

Annual Report of the Committee 2022-2023 Ilkley Harriers AGM 2023

It's been another busy and successful year for the Harriers - with more registered members than ever and our race programme fully returned to pre-Covid levels.

Huge thanks to the race organisers, coaches, team captains and many run leaders who generously give up their valuable time each week to allow the club to run smoothly.

Membership

We currently have 314 senior, 92 joint, 23 students and concessions, 16 second claim, 2 joint second claim and 8 trying us out (455).

However it should be noted that numbers always fluctuate over the next few months as some will opt not to renew in the autumn once we request the annual payment. The clearest picture with regards to membership is always the number on January 1st, which was:

279 individual

94 joint

22 students

(395 total first claim, plus 12 second claim = 407)

Thankyou to Petra Bijsterveld for single-handedly looking after the huge task of all the membership admin.

We have continued our registration to EA - please note the basic affiliation has risen from £16 to £17 (see treasurer's report) and we also pay £2 per first claim member to Northern Athletics.

EA Club standards requirements

As a part of affiliation to England Athletics, clubs are required to show that they have the policies and procedures in place for good governance, including relating to our duty of care. Ilkley Harriers has met these requirements during the year.

All our coaches/run leaders are licenced, and this year we have approved an inclusion policy. We have also recently approved an expenses policy.

This year also saw us run two First Aid courses for coaches and leaders - which was also open to all Harriers.

The races we host

We hosted four events this year:

1/ The Ilkley Moor Fell Race - thanks to Peter Roll for taking over the organising from Steve Weston (who was his deputy to ensure a seamless transition). The event was also the Yorkshire Championship race in 2023.

2/ The Pete Shields Ilkley Trail Race - Neil Chapman organised this for the second year and for the first time it was renamed in honour of a much-missed Harriers coach. Half the profits (which increased to £2000 from £1000 in 2022) went to Marie Curie as a result, with the remainder to the orphanage in Uganda which we have supported for many years, with pastor Ivan Lugolobi visiting the club this summer to thank Neil and his team for all their efforts.

3/ The Addingham Gala Fell Race was again organised by Jack Wood before he headed off to teach in Switzerland. Jack has been a key part of the club - not just as an outstanding runner but as a team captain and race organiser, many thanks to him.

4/ We had a new team of organisers at the Ilkley Incline this year, with Alison Weston, Jean Sullivan and Jen Roberts taking over from Caroline Howe for the seniors race while Rachel Carter and Rachel Holder led the juniors event. Both had bumper turnouts. Thanks to all of them - and also to Caroline for helping them in their first year in charge.

Next year we also look forward to hosting our bi-annual HDSRL event and we are determined to create a new closed-road 10k race in honour of Pete Shields. Neil Chapman, as with so much at the club, is the driving force behind both of those.

The racing year

There have been many outstanding performances in races over the course of the year, far too many to list here.

One highlight was the first-ever Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon in May, an event that saw thousands take part and many more line the streets to support it. Harriers Nathan Edmondson and Ed Hobbs made the headlines when winning the marathon and half marathon respectively.

Ed has been one of several youngsters to make a big impression and show how bright the future looks, Christos Tzelis is another and was the winner of this month's Ilkley Incline.

On the fell running front, the weekend just gone saw Ben Rothery seal a fantastic second place in the overall English Fell Running Championships to follow his bronze medal last year. No pressure in 2024 Ben!

And it's been good to see Nick Helliwell step into Jack Wood's shoes - big ones to fill - and take over the men's fell captain role. He and Kate Archer successfully organised two Leeds Country Way Relay teams recently, with a great day had by all and we look forward to many similar events in the future.

Kate has had a quite outstanding 2023 and was also one of several Harriers to complete a successful Bob Graham round over the last 12 months, underlining the great support and camaraderie from the club as a whole as many members join together to help each other.

And on that subject it makes a huge difference the more people who offer to volunteer. We now have nine thriving Tuesday evening groups including Jo-Ann Pattinson's "Jeffers" and Andrew Overend's session for juniors in years 11-13, a new addition which helps provide a further important option.

Thanks to all the coaches and leaders - and those who readily help out in their absence. And to the captains too - as well as Nick taking over as men's fell and road skipper, Ruth Kitchen and Steve Gott have stepped up to the plate on the Cross Country front.

We really do need more coaches though so we don't rely so heavily on the experience of Neil Chapman, please do talk to any of us on the committee if you'd like to get involved - the club pays for all leader / coaching courses.

Social

It was fantastic to get the away runs up and going again for the first time since Covid - and in some style as 75 Harriers ran from Addingham and then gathered afterwards for sandwiches and chips at The Swan.

This underlined the enthusiasm that's out there and we will be looking to get many more away runs organised for next summer.

We are also exploring the possibility of hiring a minibus or coach for selected relays / races going forward - cutting down the number of cars on the road while also making it a much more sociable day out.

Upcoming events include the Christmas relays and then the club awards in January - please try and support those (we will be trying something different for the latter, more details to follow) and if you have any ideas you'd like us to look at, just get in touch.

Communication

We have continued to use different channels alongside the website updates and emails, with regular use of the WhatsApp group (over 230 now signed up) alongside Facebook.

And traditional comms via the Gazette news and articles have continued to be a great way to provide greater visibility of club activities. Many thanks to Jean Sullivan, Jill Ezard and Will Worboys for looking after this - and also to Petra for keeping the website and Twitter updated in addition to her role as Membership Secretary and outgoing XC captain!

Committee and other roles

I'm delighted to say that everyone on the committee is happy to continue for the following year but it's not an exclusive group and roles on the committee are always open at the AGM - if oversubscribed then we can vote on the applicants.

Please let us know if you'd like to join us going forward or help the club in any other way.

We're in the fortunate position of having a full roster of captains too for 2023/4 but one important role that does need filling is Jack's replacement as the Addingham Gala organiser. A small team has worked very well for the Incline and is an option too.

Thanks to Will Worboys (Diversity champion), Helen Thurston (Sustainability Officer) and Dave Foyston (Social Secretary) for working on those areas over the last 12 months after an appeal at last year's AGM. Various actions from those discussions are imminent and should benefit the club greatly going forward.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Tuesday evening - please do make the effort if you can.

On behalf of the Committee
Jonathan Turner
Chair Ilkley Harriers