

GRR Chairman's Report – 17th April 2008

Good evening from your distant Chairman. I would have loved to have been there in person, but I could not persuade the GRR treasurer to pay the return air fare from the club funds.

It does not seem like a year ago since I was ~~bullied into~~ nominated to follow the mighty Mr. Stephen in his footsteps as GRR Chairman. As I write this from my Houston Penthouse Suite (okay my humble apartment which only has an airbed and a folding chair cause my furniture still hasn't arrived from the UK yet), I can almost smell the odour of cheese, wine and Lynx deodorant wafting through the room as I try to imagine you all eagerly anticipating this masterpiece.

My apologies for the periods of absence, but it was either turn down the offer of a business trip to the States for a few months last summer or drop everything to dedicate my career to being GRR Chairman. It was a decision that caused me sleepless nights for weeks, but after much persuasion from Steve, he finally convinced me to do both. Its not too bad really – you just answer a few e-mails from people asking to join the club and pretend to be a Butlins Rep when you are handed a microphone at a hill race event.

So, how do I follow Pete Stephen? A stalwart of the Garioch Roadrunners and a man of integrity, guts and quick wit. Who could not forget the incomparable e-mail entitled "Hop Along Pete Reports - The Chairman's Woe's". I'm sure you have all heard it before but you cannot fail to laugh. Here is an excerpt regarding the notorious game of squash that put a temporary halt to his running career –

"Having dug out the old Maxply from the loft and discovered it had a touch of wood worm I thought it best to invest in a fancy Dunlop Titanium / carbon fibre / graphite/ Kevlar specially constructed state of the art racket incorporating the maximum amount of cutting edge technology – I was going to need it. I also noticed by balls had started to harden and lose their bounce due to age and through years of inactivity ... The big day arrived and I must say I looked the part (or a part?) as I took to the court sporting my 1970's Fred Perry shorts (bleached two days earlier to get the mould stains off them). They even had 'turn ups' on them (a flash back to when Rod Laver won Wimbledon in 1963). Should I go totally OTT by put a towelling wrist band on each wrist and a matching head band with 'squash demon' written on it in gold letters ?.... No I didn't want to look too intimidating (not to mention a complete tit !!)".

<Game takes place with Pete claiming a tumultuous victory – then in the final game.....>

"It was as if I had been kicked directly in the Achilles by Bruce Lee wearing steel toe capped pit boots. The last time I felt pain like that was when Patrick Malone put carpet tacks in my trainers at the start of the Black Isle Half Marathon back in 89 in a vein attempt to stop me shattering his PB."

<Our man is subsequently carted off to hospital>

Thankfully Pete has bounced back and replaced his Fred Perry shorts with the more reliable dodgy green lycra tights that have been scaring old women in the main street of Inverurie for the past decade.

Without further ado, let us cast our minds back over the past year of GRR history and to acknowledge those heroic men, women, dogs, cats, etc who have flown the Garioch flag and done us proud in all forms of races.....

Balmoral 10K – 28th April 2007

First over the line for GRR, big Jim MacGregor (40:44), followed by that wee Terrier Duncan Leel (42:44). John Baross following in 52:21

Dunecht Dash 5K – 13th May 2007

Big Jim again (17:56) followed by Duncan Leel (19:36), although brother Cameron sneaked in front of Duncan in true Leel fashion

Lochleven 1/2M – 19th May 2007

Our beloved club captain and the voluptuous Ms Massie were the GRR representatives down in Loch Leven. Steve finishing in a great time of 1:45 (not bad for someone in their 50's) followed by Rosie in 2:13. I guess Steve had to be back to cook the tea that day....

Baker Hughes 10K – 27th May 2007

Grahame Thomson (in his golfing waterproofs) first GRR in 42:10, followed by our very own EcoWarrior Bruce Taylor in 43:18. I was surprised to see that I had finished the race in 44:20 – not bad considering I was 3000 miles away at the time – No, this was Brian Ross who had talked me out of my running number (prior to me going away) in exchange for a year's worth of back copies of Scottish Farmer's Weekly

Running Shop Beach 10K – 12 June 2007

Brian Ross (44:30) and Phil Owens (48:01) did us proud in this one

Fraserburgh 10K – 17 June 2007

Steve (45:42) and Rosie (57:46) proving that Steve was cooking tea again...

Highland Cross – 23 Jun 2007

The wee Scottish lass who never stops running or cycling, yes our very own Sandra Reid the one and only GRR finishing in an excellent 4:45

Dunnydear Hill Race – 24 June 2007

Wee Rab Murray (20:00) pipped Bruce Taylor (21:32) and Brian Ross (22:25)

Stonehaven 1/2M – 01 July 2007

Brian Ross (1:39) and Jane Morrison (1:52)

Portsoy 10K – 1 July 2007

Rab Murray (38:50), David Blane (39:14) and Phil Owens (47:19)

Ballater 10 Miler – 29 July 2007

David Blane (1:05), Phil Owens (1:20) and Richard Ingram (1:22)

Dyce 1/2M – 5 Aug 2007

Although not a GRR any more Alex Bambridge finished 7th overall in 1:23. Fresh from his overseas exploits, your Chairman dragged himself over the line in 1:31 (I had not yet acclimatized to hills again at that time – not that there were any hills in the race)

Nairn 1/2M – 18 Aug 2007

David Blane the only GRR in an excellent 1:28

Fishie Tower 10K – 19 Aug 2007

Wee Rab (39:41), David Blane (40:12) and Ian Cran (44:53)

