2015 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

Key points

- Junior membership of 344 (increase of 21)
- 26 sixteen year olds moving into the senior section October 2015
- England vests gained by Jemima Elgood, Lucy Haines and Sarah Pickering for Mountain Running
- England vest gained by Harry Maslen for U20 Decathlon (ranked 4th in country)
- 53 juniors competed in 2 or more West Yorkshire cross-country events
- 'Team Ilkley' finishes joint 2nd in the FRA Junior fell Championships
- 90 juniors receive awards at the annual awards evening in March
- 70 volunteers (30 adults and 40 junior leaders) coach at sessions every week
- Coach Education: Sally Westlake (Assistant Coach) and Christine Reilly (LIRF)

They say 'it takes 10 years or 10,000 hours to produce a champion'. Vision, direction, sound foundations and policies over the last decade and the dedication and commitment of a truly inspired group of volunteers and athletes has once again raised the bar in coaching and competition – we can rightly be proud of our achievements.

Cross-Country report from Gaenor Coy
This year a record 57 signed up with 53 competing in at least 2 of the races in the West Yorkshire Cross Country league. With growing numbers the Ilkley juniors had 7 of the 8 possible categories finishing in the overall team results including for the first time ever an U17 ladies team who dominated the series to win 1st team overall. Podium team places also for 3rd U11 boys, 2nd U11 girls, 3rd U13 boys.
There were some excellent individual performances too with Lewis Carr, Matthew Kenneth, Sarah Pickering and Lucy Williamson winning trophies for finishing in the top 6 overall.
The PECO league although slightly less well supported this year still had 4 runners on the series podium. Poppy Anderson 3rd years 7-9 girl, Lucy Williamson 2nd years 10-12 girl, Dominic Coy 2nd years 7-9 boy and George Hardesty 1st years 10-12 boy.
Championship Races: 27 juniors raced at Lightwater Valley for the Yorkshire championships. Some fantastic team results with the U17 ladies coming home with bronze medals plus a 5th team, U13 boys were 5th, and U15 boys 4th team. Great individual results too. Matthew Kenneth and Jemima Elgood earned their Yorkshire vests going on to run at the Inter county championships in March in Birmingham.
24 juniors raced Pontefract Race course for the Northern Championships. Jemima Elgood finished 21st in U17's and Lucy Williamson, Bethan Morley and Max Bradley also ran extremely well finishing in top 50. The U17 ladies team finished 4th with teams also from U13 girls and U15 boys.
10 juniors travelled down to London to race in the English National Championships on a very muddy Parliament Hill with top Ilkley junior performance of the day from Sarah Pickering in 52nd.

In addition to Gaenor's report the massively popular Wharfedale Primary Schools League which we support is now in its ninth year and has provided the ideal starting point for most of these athletes. Over 450 children from 12 local schools competed in 5league races organised by All Saints, Ashlands, Ben Rhydding, Ghyll Royd and Westville House Schools.

Finally thank you to Gaenor and Steve Coy and Malcolm Pickering for team managing and supporting the juniors throughout the Cross-Country season.

Fell Running report from George Elmes

During the season 25 juniors took part in at least one Championship race with a number completing all six. U8/U10 deemed "no competitive infants" and results for series not recorded apart from number of races completed, therefore -
U8: Max Stead 4, Jonathon Archer 1,
U10: Robyn Anderson 6, Archie Budding 3, Dylan Carr 2, George Morley 1.

U12/14/16/18 Series position (number of races)
U12: Poppy Anderson 6th (6) Lyra Weston 28th (3) Lewis Carr 13th (4) Harry Stead 34th(4) Ben Morley 65th (1)
U14: Ella Shouler- Harris 25th (3) Emily Elmes 26th (3) Beth Morley 39th (1) Euan Brennan 5th (6) Robbie Matthews 14th (6) Reuben Foster 54th (1)
U16: Jemima Elgood 2nd (5) Sarah Pickering 5th(4) Lucy Jacques 12th(5) Lucy Haines 27th(2) Nea Weston 28th(3)
U18: Lucy Williamson 4th (6) Joanne Williamson 5th (5) BU 18 Ruaridh Mon- Williams 19th (1)
Lucy and Joanne Williamson competed as part of the JIH squad for the last time this year before racing as seniors next season. They have been ever presents over the past few years and are always to be seen actively encouraging the younger athletes on the Fells. On behalf of all thanks for your support and all the very best for next year. Don't be strangers to your friends in the squad, you will always be welcomed back with open arms.

As a club this seasons target was to improve on our best ever result last year of 4th.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!! I am pleased to report that we finished joint **2nd** out of nearly 60 clubs competing! **2nd** most successful Junior fell club in the country is a massive accomplishment for every JIH that competed in an English Championship race this season.

