2021 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

Like a lot of grassroots sports clubs 20/21 was a challenging year and some of our activities had to be cancelled, but whenever possible we did organise things.

Thank you to Felicity Tomblin, Rachel Websdale and Debbie Nicholson for organising a virtual **Wharfedale Primary School's XC League** where KS2 children from the 12 schools were able to run 600/800m within their own school grounds and submit times. About 320 children took part and with lots of new names hopefully we'll see them competing in the future. Certificates and Easter eggs were given to recognise their achievements. All the arrangements have been made for a return to organised league races this year (fingers crossed).

Various **coaching sessions** ran when allowed so thank you to all lead coaches: Liz Raven and Nicola Budding for the fell training; Ros Blackburn and Sally Westlake for the younger endurance; Kate Lofthouse and Christine Reilly for the older endurance (Kate also organised a zoom circuit training session during restrictions) and Sally Malir for her specific endurance group. Although we were unable to do any indoor Sportshall Athletics we did as many outdoor athletics sessions as we could – Thank you to Katrina Kennedy for leading one of these evenings.

Over the year we had 70 **volunteers** (32 adults and 38 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.

We stopped doing all **specific track and field** training sessions for older athletes and now after Year 6 juniors are being encouraged to join other local clubs to train and compete. **THANK YOU** to Sally Judkowski and Dwayne Heard who have been volunteering and covering these sessions for more than 15 years. I hope that it made them feel immensely proud (as it did me) to see Harry Maslen come 4th in the British Decathlon senior championships in June knowing that he started his training with us and continues to wear the vest and compete under the Ilkley Harriers name. Thank you for all the time and commitment you have given to so many juniors down over the years.

We did not organise any **races** and this is one area where if we are to in the future new organisers need to step forward. When we started JIH there were very few opportunities for children to take part in local well organised appropriate races however now with the Schools XC league and the newly set up junior Parkrun at the Riverside gardens in Ilkley there are plenty. Organising races will no longer be a major commitment for us.

Our **Coach Education programme** continues with Nicola Budding just qualifying at CIRF level and Sally Malir doing her assessment on the 26th September. 13 junior leaders officially completed their leadership course in June after doing their First Aid course at Clarke Foley having managed to do enough volunteering hours over the previous 24 months. Earlier in the year they did an online England Athletics 'Leading Athletics' course. And in September we have 18 Year 10's who have been helpers starting their leadership course.

A copy of the junior **finances** accompanies this report and as I will not be attending the AGM here is a summary. We did not ask for any membership or session fees for the 20/21 year due to the uncertainty of the situation so there's no income (something that we are repeating for 21/22). The bulk of the £4,739.24 expenditure was for venue hire (£3132); coach/leader education (£965); EA membership fees (£285); volunteer/junior thankyou gifts (£214). We still have a very healthy bank balance. I would like to thank Helen Brooks for independently examining our accounts this year.

Please contact me direct by email (Shirley@ilkleyharriers.org.uk) if you have any specific questions about the junior finances or anything else for that matter.

Shirley Wood
Junior Co-ordinator