



# ILKLEY HARRIERS

## Annual Report of the Ilkley Harriers Committee to the AGM

Ilkley Harriers' 25<sup>th</sup> year has been another active and successful year for the Ilkley Harriers Committee, and for the Club as a whole.

We are now one of the biggest Clubs in the area, with senior **membership** up 4.6% to 363, an all-time high and including more younger adult runners than in earlier years (50 of our members are under 30). (See membership report.)

Recruitment is low-key, but there have been initiatives such as leafleting the Ilkley Race For Life, and contacting unattached local runners at our own races, as well as much word-of-mouth recruiting (thank you!).

In addition there are over 260 **Junior** Ilkley Harriers, most of them involved in weekly activities and achieving greater successes year on year (see junior report); and Ilkley Harriers 'banner' could even be said to include the vast number of Primary School children involved in the Wharfedale Primary Schools XC League.

One of the cornerstones of any running club is **racing** and there are many race reports every week from events near and far, on the roads, fells, trails, and cross-country; and at all levels from first-timer racers to national and even international level competition. There has been renewed interest in relay racing after concerted efforts this year.

Another cornerstone is the **training** organised by the members themselves. Although there are *still deficiencies* with the coach training provided by the athletics authorities, we have a mix of experienced and able coaches and run leaders who have again worked very hard to provide structured and enjoyable training for our members.

In 2009/2010 we reported **organising** an increased number of races, up from 3 per annum in previous years to 7, and in 2010/2011 we maintained that momentum with successful races of all types.

Peter Shields' YVAA Road Relays at the Lido in October was, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, well organised and much-praised. Neil Chapman's November 5 mile road race in support of the Ben's Wish To Walk appeal had over 175 entrants, including many local unattached runners, and raised over £1800 for the charity.

Paul & Shirley Wood's February Ilkley Moor fell races are still one of the biggest and best local fell races.

Indeed the senior race's growing popularity forced us to introduce an entry limit and pre-entry this year.

In May, the Will Ramsbotham Badger Stone Fell Relays consolidated last year's success.

Lawrence Basham's Ilkley Harriers Trail Race was bumped from its original date by the surprise arrival of Race For Life in Ilkley, but the Monday event was an even greater success with some 270 runners raising over £1700 for the Revival Centre and Orphanage in Matugga, Uganda.

Paul Wood's and Graham Maud's Addingham Gala fell race, revived by Ilkley Harriers last year, was even better this year with over 70 runners and it has become an important part of Gala Day.

And Geoff Howard's Ilkley Incline, in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, had a record field of 87 runners, despite the poor weather.

Alongside many of these races there were successful junior races: 6 in total.

The Committee has again invested in **social** events this year. Ewan Welsh coordinated another successful series of mid-month post-run 'gatherings' through the Winter. The winter was also brightened up by Vince & Bernie Gibbons' Christmas Relays and Quiz, and Richard Gray's Predictor Run. The Presentation Evening was again 'better than ever'. The ever-popular Dales Way Relay was the usual wonderful running social event. The 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in May included an evening Birthday Party with Pimms & canapes, previous members as honoured guests, and a Club Quiz; and a garden party with celebratory 'champagne' chez Bennett. And there were well-attended post-run suppers at two of Andy Wolfenden's Away Runs, before things wound down for the summer break.

Another important social aspect of the Club is the newsletter, and we must thank Richard Reeve for his professional and imaginative production that shows how valuable a printed Club newsletter can be.

Despite the costs of funding this whole range of activities, the Club has still made a small surplus on its accounts this year, as the Treasurer reports.