



Annual Report of the Ilkley Harriers Committee to the AGM, September 2012

Ilkley Harriers' 25th year 2010-2011 was a hard act to follow, but in 2011-2012 we were inspired by 'Olympic year' to reach new heights!

We are one of the biggest running Clubs in the area, with senior **membership** up 3% to 375, another all-time high and including more younger adult runners even than last year (57 of our members are under 30 (50 in 2010-2011). The proportion of female members is increasing, too, now 46%. (See membership report.)

In addition there are over 270 **Junior** Ilkley Harriers involved in weekly activities with many notable individual achievements on fell, cross-country, track and field, and in Sportshall athletics (see junior report).

One of the cornerstones of any running club is **racing** and the many results every week from the road, fell, trail, and cross-country (at all levels from first-timer racers to national and even international level competition), provide a real challenge for our reporters and statisticians. As well as continued good representation in the local road, fell, and cross-country races and leagues, it is healthy that people are trying new challenges too such as the Thunder Run Relay, and ultra runs here and abroad.

Of course this racing cannot happen without **training**, and members benefit from a diverse range of sessions for all abilities, requirements, and tastes. The Club owes a debt of thanks to those who deliver these sessions, but a club our size needs more people involved in coaching and one of the Committee's tasks this year was to 'do more coach training'. We are pleased to report that no less than ten members have qualified this year with the Leader in Running Fitness qualification, with interest from others too and interest in higher-level training. Additionally, in the junior section two assistant coaches have qualified, and seven are starting the (level 2) coach award. This is a massive step forward, thank you to all those who have committed to helping the Club in this way.

The Club's increased commitment, over the last few years, to **organising** races for our own members and other runners has continued. Starting In November we enjoyed the first Lido Open Relays, and a 5 mile road race that raised over £800 for Sue Ryder Manorlands. In February the Ilkley Moor fell race was fully subscribed and made a surplus of over £900 for the Club. The Harrogate District Summer Race League event we staged broke all League records. The Will Ramsbotham Badger Stone Fell Relays had a record 67 teams. The Jubilee Trail Race raised nearly £1000 for the Revival Centre and Orphanage in Matugga, Ugunda. The Ilkley Aquathon was a new joint venture with Ilkley Swimming Club to celebrate Olympic year and ran smoothly with nearly 100 competitors. The revived Addingham Gala fell race continues to grow and become an important part of Gala Day. And the Ilkley Incline completed the year with another success. It was pleasing to see many new faces amongst the helpers at these well-organised and widely praised events. And alongside many of these races there were 6 successful junior races.

The Club continues to enjoy an active **social** scene: a series of mid-month Winter 'gatherings' where we explored everything from head-torch running to Chia seeds; the Predictor Run; the Christmas Relays and Quiz with many families joining in; and the Presentation Evening again 'bigger and better than ever' - all these helped the Winter months fly past. In Spring there was a new venture the 'Away Weekend' in the Lake District, and the ever-popular Dales Way social relay. And in the Summer we took part in the 'Real Relay' with over 40 Harriers young and old helping carry the baton to celebrate the Olympics, and enjoyed the post-run suppers at the Harrogate League races and the Away Runs. And the fell socials were friendly and encouraging, so typical of the atmosphere at Harriers' social events.

Richard Reeve's newsletter continues to be simply the best around, and with Will Buckton's Gazette reports, the web site, and the Facebook group, our 'communications strategy' helps ensure that everyone should be well-informed on the many things going on in Harriers.

And despite the costs of funding this whole range of activities, the Club has only made a small, manageable loss on its accounts this year, accounts that show a healthy reserve as the Treasurer reports.

Let's hope for another great year in 2012-2013: the Committee will be working hard for you but remember that the more people contribute to Club activities, the better our Club will be.