2017 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

Key points

- Junior membership of 356
- Total does not include thirty 16-18 year olds who continue to train or volunteer at junior led sessions
- 26 sixteen year olds moving into the senior section October 2017
- England vests gained by Euan Brennan and Bethan Morley (and Sarah Pickering, Lucy Haines)
- Yorkshire vests gained by Bethan Morley, Euan Brennan (and U20 Jemima Elgood, Sarah Pickering)
- 52 juniors competed in 2 or more West Yorkshire cross-country events
- Harry Maslen ranked 4th in country for U23 Decathlon
- 15 juniors competed at an athletics meet over the summer
- 'Team Ilkley' finishes 4th in the FRA Junior fell Championships (out of 37 clubs)
- 65 juniors receive awards at the annual awards evening in March
- 76 volunteers (33 adults and 43 Junior Leaders) coach at sessions every week
- Coach Education: Katrina Kennedy, Elizabeth Raven, Sally Westlake (all gained Coach Award) and Christine Reilly (Assistant Coach)
- Compact Athletics Training Facility: proposed build Spring 2018

It's been another outstanding year – well done and congratulations to everyone concerned.

Cross-Country report from Gaenor Coy

West Yorkshire Cross county league: 67 juniors signed up with 52 competing in at least 2 of the races in the series. Some fantastic running was seen over the 4 races and we had 5 athletes gain overall series prizes. Bethan Morley won the U15 girls series, Euan Brennan 2nd and Cameron Reilly 6th in the U17 boys, and a 5th for Dominic Coy in U15. Other top 10 finishers were Archie Budding, Lewis Carr, Nathan Coy and Oscar Stapleton.
We had 6 of the 8 possible categories finishing in the overall team results and podium team places for 3 of these teams. Under 15 girls finished 1st team overall in the series taking home the gold medals Silver medals were also awarded to the U11 boys and U13 boys.
The PECO League: We had much lower turnout this year of junior runners this season with Archie Budding the only junior harrier who did all 5 races and finished 2nd in the boy's school year 4-6 race and Adam Townsend finishing 9th overall in years 7-9 boys.
Championship Races: We had 17 junior runners and 2 U20s competing in the **Yorkshire Championships** on 7th January. Due to sickness and injury we were slightly down on our team placings this year with only 3 counting teams but still managed come home with team silver for U13 boys and under 15 girls team bronze.
Individually some fantastic results. Bethan Morley in 3rd place, Euan Brennan in 4th, along with U20 ladies Jemima Elgood(2nd) and Sarah Pickering (7th) earned their Yorkshire vests for team selection in the Inter County Champs.
On January 28th 10 juniors and 3 U20's raced at a very muddy Knowsley Safari Park for the **Northern Cross Country Championships**. Outstanding results from Bethan Morley who was 5th U15 girl, 10th Euan Brennan (U17 boys), 14th (junior men) Matt Newell, 19th Sarah Pickering (junior ladies) and 20th Dominic Coy (U15 boys).
Finally, the **English National Championships** on Feb 25th. We had 8 juniors and 3 U 20's completed the course at Wollaton Park in Nottingham. As always' a fantastic experience for all with a varied course including some water jumps and some great results including top harrier placing of 39th for both Dominic Coy and Jemima Elgood.

Thank you to Gaenor and Steve Coy for team managing and supporting the juniors throughout the Cross-Country season.

In addition the massively popular Wharfedale Primary Schools League which we coordinate is now in its eleventh year and has provided the ideal starting point for most of these athletes. Over 450 children from 12 local schools competed in 4 league races organised by Ashlands, Ben Rhydding, Ghyll Royd and Westville House Schools. The 17/18 season will see a new team in charge: Felicity Tomblin (league coordinator), Rachel Websdale (race referee), Debbie Nicholson (League table compilation) and Sally Westlake (Nell Bank Relay organiser).

Fell Running report from Kim Anderson (joint fell captain with George Elmes)

In 2016-17 28 juniors took part in one or more Fell Running Association championship race.
Final FRA Championship tables
U9 Lola Stead (4 races), Josie Archer (2 races)
U11 Jonathan Archer & Max Stead (6 races), Nicholas Archer, Oscar Shinn & Seth Toye (5 races), Alexander Wolfenden (2 races), Hayden Lewis & Elisabeth Riley (1 race).
U13 7th Hattie Bishop (5 races), 12th Robyn Anderson (4 races), =34th Senua Toye (3 races), =34th Amy Brown-Carrera (1 race)
11th Archie Budding (6 races), 21st Dylan Shinn (6 races), 49th Dylan Carr (1 race), 52nd Max Ashelford (1 race)
U15 3rd Bernadette Raven (5 races), 18th Poppy Anderson (4 races)
37th Harry Stead (5 races), 52nd Lewis Carr (1 race)
U17 21st Bethan Morley (1 race)
1st Euan Brennan (5 races), 34th Robbie Matthews (2 races), 44th Cameron Reilly (1 race)
U19 2nd Sarah Pickering (5 races), 17th Lucy Haines (3 races)

Ilkley were 4th club out of 37. Euan, Sarah and Bernadette were 1st, 2nd and 3rd places overall. We were 2nd in the FRA team uphill championship.

