

# HAMBLETON ATHLETICS & RUNNING CLUB

## Chair's Report – 2025/26

Prepared by Gemma Wardle on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 for the Annual General Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

### What's been happening?

As I look back on 2025/26, I am reminded of the success of a club which started out with a meeting of six friends in a back garden! Since the summer of 2020, HARC has proudly developed into a club of over 130 members, whilst maintaining its ethos of togetherness and support.

Once again, our athletes have pushed themselves with a huge range of events and competitions, overcoming hurdles to reach personal goals, all with the backing of their HARC buddies. It's great to see such variety and so many individual reasons for taking on those challenges.

As well as lots of fantastic sporting performances and achievements...

- We welcomed several new committee members who brought fresh perspectives to the operational side of the club.
- The coaching team has grown again to meet the needs of our ever-increasing HARC family, and several of the team have gained additional qualifications to broaden their knowledge and skills.
- Our members have fully supported our fundraising for Hambleton Community Action, resulting in healthy donation of £1,053.70.

### Looking ahead

Our next Couch to 5k programme is about to begin, so please give a very warm welcome to the new and returning faces you will see at our sessions in the coming weeks.

As the new season commences, we hope to see lots of HARC members at local events, many of which are listed on the club website with details of dates and registration processes.

And, of course, the social calendar will be filled with lots more activities, so make sure to get involved! Parkrun and coffee events are scheduled on the first Saturday of each month with quarterly 'away' visits, and run and pubs are a frequent favourite, so please come along to those too if you can.

### Special thanks

After four years in the 'hot seat', I have decided to step down from the Chair role. The overwhelming feeling for me is gratitude to those around me who have done so much to support the club's journey.

As I mentioned above, the club started small, with just a handful of members and only one coach! Over time, the determination and commitment of our team of volunteers resulted in phenomenal growth. And as the club has grown, so too has the workload. Taking it all in their stride (excuse the pun), we have worked hard to build the club we all enjoy today.

I am hugely grateful to the committee, supporting volunteers and coaching team who are key to such incredible success. There are many, many hours of work that go into ensuring the club runs smoothly and delivers on its promises to our members, with many tasks largely invisible to anyone outside the committee and/or coaching team.

In closing, sincere thanks to all club members for the part you each play in making HARC such an inspirational community. Your encouragement of one another, your positive representation of the club, and your commitment to our shared values reflect the very best of HARC.

I am extremely proud to have served at the helm. But now it's time for someone else to take the reins and drive the club on to even better things. Here's to an exciting, successful and fulfilling 2026/27!

*Gemma*