2023 AGM report from Junior Ilkley Harriers

We had 200 juniors in total and we ran a full programme of **coaching sessions** over the 2022/23 year. Thank you to all lead coaches: Liz Raven and Nicola Budding for the fell training; Sally Westlake, Ros Blackburn and Emma Barclay for the younger endurance; Kate Lofthouse, Christine Reilly and Andrew Overend for the older endurance; Katrina Kennedy for Sportshall Athletics; Sally Malir for her specific older endurance group and Mael and Joan Matthews for their specific older sprinting group.

Cross-Country

We haven't got anywhere near the number of athletes competing at cross-country (or fell running) that we used to but it's something that we can work back towards.
In the **West Yorkshire Cross Country league,** we had 22 which was the same as last year but when you compare that to 38 in the 18/19 season there's a way to go. There were top ten series placings for U17 Beth Rogers (4th), Archie Budding (8th), U15 Oscar Shinn (7th), U13 Robert Carter (4th) and U11 Harriet Carter (5th). The only team finish was from the U15 girls who gained a 6th place overall.

In the **PECO** cross country league there were 19 juniors (13 girls and 6 boys) who ran in at least one of the four PECO races. Lots of juniors have gained confidence competing in this league and there were top ten series placings for Ben Richardson and Jessica Rhea (years 5-6) and Archie Budding and Oliver Holder (year 9-11). Well done to all who ran and to a star performance from Archie who won all his races.

In the **Championship races** 8 juniors raced at the Yorkshire Championships with top ten placings for U17 Beth Rogers (7th) and Helena Coy (8th) with Erin Doyle joining them for an excellent silver medal team award. Sam Bentham was 6th U17 in the boy's race. 6 juniors raced at the Northern Championships and 4 at the National Championships. Beth was our best finisher in both these events.

In addition, the **Wharfedale Primary Schools League** which we coordinate was in its seventeenth year and has provided the ideal starting point for most of these juniors. Hundreds of children from the 12 local schools competed in the league races organised by Westville House, Ashlands, Ghyll Royd, Ben Rhydding and All Saints Schools with the KS2 relays and presentation of awards at Nell Bank. Thank you to the organising team of Felicity Tomblin, Rachel Websdale, Debbie Nicholson, Simon Richardson and Robin Moffat for another successful season and thank you to Sally Westlake for organising the KS2 XC Relays at Nell Bank.

Fell Running

Like cross-country our numbers competing on the fells are taking longer to return to those of a few years back. 24 juniors competed at a JIH league fell race (U9 to U17). Many thanks to David and Rachel Holder for continueing to organise and compile the JIH league tables. The BAN fell league restarted in 2023 and it is nice to see that we have 22 juniors currently competing in that one.

Many thanks to Rachel Holder and Rachel Carter for organising the junior sprint fell relays and trail **races** (there was no Ilkley Moor junior fell races in 2023 but hopefully there will be a return in 2024).

Sportshall Athletics

About 90 children between school years 3 - 7 attended weekly sessions and Decathlon awards were presented to everyone at the end of March. There are many talented athletes in the two sessions and a significant number of gold awards were presented.

Track and Field Athletics

Our sportshall groups do half a term of general outdoor athletics in the summer term as a taster and we have a specific sprinting session for older juniors. Those with a specific interest to compete can do so in the West Yorkshire T&F League. Last year we had 5 juniors competing; U17 Archie Budding and Oscar Shinn; U13 Heather Crolla; U11 Rosa Crolla and Evie Dyson. Archie improved his own 2022 JIH club records in both 1500m and 3000m (which was also a WY league record of 9.06.27). Heather gained a JIH club record in the discus with a 22m.23 throw when she won the WY championships earlier this month.

Over the year we had some 60 **volunteers** (25 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. Thank you to Emma Barclay and Andrew Overend for gaining their coach qualification and alongside coaching the younger Wednesday groups have also started an older 16 plus group on the senior club night.
We are always looking for more adult volunteers to come through to take qualifications and continue the good work – please get in contact with me if you would like to volunteer at any of our sessions.

Our junior leaders help and lead small group activities during our sessions and 8 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. Due to having plenty of money in the junior account we only asked for a nominal annual amount as session fees. The bulk of the £11,000 expenditure was for venue hire (£6k); coach/leader education (£1200); equipment (£1200); EA membership fees (£700); race trophies (£600); volunteer/junior thankyou gifts (£560) and WY XC entries (£430). 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 2023