to sign a waiver of liability. All race participant and volunteer waivers must be maintained for five years. Cathy Sliwinski will advise all race directors of this new policy.

Race Committee Treasurer (P. Zentko): Pam reported (via electronic report to C. Sliwinski) that the opening balance was \$8,036, with total deposits of \$1,349 and total payments of \$1,969 for an ending balance of \$7,415 at the end of February. Pam reported that the fall marathon took in over \$20,000 vs. \$9, 582 in 2006. Outstanding reports are expected soon for Stockade-athon and Winter Series #5.

Safety Committee (V. Juliano): Not present and no report.

The Pace Setter (Joe Benny): No report.

Website (Ed Neiles): Ed reported (via electronic report to Cathy) that Ray Newkirk has made significant progress in implementing the HMRRC's web based membership process. Ray and Ed Gillen are currently in the process of change over. The initial plan is to run parallel systems for a couple of months until Ray and Ed are happy, and somewhat assured, that the system works. Once that process is complete a stage two individual member component will be implemented.

Conflicts: (Chuck Terry): No report.

## **Unfinished Business**

"No Headphone" Policy Enforcement: A proposed enforcement policy was distributed at the January business meeting. Deb Beach (via email) pointed out that the USATF headphone policy only applies to USATF-sanctioned races. Joe Benny made a motion (second by Marcia Adams) to accept the 'no headphone' enforcement policy as proposed with the following amendments:

- the headphone policy will be stated in all new race applications;
- there will be "No Headphone" signs placed at upcoming races;
- race officials will document the participants violating the policy;
- race officials will immediately turn in information of violators of the headphone policy to the race director or results personnel;
- participants who violate the policy will not be eligible for any awards or Grand Prix points at those events;
- the ruling of the race director is final;
- the new headphone rules will be effective 120 days after approval at a monthly HMRRC meeting.

Tom Adams suggested a year of education before enforcement of the new policy. Mike Kelly pointed out that implementation of the policy enforcement will be the challenge placed on race directors and that their ideas should be heard. Jim Tierney stated that the race directors will need education on any new policy. Doug Bowden suggested having a meeting with the race directors; Cathy Sliwinski will schedule a meeting with directors in March. Josh Merlis suggested putting the new policy on the website. The issue was eventually tabled until after a race committee meeting is held to hear the concerns of HMRRC race directors.

### **New Business**

A motion was approved for the purchase of a new laptop with a cost of up to \$1,000 for membership needs associated with the new membership program. A motion was approved to provide up to \$1,000 in club monies to reserve the SEFCU arena track on the SUNY campus for HMRRC usage during the winter of 2008/2009.

### **Announcements**

Marcia Adams noted that table rentals will be available at the GHI Workforce Team Challenge for \$200.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mike Kelly  
Executive Vice President