2018 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

Key points

- Junior membership of 404
- In addition 25 x 16-18 year olds continue to train or volunteer at junior led sessions
- England vest gained by Bernadette Raven
- Yorkshire vests gained by Dom Coy, Bethan Morley, Bernadette Raven and Wilbur Summerson
- Six U13/U11 selected for the West Yorkshire Sportshall Athletics regional teams
- 48 juniors competed in 2 or more West Yorkshire cross-country events
- 'Team Ilkley' finishes 9th in the FRA Junior fell Championships (out of 49 clubs)
- Harry Maslen ranked 2nd in UK for U23 Decathlon and Bethan Morley 7th for U17 800m
- 12 juniors competed at an athletics meet over the summer
- 80 juniors receive awards at the annual awards evening in March
- 85 volunteers (40 adults and 45 Junior Leaders) coach at sessions every week
- Coach Education: Jane Mumby has just embarked on her Coach Award
- Finances are healthy
- Compact Athletics Training Facility: proposed build Spring 2019

It's been a challenging but outstanding year – well done and congratulations to everyone concerned.

Cross-Country report from Gaenor Coy

In the West Yorkshire Cross county league 51 juniors competed in at least 1 of the races in the series with 6 prize winners finishing top 6 – Bethan Morley, Dominic Coy, Wilbur Summerson, Archie Budding, Jonathan Archer. We had teams in 5 of the 8 possible categories. U11 boys and U17 men took gold, and bronze medals for the U13 boys and U15 girls. U13 girls just missed out on medals in 4th place.

The PECO League really grew this year for the junior harriers. 26 juniors took part in at least one race with James Newman taking 3rd place overall in the boy's years 10-12 and Alexander Wolfenden 2nd place in the boy's year 5-6 races.

24 junior harriers ran at the Yorkshire Championships. Wilbur Summerson (U13), Bethan Morley, Euan Brennan, Dominic Coy and Cameron Reilly (all U17's) earned their Yorkshire vests and qualified and went on to compete for Yorkshire in the Inter County championships in Loughborough. The Under 17 Boys won the team Gold

We were fortunate this year to have a local Northern Championships and we turned out 21 juniors to run on the tough course at Harewood house. We had outstanding results from the U17's with Beth in 5th place, Euan 3rd, Dom 8th and Cameron 12th.

Finally, to finish the season 11 travelled to London to run at the English National Championships on Feb 25th in Parliament Hill. Bethan started the day well finishing 6th in the U17 ladies race and the U17 men backed up the great results with a 10th place by Euan and Dom, Cameron and Robbie making up the team to gain an excellent 9th team overall.

Thank you to Gaenor and Steve Coy for team managing and supporting the juniors throughout the Cross-Country season. Nicola Budding is joining the support team next season with special focus on the U11 and U13 age groups.

In addition the massively popular Wharfedale Primary Schools League which we coordinate is now in its twelth 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, Burley Woodhead and Ghyll Royd Schools. Thank you to the new organising team of Felicity Tomblin, Rachel Websdale and Debbie Nicholson for another successful season – well done ladies.

Fell Running report from Kim Anderson (joint fell captain with Liz Raven)
On the fells 22 juniors took part in one or more of the 2018 FRA Junior championships races. 8 juniors were U9 or U11 and 15 juniors were in the older age groups that count towards league places. There were some great results at individual races and in the league overall with Bernadette Raven third in the league for U17 girls. Ilkley were 9th club out of 49 and whilst this is lower than previous years it is still good to be in the top ten.

Around 50 juniors have taken part in one or more races in the JIH fell league or the BAN fell and terrain league. The leagues have still got a few more races to go as they finish in December.

In May it was the Yorkshire Fell Championships. Erin Doyle (U13) was 3rd and Bernadette Raven (U17) was 1st. Bernadette then represented Yorkshire at the Inter counties and gained a Bronze individual medal and led the U17 girls team to gold.

In June Euan Brennan represented England (U18) at the International Mountain Running Cup in Lanzada, Italy, running exceptionally well to get 2nd place. He also represented Great Britain (U20) in July at the European Mountain Running Championships in Skopje, Macedonia and another excellent run led to 6th place.

