

Hambleton Athletics and Running Club

Chair's Report 2021-22

Prepared by Ruth Hancock on 20th February 2022 for the Annual General Meeting on 7th March 2022

It's been another unique year of being chair at HARC, managing an ever-changing landscape. I hope we can now say we are through the worst of the pandemic – most of us have understood afresh how beneficial to mental health sport is, and HARC has played an important role in that for many of us. Our member ranks swelled from the initial 20 when the idea of HARC was first born a mere two years ago, to currently having over 70 active members in the 2021/22 period.

HARC continues to offer a range of different coaching styles, sessions, venues and routes for runners of all abilities and distances. We have ploughed on with our C25K programmes and completed our first Intermediate Endurance courses. However, there have been some unavoidable issues with increasing coaching capacity along the way, which have hopefully now been addressed.

Running events have seen members take on challenges up and down the country, from Loch Ness and the Lake District, to London and Oxfordshire. And this year saw our first entry into the North Yorks South Durham Track and Field League, with a series of cross country meets being tackled by some intrepid HARCsters.

Indeed, there has been a lot going on! In no particular order (not even chronological):

- Throughout the course of the year work has continued to improve the standard and design of our club kit;
- There have been quarterly coaching development meetings to ensure improved and more consistent coaching practice;
- Our Head Coach, Chris Lees, was awarded Runner Up in the Innovation in Athletics and Running category at the England Athletics Volunteers' Awards 2021;
- The HARC Angels event this year contributed a substantial amount to the ongoing work of the Mountain Rescue teams based in Cleveland and Swaledale. Well done to all entrants on your magnificent achievements;
- A sub-committee has worked extensively on producing role outlines and a skills matrix to encourage more members to get involved with the organisation and running of the club, with particular focus on succession planning;
- Our first Christmas party was held at Solberge Hall Hotel;
- and we successfully held our first Northallerton Parkrun Takeover, with members continuing to volunteer there on a regular basis.

Upcoming events to watch out for and get involved with include:

- Bedale Carboot on 9 April 2022;
- HARC's Sport England Crowdfunding campaign – more details to be announced shortly;
- and the inaugural HARC Awards and Celebration evening (date to be confirmed).

Thanks again to all our incredible volunteers and to the committee whose dedication, positive attitude and flexibility is always much appreciated.

We now need time to grow. Our junior section is yet to fully get off the ground, and we must not forget to keep working on the development of our current athletes so that their commitment to the club, and their interest in their disciplines, is maintained. With the creation of a new Parkrun co-ordinator role it would also be great to see some club organised Parkrun tourism. It has been sad to note the demise of that held at Catterick, but we regularly have club members in attendance at Northallerton, Darlington South Park and Fountains Abbey.

I'd like to take the time to thank those who have helped and supported me on my own journey with this club as my tenure draws to a close. It's been both an honour and a privilege to serve as your chair, but more so to be your friend and number one cow-bell ringer!

Wishing you all the very best for your future runs and challenges. You've got this!

Ruth