Joint 2nd this year & improving every year in the last 4, next year's target is …….. ☺

Finally a massive thank you to George who continues to inspire, motivate and support the junior fell runners.

Our **Track and Field Athletics** programme is sound and this year more juniors have started to compete. For us the entry level for competition is the York Summer League and with the introduction of our new ESSA awards scheme we hope to encourage even more to compete over the coming years. Over the summer 16 individuals competed in this league with top 15 places achieved by Rohan Smith (2nd), Thomas Dover (7th), Adam Cooke (11th) and Caitlin Ramage (12th). A good number have been competing for the first time however two athletes stand out this season. Firstly Harry Maslen (U20) in the decathlon where competition is always going to be a bit of a roller coaster but Harry has generally produced sound results when it counts. His season finished on a high competing for England in the Home Internationals and standing on the podium in the bronze medal position. And Rohan Smith in his first competitive season as an U11 produced PB's in 600m and 75m whenever he stepped onto the track.
Juniors ranked on the Power of 10 in Yorkshire are: U20: Harry Maslen (1st in both decathlon, 6646 pts and indoor Heptathlon 4943 pts); Lucy Williamson (5th 3000m); U17: Roisin Ramage (7th shot); U15: Adam Cooke (34th 100m, 44th 200m and 10th 80m Hurdles); Nathaniel Richardson (32nd long jump); U13: Poppy Anderson (68th 150m and 11th 1500m).

In 2015 190 juniors took part in weekly **Sportshall Athletics** sessions and at the annual Sportshall Athletics awards presentation evenings we gave an impressive number of Gold awards. The Regional trials were of the highest standard and attended by 23 of our juniors with 7 being selected for West Yorkshire regional teams; Sam Bentley, Thomas Dover, Jack Ezard and Freddie Gape (U11), Bethan Morley and Charlie Wilde (U13) and Roisin Ramage (U15).

We have organised 4 events this year – Wharfedale Primary Schools' XC relay event, junior fell races, junior trail races, the sprint fell relays and supported the Ilkley Aquathlon. Many thanks to Jane McCarthy as the new organiser of the February fell races and Sprint fell relays; to Rachel and Bryan Websdale for organising the trail races and Gaenor and Steve Coy for the Ilkley Aquathlon.

Each week we deliver 12 hours of athletics to juniors – that's pure contact time and not the preparation that goes into each session. Thank you to all lead coaches for their planning, preparation and organisation of their sessions - Ros Blackburn, Sue Williamson, Sally Malir, Kate Lofthouse and Sally Judkowski. Our **Coach Education programme** is sound with new parent helpers coming into it all the time. Our junior Leaders courses are oversubscribed and capped at 20 per course. We have one group who will complete their Level 2 Sports Leaders Award in December 2015 after volunteering for 15 months and a second group who started volunteering in the summer will qualify in December 2016. We are piloting a beefed up version of the England Athletics 'Leading Athletics' award scheme with this group.

121 juniors, parents and volunteers attended the annual **Junior Presentation of Awards evening** in March with just over 90 juniors receiving awards for Sportshall Athletics, Track & Field Athletics, Cross-Country, Fell Running to recognise their achievement and commitment to training and competing for the club. In addition we presented certificates to 14 junior leaders as well as **'Volunteer of the Month' Awards.** For many of our volunteers it is a small amount of recognition and reward for many years of commitment, enthusiasm and support. The recipients of the 2014/15 awards were unveiled at the junior presentation evening and they were: Margaret Sykes (Jan 2014), Rachel Clarke (Feb), Harry Maslen (March), Rachel Websdale (May), George Elmes (June), David Burnett (Sept), Sally Morley (Oct), Liz Raven (Nov), John Houlihan (Jan 2015), Jane McCarthy (Feb) and Christine Reilly (March).
Each week over 70 individuals (30 adults and 40 junior leaders) give up their time to coach athletics and without their commitment and dedication we could not run our programme, so many thanks to everyone who has supported the junior section this year.

Over the last year I have started handing over the running of parts of the junior section to others. Jane McCarthy has taken over organising two fell races. Gaenor Coy and Sally Westlake have been coordinating the endurance programme and along with George Elmes are taking responsibility for everything to do with Cross-Country and Fell Running. I will also be stepping down from co-ordinating the Wharfedale Primary Schools XC League at the end of the 2017/18 season and over the next few years will be looking for a team of 3 to continue to run this.
I will be channelling my energy towards the Track & Field Athletics programme, Coach Education and Development as well as the exciting proposed new facilities on the IGS playing fields.
Thank you to everyone for their continued enthusiasm, support, commitment and motivation and for sharing the workload. It is important that we continue to plan with vision and to bring in new ideas and continuing to strive onwards and upwards.

Shirley Wood
Junior co-ordinator

Junior accounts for 2014/15 accompanied this report. Thank you to Margaret Kleppen for auditting our accounts again this year.