Sarah Pickering and Bethan Morley ran for England in the Home Countries International Fell race, Keswick, in September 2016. And Euan Brennan and Bethan Morley were selected to run for England in the International Youth Cup for Mountain Running in Gagliano del Capo, Italy in June 2017. Euan was 5th and led the boys team to a bronze medal and Bethan was 14th and led her team to 6th place overall.

A few juniors take part in the BOFRA races with some excellent results. Nearly 70 have taken part in one or more races in the Bradford Athletics Network league, again with some great results. Final races for these leagues are towards the end of the year.

Thank you to Kim for taking charge of the fell scene and sending regular fell reports and keeping the JIH league tables up to date. Thank you also to George Elmes who has coordinated things over the years but is now stepping down. Elizabeth Raven is taking over his place as joint captain with Kim.

We continue to develop our **Track and Field Athletics** programme and when we have facilities this will really make a difference. Currently our prime aim is to keep as many juniors involved in the discipline and encourage them to attend entry level competition such as the Burnley U11 open and the York Summer League. Over the summer 15 individuals competed at a meet with some excellent individual results including Bethan Morley becoming Yorkshire 800m champion.
Rankings on the Power of 10 in Yorkshire are: U23: Harry Maslen (2nd in Decathlon (4^{th} in UK)); U17: Bethan Morley (2^{nd} 800m (14^{th} in UK) and 2^{nd} 1500m (21^{st} in UK)), U13: Rohan Smith (12th 200m, 20^{th} 800m and 32^{nd} 1500m).

180 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 cancelled this year which was a shame as we always have a lot of juniors take part and a good representation in the regional teams.

We have organised 5 **events** over the year – Sprint Fell relays, supported the Ilkley Aquathlon, Santa FUNdraiser, Wharfedale Primary Schools' XC relays and junior trail races. Many thanks to all race organisers: Jane McCarthy, Gaenor & Steve Coy, Rachel & Bryan Websdale.

We deliver 13 hours of **coached athletics** to juniors each week – 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, Kate Lofthouse, Sally Judkowski, Sally Malir, Malcolm Pickering, Elizabeth Raven, Sally Westlake and Sue Williamson.

And each week 75 **volunteers** (35 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. It is an absolute pleasure to work alongside such dedicated individuals.

Approximately 140 juniors, parents and volunteers attended the annual **Junior Presentation of Awards evening** in March with 65 juniors receiving awards for Track & Field Athletics, Cross-Country, Fell Running to recognise their achievement and commitment to training and competing for the club.

In addition we presented Junior Leader certificates to 20 Junior Leaders who qualified in December 2016 as well as **Volunteer 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 were: Junior Leaders: Sam Dickinson, Maddie Fern, Roisin Ramage, Will Rowe, Helen Still, Ethan Thompson. Adult coaches/helpers: Katrina Kennedy (commitment to coaching and support with facilities).

Our **Coach Education programme** is sound with new parent helpers coming into it all the time. Three Assistant Coaches qualified as Coaches - Katrina Kennedy, Elizabeth Raven and Sally Westlake. And Christine Reilly qualified to Assistant Coach level.

The last 12 months has been very busy with the **Compact Athletics Training facility** and I would like to thank the team of Hilda Coulsey, Anthony Elston, Geri Howson, Margaret Kleppen, Steve Maslen and Chris Ramage for their considerable expertise and support with a whole range of build, financial and legal issues. As well as, Alison Bennett, Ros Blackburn, Lis Bradley, Katrina Kennedy, Elizabeth Raven and Sally Westlake on the fundraising team. Although progress appears to be slow we are still going forward and anticipate a Spring 2018 build. As has been reported on the JIH web site we have had tremendous support from the local community with £8,600 raised as sole beneficiaries of the Carnival funding; £7,000 donated by Ilkley Parish Council as well as the junior section raising £30,000 through sessions and fundraising. Almost £90,000 has been pledged as loans. We still have a way to go regarding fundraising but there is a plan. Disappointingly after almost 8 months we are still waiting for a decision from Sport England regarding the £50,000 Community Asset funding. We have been told that they like our project but it seems that getting funding is still a step away. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported any of our fundraising initiatives to date (and would love to speak to anyone who can support us over the next 6 months to see this project to its conclusion).

Finally 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 2016/17 will accompany this report at the AGM. Thank you to Margaret Kleppen for auditing our accounts again this year.