# 2022 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

We had a more normal 2021/22 with coaching sessions, races and leagues going ahead but in some cases with additional requirements and adjusted formats. Generally, participation numbers have been lower and I think it will take time to rebuild and regain confidence to return to pre-Covid numbers.

All **coaching sessions** went ahead so thank you to all lead coaches: Liz Raven and Nicola Budding for the fell training; Sally Westlake and Ros Blackburn for the younger endurance; Kate Lofthouse and Christine Reilly for the older endurance; Katrina Kennedy for Sportshall Athletics and Sally Malir for her specific endurance group.

**Cross-Country**
In the PECO cross country league there were 26 registered juniors (16 girls and 10 boys) who ran in at least one of the four PECO races. Lots of really strong runs with top five series positions for Robert Carter (years 5-6) and Jake Norris (year 7-8). Well done to all who ran.
This year we had a slightly lower entry and turn out for the West Yorkshire Cross Country league than in previous years, and although we had at least one runner in all junior categories, Ilkley only managing to produce one team result in the U15 Boys who were third overall. Some really strong individual runs throughout the series and top 10 series performances from Emily Gibbins and Lucia Stoney (6th & 10th in U17), Archie Budding (7th in U15) and Robert Carter (3rd in U11)
**Championship races**
11 juniors raced at the Yorkshire Championships. Excellent racing and top ten placings from Emily Gibbins (5th U17), Sam Bentham (10th U15) and Jake Norris (6th U13).
11 juniors raced at the Northern Championships and Ilkley achieved team placings in the U15 and U13 boys (7th and 8th respectively). At the English National Championships only Oscar Shinn travelled the distance to race – a creditable 157th overall.

In addition, the Wharfedale Primary Schools League which we coordinate is now in its sixteenth year and has provided the ideal starting point for most of these athletes. Hundreds of children from the 12 local schools competed in the league races organised by Burley Woodhead, Ashlands, Ghyll Royd, Ben Rhydding and All Saints Schools. And it was great to have our grand finale of the KS2 relays and presentation of awards back at Nell Bank. Thank you to the organising team of Felicity Tomblin, Rachel Websdale and Debbie Nicholson for another successful season.

**Sportshall Athletics** – just over 100 children attended weekly sessions and Decathlon awards were presented to everyone at the end of March.

**Fell Running** – 36 juniors have competed at a fell race this year (U9 to U17). Many thanks to David and Rachel Holder for taking over the organising and compilation of the JIH league tables. In order to encourage more participation, it was confined to 'summer' races between March and September and will conclude soon. The BAN league did not restart.

A new team of Rachel Carter, Rachel Holder and Justin Pierce took over the organising of the traditional junior **races** (Ilkley Moor fell and junior trail races) and Sally Westlake organised the KS2 XC Relays at Nell Bank. The sprint fell relays will return this month.

**Track and Field Athletics** – although we don't do any specific training sessions any more, we do encourage our athletes to try some racing. Christine Reilly managed to get the club an entry to the West Yorkshire T&F League and we had 6 juniors competing (U17 – Archie Budding and Dylan Shinn; U15 Oscar Shinn and U13 – Millie Porteous, Iris Smith and Heather Crolla).

Over the year we had some 60 **volunteers** (23 adults (12 qualified) and 36 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. However, over the last couple of years we have lost a significant number of qualified adults to the extent of having to cut back on the number of sessions we now do.
The big concern for myself and other lead coaches is the lack of new younger adult volunteers coming through to take qualifications and continue the good work. Parents are willing to help but don't want to gain qualifications because they are not necessarily into athletics. **This is a request to all senior Harriers that if they have ever considered coaching junior athletics to get in contact with me and we'll welcome you with open arms (and get you qualified up).**
We have enough junior leaders to help and lead small group activities – 15 completed their leadership award in the summer.

A copy of the junior **finances** accompanies this report and as I will not be attending the AGM here is a summary. There is nothing out of the ordinary and we have a very healthy bank balance. We did not ask for any membership or session fees for the 21/22 year due to the uncertainty of the situation so there's no income except fell race entries. The bulk of the £10,000 expenditure was for venue hire (£5750); coach/leader education (£940); equipment (£900); EA membership fees (£686); Awards/medals (£760); volunteer/junior thankyou gifts (£370); WY XC entries (£315) and web hosting and support (£120).
I would like to thank Helen Brooks for independently examining our accounts again 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

September 2022