2025 AGM Junior report

In total we had a membership of 170 juniors, and we ran a full programme of Coaching. Thank you to all lead coaches: Liz Raven and Nicola Budding (Monday fell training); Rachel Websdale (Wednesday younger endurance training); Kate Lofthouse, Christine Reilly and Andrew Overend (Wednesday older endurance training); Katrina Kennedy (Thursday Sportshall Athletics); Sally Malir (specific multi club older endurance group) and my Monday Sportshall Athletics making up the complete set.

The 2024 report was a bit of a low point with the general decline in the number of juniors competing and having to cancel our younger endurance training session due to lack of qualified coaches.

However, over the last 12 months we have been able to address both areas. In September our younger endurance training group re-started thanks to Rachel Websdale returning to coaching. And by targeting the PECO Cross Country League we have encouraged more juniors to wear the vest and compete. Thanks here to Nicola and Rob Budding. It's a step in the right direction and now it is important to keep the momentum going.

Volunteers

Where would we be without volunteers? In 2025 it was brilliant to gain two more qualified Coaching Assistants: Emily Hallworth and Helen Jacques and 7 juniors completed their Leadership Award (Charlotte, Edward, James, Hannah, Arthur, Lexi and Luke). That gives us 9 qualified Coaches, 3 Coaching Assistants, 12 parent helpers and additional help from 14 junior leaders (Year 10 to 12) and 13 junior helpers (Years 8 & 9).
Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Junior Section.
We are also looking forward to a former coach Amanda Fox returning to the fold once we navigate the EA process to reinstate her qualifications.

I would also like to say a massive thank you to Rachel Carter and Rachel Holder who have organised the Junior Fell Races, Trail Races and Sprint Fell Relays for many, many years now. At this year's fell race new organisers (Charles and Holly Wain) are being mentored into the role – thank you for stepping up.

But as I always say…. We still need more people to step into volunteering whether it's coaching, race organising or being an official. We have several individuals who can mentor you through a number of volunteering roles and help you to gain qualifications and continue the good work.

Cross-Country

In the **West Yorkshire Cross Country League 2025,** although we only had 4 juniors competing, they all persevered and did 3 or 4 of the races in the series. U11 Rafe Garner was 22nd overall and Thomas Bailey 25th; U13 Ethan Pickwoad was 27th and in the U15 Joseph Bentham was 9th. Racing doesn't get much tougher so well done to all of them.

In the **PECO** Cross Country League, there were 6 juniors who raced in the 24/25 season with Isobel Moore coming 1st in the U9 and Michael Moore 3rd in the U11. In the current 25/26 season we have 19 who have competed so far so a massive step up in numbers and hopefully a trend that will continue.

In the **Championship Races** 7 juniors raced at the **Yorkshire Championships 2025** with top ten placings for U17 Alexander Wolfenden 10th, Under 20 Women Helena Coy 9th, Under 20 Men Archie Budding 2nd and Samesh Chotai 7th with Archie and Samesh also selected for the Yorkshire XC Team competing at the Inter-Counties. We had 3 Juniors racing at the 2025 Northern XC Championships.

The **Wharfedale Primary Schools League** which we coordinate is currently in its twentieth year. In the 24/25 season we had 6 races and hundreds of children from the 12 local schools competed in them. Thank you to all the schools for their continue support and to Nell Bank for providing a wonderful setting for the finale KS2 Relays. Thank you, Sally Westlake, for organising the relays with me.
We have not been so lucky this year. Due to the awful weather, we have only managed one race with one remaining (fingers crossed) – 4 have been cancelled because of the weather. Cancellations are always more challenging to deal with so Thank you to the organising team of Rachel Websdale, Simon Richardson, Tom Greenwood and Leo Carne for everything extra that they have had to deal with.

Fell Running

26 juniors competed in our JIH Fell League (U9 to U17) which was the same as 2024. Juniors who competed in more than 5 races and finished in the top 3 were: U9 Archie Hallworth; U11 Isobel Moore; U13 Michael Moore; U17 Oscar Shinn and Joseph Bentham. However, we are hoping that by extending the 2026 league to include the PECO cross-country races the knock-on effect will be to have more juniors giving fell running a try going forward. In addition, we had 24 juniors competing in the BAN League but only two competed in 5 or more races (Isobel Moore U11, 9th overall and her brother Michael U13, 2nd overall). In the **2025 Yorkshire Junior Fell Running Championships,** 8 Juniors took part with top three placings for U9 Archie Hallworth 3rd, U11 Isobel Moore 2nd, U13 Michael Moore 3rd, U17 Joseph Bentham 1st (Yorkshire U17 Champion), U19 Oscar Shinn 2nd and George Whittlestone 3rd.

Many thanks to David and Rachel Holder for compiling the JIH Fell League Tables for so many years and thank you to Gawain and Emma Moore for offering to take on the role in 2026 (once we get beyond the age category changes!!).

Sportshall Athletics

About 90 children between school years 3 - 7 attend weekly sessions and Decathlon Awards are presented to everyone at the end of March. There are many talented athletes in the two sessions and a significant number of Gold Awards. For the second year running we combined with Halifax Harriers to organise U11 teams to represent Yorkshire in the Regional Sportshall Athletics Team Competition (NE Regional final). Our juniors were so impressive - well done in particular to the boys team who were overall winners. The Nine juniors representing Yorkshire were: Barnabus Carr, Henry Hirst, Millie Houlbrook, Wilfred Overend, Michael Moore, Ethan Pickwoad, Louis Razazan, Rose Weston and Holly Wilkinson.
Sportshall Athletics was the first activity we offered back in 2001 and has always been a great first step into any number of athletics pathways. Children love it and at its peak we were coaching 200 juniors a week across 4 sessions doing running, jumping and throwing activities. So it is a little sad that we will be going down to just one session in the week (plus waiting lists) after I step down from coaching in the summer.

Track and Field Athletics

Our Sportshall groups do half a term of general outdoor athletics in the summer term as a taster and those with a specific interest in competing can do so in the **West Yorkshire T&F League.** Strictly speaking we do not do Track and Field anymore, but we did have 3 juniors competing in the 2025 season: U15 Heather Crolla, U13 Rosa Crolla and Ethan Pickwoad. Best performances from each: Heather became Yorkshire Discus Champion (season PB of 22m.37) and 1st in shot (6m.95), Rosa 2nd in Discus (15m.46) and 3rd in Shot (5m.78) and Ethan 7th in Long Jump (3m.93). At the **Northern Indoor T&F Championships** Archie Budding became U20 Northern Indoor 1500m Champion.

A copy of the junior **finances** accompanied this report. There is nothing out of the ordinary and we have a healthy bank balance. I would like to thank Helen Brooks for independently examining our accounts again this year.

Please contact me direct by email (Shirley@ilkleyharriers.org.uk) if you have any specific questions about the junior report, finances or offers of volunteering.

Shirley Wood
Junior Admin and Co-ordinator

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