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. Over the year Elizabeth Raven has established a very competitive and successful fell training group on a Monday – thank you for your hard work and commitment.

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 York Summer League. Over the summer 12 individuals competed at a meet with some excellent individual results including Bethan Morley becoming Yorkshire 800m champion and Cameron Reilly 3rd in the 3000m.
Top 10 Rankings on the Power of 10 in Yorkshire are: U23: Harry Maslen (2nd in Decathlon (4th in UK)); U20: Cameron Reilly (8th 3000m), Euan Brennan (10th 3000m), Jemima Elgood (6th 3000m); U17: Bethan Morley (1st 800m (7th in UK), Nina Pearce (9th 800m and 7th 1500m), Bernadette Raven (9th 3000m); U13: Archie Budding (9th High Jump).

Almost 200 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. At the Regional trials 6 juniors were selected to represent West Yorkshire (five U13's and 1 U11). Many thanks to Katrina Kennedy for taking on greater responsibility and development of both the Sportshall athletics and Track and Field programmes.

We have increased the amount of coaching time to just over 14 hours each week – that's pure contact time and not the preparation that goes into each session. Thank you to all lead coaches for their commitment, planning, preparation and organisation of their sessions - Ros Blackburn, Kate Lofthouse, Sally Judkowski, Katrina Kennedy, Sally Malir, Jane Mumby, Malcolm Pickering, Elizabeth Raven, Sally Westlake and Sue Williamson.

And each week 85 **volunteers** (40 adults (17 qualified and 23 parent helpers) and 45 Junior Leaders (30 in the leadership programme and 15 Year 9 helpers)) 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.

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, Sally Westlake, Rachel & Bryan Websdale.

Approximately 150 juniors, parents and volunteers attended the annual **Junior Presentation of Awards evening** in March with 80 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 Junior Leader certificates to 9 Junior Leaders who qualified in December 2017 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: Rebecca Burnett, Adam Cooke, Matthew Hall and Imogen Parton. Adult coaches/helpers: Jane Mumby, Fiona Robson and Tracey Watson for commitment to coaching.

Our **Coach Education programme** is sound with new parent helpers coming into it all the time and we are looking to encourage a lot more to gain coaching qualifications. There has been a lull during 17/18 while England Athletics introduced their new coaching programme but they are now up and running. Jane Mumby is now part way through her Coach Award.

The last 12 months has been a very frustrating and stressful time with the **Compact Athletics Training Facility.** I would like to thank the team of Hilda Coulsey, Anthony Elston, Margaret Kleppen, Steve Maslen , Dominic Parsons 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, Katrina Kennedy and Sally Westlake on the fundraising team. In addition all the coaches who continue to plan their programmes with an ever increasing number of juniors and a decreasing amount of athletics facilities. You are all amazing people - thank you so much.

To say that 2017/18 was challenging is an understatement but the build delay has given us more time to re-structure, set targets, establish training groups and generally be ready for when it is built. The majority of the fundraising is done and although very disappointed that we were unable to build in July (due to the lease not in place) we have now refocused for an April build. The delay and solo build has increased our project cost to around £300,000. In total we have gained £84,000 in funding (some to be re-confirmed due to the build delay), raised £60,000 within the junior section, been pledged donations of £17,000 and loans of £110,000. We intend to raise a further £30,000 before the build - £15,000 coming from the junior section and £15,000 crowdfunding/just giving donations from the community.
I am not being dramatic when I say without these facilities Ilkley Harriers will be without a junior section as we cannot sustain what we are currently doing without much needed grassroots basic athletics training facilities.

Finally thank you to everyone within the junior team for their continued enthusiasm, support, commitment and motivation and for sharing the workload. I will repeat what has been written above - you are all amazing people and thank you so much. It is important that we continue to plan with vision, bringing in new ideas to raise the bar in participation and performance and strive onwards and upwards.

Shirley Wood
Junior Co-ordinator

Junior accounts for 2017/18 will accompany this report at the AGM. Thank you to Gavin Lamb for looking over our accounts this year.