Speyside 10 miler – 26 Aug 2007

Graham Donaldson (60:17), Assynt (63:35), Ian Cran (69:33), Brian Ross (70:13), Hazel Riddle (79:26)

Moray Marathon – 02 Sep 2007

Sole marathoner Bruce Taylor crossing the line in 3:54

Moray 1/2M – (Same date)

Speedy Graham Donaldson 10th overall in 1:24, your honourable Chairman in 1:27 and Leigh Summers in 1:56

Moray 10K – (Same Date)

Gillian Burtwell (55:30)

Stoney Stomp (7 Miler) – 8 Sep 2007

Your Chairman 4th overall (best race placing ever – shame there were only 50 runners... most of them JogScotland), followed by Ian Cran in 12th place then Steve Waites in 16th place – Ian and Steve proving that being on the verge of getting a free bus pass, they won't have any problems running to catch the bus!

Stoney Stomp (5K) – 8 Sep 2007

The voluptuous Ms. Massie flew home in 5th place

Dyke 10K – Canna mind the date

Assynt (39:17), David Blane (40:32) and Brian (44:27)

The BIG ONE – Bennachie Hill Race – 7 Oct 2007

In the absence of our trusty club captain, it was down to the rest of us to club together to get the show on the road. As usual, there were no problems in recruiting volunteers, everyone did a great job in their respective tasks – from marking the course to treating the injured, we had someone for everything.

The other big bonus was the weather. Mild and dry – just what the doctor ordered.

The race went without any major hitches and Dan Whitehead took the trophy for first male home in 56min with Ruth Mackenzie first lady (1:10). the GRRs finishers were:

Assynt (1:10), Rab Murray (1:11), Michael Bradley (1:11), Donna Grey (1:14), Ian Cran (1:17), Richard Ingram (1:17), Duncan Leel (1:18), Rachel Patterson (1:22), Chantel Clark (1:22) and the intrepid Pete Stephen (1:38).

The kids races were also a success although we made a bit of a blunder with the prizes – hopefully all is forgiven and a younger runners will be back to compete again next year.

Overall though, the race was a big success – we even had advertising in the Weekend Telegraph a few weeks before!

Aviemore 1/2M – 14th Oct 2007

Mr. Macleod across the line in 1:27, Bruce in 1:36, Duncan just behind with 1:36, Donna 1:39, with Brian, Steve, Hazel, Gillian and Rosie all finishing with good times also

The Cairngorm Charmer (Adventure Race) – 27 October 2007

Graham & Sheryl Donalson, Hazel and Gillian all did well in this multi-sport race

New York Marathon – 4th November 2007

John Parr and Phil Owens flew the flag for GRR and did us proud

Fraserburgh 1/2M – 18 Nov 2007

Steven Ord (1:41)

Castle Series – Crathes – 18 Nov 2007

Mens Race: Dave Roberts (42:20)

Ladies Race: Nicola Redgwell (26:13), Mellanie Allan (27:54)

Lossie Turkey Trot (10 Mile) – 16 Dec 2007
David Blane (63:04), Steven Ord (72:29)

Lumphanan Detox 10K – 2 Jan 2008
Assynt (40:00), Steven Ord (45:17), Ian Cran (46:44), Pete Stephen (52:22)

Tartan Shorts 5K – Fraser Castle – 10 Feb 2008
David Blane (17:43), Graham Donaldson (17:52), Assynt (18:51), Duncan Leel (20:49), Lesley Clark 24:13), Nicola Redgwell (24:25)

Kinloss to Lossie 1/2M – 17 Feb 2008
Graham Donaldson (80:46) and Brian Ross (98:42)

Elgin 10K – 30 Mar 2008
Steve Waites (47:06) – one man on a mission!

Paris Marathon – 6 April 2008
An excellent run by Rachel finishing in 4:07

London Marathon – 13 April 2008
Well done to Graham Donaldson (3:17) and Jason Wilson (3:31)

Garioch 10K – 13 Apr 2008
Our local 10K had a good turnout – and what about the lassie that wan it overall – is she one of these Olympians that Hoover up the prizes at the wee races?
Anyway after Nicola Gauld (whoever she is) wan it in 33:58, our own Davie Blane hammers home in a superb 37:30 (what his this man been doing to start getting times like this all of a sudden?), Jim Macgregor back from hibernation in 39:31, wee Rab just behind in 39:43, Richard Ingram an amazing 39:50, Bruce Taylor in 41:47, Dave Roberts in 41:56, Grahame Thomson in 42:16, Brian Ross in 42:32, Duncan Leel in 43:26, Ian Cran in 44:34 and Tamsin Morris in 48:22

Phew...

I've just hit midnight here – this is definitely the hardest part of the Chairman thing – getting all these damn results together. I'm sure I have left some races and runners out – I forgot to congratulate Jason Wilson on the Great North Run, but I'm sure there are plenty others also.

Anyway, I'm officially a Houston Strider now. I've got in with a bunch of training buddies here in Sugar-Land. The only problem is that they are faster than I am – it's just not on....

I will look forward to see who gets cajoled into being the next GRR Chairman – at least give the poor soul a chance to think about it rather than all saying "aye he'll (or she'll) do it" – only joking ☺

Have a good meeting and I'll keep track of your activities in the Newsletter – Hopefully I'll catch up with most of you if I am over in the Summer or, if not, maybe on the potential GRR road trip

Keep On Running....

Cheers,
Assynt.