



ILKLEY HARRIERS

Annual Report of the Ilkley Harriers Committee to the AGM September 2013

In 2010-2011 we celebrated Ilkley Harriers' 25th anniversary, in 2011-2012 'Olympic year' inspired us to reach new heights, and now 2012-2013 has been a pretty good year too for the Club too.

We continue to be one of the biggest running Clubs in the area, with **senior membership stable** at about 370 (including 15 juniors 'coming up'). Although there was a significant number of non-renewals this year (the 'economic situation'?, UKA's £5 fee increase?) we had a good number of new and returning members too. And there are continuing increases in the proportion of younger adult runners (59 of our members are under 30 (57 last year, 50 in 2010-2011)) and the proportion of female members is increasing too, now 47%.

In addition there are 296 (up 10%) **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). The junior section also has a very healthy program developing both young leaders and adult coaches - most weeks there are over 60 coaches and leaders in action.

The **racing** scene at Ilkley Harriers continues to be diverse and with success at all levels: from new members enjoying their first racing experience and scoring PB's; on to great improvers like Julie Elmes; on to Yorkshire Vets AA team champions like our V60 Road Relay team; right up to those who have enjoyed success at national level or won the honour of wearing an England vest (most recently Lucy Williamson U17, several representative runs for both Georgia Malir and Tom Adams, and at the other end of the age scale Norman Bush V70 and several other Ilkley vets helping GB to team medals at the World Masters Mountain Running Championships).

All this racing is supported by the Club's comprehensive **training** program, with something for everyone and something most days of the week. We owe huge thanks to those who lead these sessions. There have been difficulties with the coach training available for running clubs but we now have many enthusiastic qualified 'Leaders in Running Fitness' and recently Jane Bryant has qualified as a 'Coach in Running Fitness' to join our very active and experienced coaches Peter Shields and Neil Chapman.

The Club pulls its weight in **organising** races. In February the Ilkley Moor fell race was nearly fully subscribed and is the main fund-raiser of the year with a surplus of over £800 for Club funds (and next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the race). The Will Ramsbotham Badger Stone Fell Relays had 42 teams despite a fixtures clash, and is fully revived as a great event for young and old that attracts top athletes. The Trail Race raised nearly £1,500 this year for the Revival Centre and Orphanage in Matugga, Uganda. The Ilkley Aquathon, a joint venture with Ilkley Swimming Club now in its second year ran smoothly with over 110 competitors. The Addingham Gala fell race continues to grow each year and is a major feature of the Gala. And the Ilkley Incline had a record field of over 100 runners. 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 many successful junior races too, the Primary Schools XC League that we co-ordinate is worth a special mention as a colossal success giving many youngsters a great racing experience.

Members continue to enjoy an active **social** scene with the mid-month Winter evening 'gatherings'; the Predictor Run; the Christmas Relays and Quiz where many families joined in again; and the Presentation Evening again 'bigger and better than ever' - all those helped the Winter months fly past. In Summer we enjoyed the post-run suppers at the Harrogate League races and the Away Runs. And the pub socials organised by the fell captains continue to be friendly and encouraging, this year spawning a team in the 'Billy Bland Challenge' over the Bob Graham Round course.

On the **communications** front, Richard Reeve's newsletter continues to shine as the best running club magazine around, and with Will Buckton's excellent reports in the Ilkley Gazette, the web site, and the Facebook group, 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 made a modest surplus on its accounts this year, as the Treasurer will report.

So let's hope for another great year in 2013-2014: and remember that the more people contribute to Club activities, the better our Club will be.