2019 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

Key points

- Junior membership of 394
- In addition 9 x 16-18 year olds continue to train or volunteer at junior led sessions
- Yorkshire vests gained by Dom Coy and Bethan Morley
- Six U13 selected for the West Yorkshire Sportshall Athletics regional teams
- 49 juniors competed in 2 or more West Yorkshire cross-country events
- 'Team Ilkley' finishes 16th in the FRA Junior fell Championships (out of 53 clubs)
- Harry Maslen ranked 5th in UK for senior Decathlon and Bethan Morley 12th for U20 800m
- 18 juniors competed at an athletics meet over the summer
- 70 juniors receive awards at the annual awards evening in March
- 80 volunteers (31 adults and 49 Junior Leaders) coach at sessions every week
- Coach Education: 4 qualified adults: Jane Mumby (Coach Award), Nicola Budding, Andy Overend and Tracey Watson (all Coaching Assistant)

Cross-Country report from Gaenor Coy

In the PECO cross country league there were 21 registered juniors. Lots of younger runners taking part and its good see the next generation of xc runners already keen to race for their club.

57 runners registered for the WYXC. Great team turn out for the U11's and U13's especially with U11 and U13 boys team both getting the silver in the team competition and the U15 girls just missing out in 4th and U13 girls 5th and U11 girls 9th. We had some good individual results too with 10 finishers from Alexander Wolfenden 4th, Archie Budding 7th, Josh Beevers 9th, Nathan Coy 7th and Robbie Matthews 9th.

We were fortunate this year to have all 3 championship races in Yorkshire. 21 juniors ran at Yorkshire Championships at Lightwater valley. Bethan Morley finished 2nd and Dom Coy 4th, both qualifying to compete for Yorkshire in the Inter County championships in Loughborough. Dom also selected to run for the U17's Yorkshire team in the London Mini Marathon. 18 ran at the Northern Cross Country Championships in Pontefract again outstanding top 10 finishing positions for Bethan and Dom.

Finally, to finish the season 18 junior ran in very hot conditions at the English National Championships in Harewood. Excellent running by all with Lucia Stoney, Max Ashelford and Alexander Wolfenden all finishing top 100, quite an achievement in that level of competition especially for Alexander who was running up in the U13's and will have another 2 years running the same category.

Thank you to Gaenor and Steve Coy and Nicola and Rob Budding 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 thirteenth 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, Burley Woodhead, Ben Rhydding and All Saints Schools. Thank you to the organising team of Felicity Tomblin, Rachel Websdale and Debbie Nicholson for another successful season – well done ladies.

Fell Running report from Liz Raven

On the fells 29 juniors took part in one or more of the 2019 FRA Junior championships races. 11 juniors were U9 or U11 and 18 juniors were in the older age groups that count towards league places. Ilkley were 16th club out of 53 and whilst this is lower than previous years it is still a good result as the number of clubs entered has increased.

Around 52 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. Alexander Wolfendon(U13) was 3rd.

In training the fell group is going from strength to strength. We meet every Monday either on the moors during the summer months and from the end of September 2019 we will meet at the tennis club for the winter training. The old group is for children aged 11 and up and we regularly get an average of 16 runners on the moor, all of whom race in either FRA, Bofra or other events with some great results and personal best performances. During the summer holidays I ran an extra session for pupils in year 3 to 6 to get a chance to run on the moor. The session was well attended each week and will be organised again next summer.

Thank you to Liz for all her hard work and commitment and to Kim Anderson for continuing to update the JIH league tables.

In **Track and Field Athletics** our prime aim over the year has been 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 18 individuals competed at a meet with some excellent individual results. And encouragingly we had 9 U11's attend the Burnley open meet where despite their inexperience took a number of podium places.

Top 10 Rankings on the Power of 10 in Yorkshire are: Senior: Harry Maslen (2nd in Decathlon), Jemima Elgood (9th 3000m). U20: Euan Brennan (2nd 3000m), Bethan Morley (2nd 800m and 8th 1500m), Cameron Reilly (7th 3000m). U13: Kristian Holdsworth (8th Long Jump) and Annabel Petyt (10th 100m).

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 the West Yorkshire U13 team. They were Samesh Chotai, Oliver Gordon, Kristian Holdsworth, Reuben Hozhabrafkan, Sammy Mellor and Annabel Petyt. Many thanks to Katrina Kennedy for taking on greater responsibility and development of the Sportshall athletics programme.

We have organised 4 **events** over the year – Sprint Fell relays and Ilkley Moor junior fell races, Wharfedale Primary Schools' XC relays and junior trail races. Many thanks to all race organisers: Jane McCarthy, Sally Westlake, Rachel & Bryan Websdale.

162 juniors, parents and volunteers attended the annual **Junior Presentation of Awards evening** in March with about 70 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 17 Junior Leaders who qualified in December 2018 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: Dom Coy and Jamie Spiller. Adult coaches/helpers: Dale Butts, Nicola Budding, Andy Overend and Vicky Taylor for commitment to coaching.

Each week 80 **volunteers** (31 adults (18 qualified and 13 parent helpers) and 49 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. Thank you to all lead coaches for their commitment, planning, preparation and organisation of sessions over the year - Ros Blackburn, Kate Lofthouse, Sally Judkowski, Katrina Kennedy, Sally Malir, Jane Mumby, Malcolm Pickering, Elizabeth Raven, Sally Westlake and Sue Williamson. It is an absolute pleasure to work alongside such dedicated individuals.

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. Over the year Jane Mumby gained her Coach Award and Nicola Budding, Andy Overend and Tracey Watson gained their Coaching Assistant level.

So what for the future of Junior Ilkley Harriers

Unfortunately due to the decision we had to make last October to go no further with the proposed Compact Athletics Facility project we know we cannot develop certain aspects of our athletics programme.

A number of coaches who set up the junior athletics club at the start of the millennium are still involved with its running and we are getting of an age where we have started to consider reducing our commitments. We all hope to remain involved with athletics for some years to come but we cannot guarantee to want to lead activities and head up the athletics programme. For the first time ever we have reduced the number of sessions we do and the number of juniors we have in those sessions.

For my part I have just stepped back from a development officer role to purely administration and over the next year everything will be simplified. There will be a 'changing of the guard' and starting this term the volunteer coaches have been given more flexibility to run their own schedules. While at the same time we are asking for more individuals to step forward to take on greater responsibility.

If the junior section is to continue to be innovative, dynamic and to show vision and bring new ideas to the programme someone (yet unknown) will need to step forward. This could be as a volunteer or a part time paid post.

Shirley Wood
Junior Co-ordinator

Junior accounts for 2018/19 will accompany this report at the AGM. Thank you to Gavin Lamb for looking over our accounts this year.