



## More Ramblings from Your President

Having such a large membership it is impossible to know everyone at the club. For me even putting a name to everyone that comes down on a training night is impossible and I have signed most of them in at some point! I am struck by how many people do not even know the committee members even though most of their photos are on the wall in the hall. So as a very minor help to getting to know some of your Committee and fellow members I intend doing a brief "Get to know your club members" item in these occasional "Rambles" that go on the website. I will try to cover two each time, initially one Committee member and one ordinary member. I shall avoid the usual media type questions such as "who's your role model", "if you were a drink what would it be" and "what was your greatest fashion disaster" and just stick to running matters. If you want more intimate details get to know them and ask!

So if you get an email request from me to complete the simple questionnaire then that will be what it's for. Obviously if you would rather not answer a question that's fine or if you would rather not be included at all that is also ok. If you have a running picture (or any picture) of yourself to go with it that would be great.

Over the last few weeks I have managed to watch some of the junior athletes taking part in CC



events at Cleckheaton, Keighley and at the Christmas handicaps at Brooklands Nursery. It was inspiring to see so many young members, whether at the front of the pack or towards the back of the field, all wearing the Holmfirth vest with pride and putting their all into the races. No matter where they are in the field, just like the seniors some are lucky and seem to run showing no sign of strain and others look to be in real pain but within a minute or two all seem to recover and can be seen happily chatting with fellow runners and supporters.

*Getting kitted up in the snow*



### *Ready for the start*

It was noticeable that, particularly in the older age groups, we have more girls than boys competing in the CC events. Whether this is because the boys tend to be more involved in football/ rugby teams at this time of year or the girls are just more motivated I don't know. Perhaps they're just tougher! It would be great to see more boys out running for the club.

While on the subject of CC I would like to offer thanks to Kath Farquhar who has organised and motivated the teams of juniors at the CC for many years and is now passing this post on. I am sure all the parents and runners who have been involved over this time would echo these thanks.

### **Recent matters decided at Committee Meetings include:**

Funding for Northern Athletics (NA). Northern Athletics who are a competition provider for northern England and put on events such as N Road Relays, CC, CC Relays and T&F events have previously been funded by EA but this funding is being withdrawn, due to cuts in EA's own funding, meaning NA may fold. To prevent this happening they (NA) are asking clubs to pay £2 per registered member to NA to allow them to continue. This would mean a payment of about £1000 by HH as we have such a large membership. Discussion by the HH Committee agreed that, while only a relative small proportion of our members took part in these events, they were nevertheless an important step in the progression of athletes and deserve to be supported. It was thus decided that in the first instance HH would pay this sum for 2018 out of funds, but would need to reconsider this for future years and may have to ask the membership to pay this additional sum by increasing the membership fee to cover this payment. We obviously avoid increases wherever possible but if this decision is decided on then it would mean an increase of approximately 17p per month or 4p week per registered runner!

## **Christmas Walk**

Once again Lorraine Smith organised a Christmas walk from the Butchers Arms Pub at Hepworth. And it was great to see over 30 people attend and have a very enjoyable stroll through Morton Wood, with just the odd wet foot negotiating the stream edge and fallen tree! Once through the wood we carried on past Little Cake and back across the fields to Hepworth again. The Butchers Arms put on mulled wine and mince pies (truly delicious) and an enjoyable and sociable hour or two were spent by all who stayed. Well done for organising Lorraine.



*Some of the Harriers on the Christmas walk*

## 2018

The Club Road and Fell Championships for 2018 have now been published by Clark Hind and Phil Hobbs and there are loads of local events as well as those further afield included. For those of you that haven't tried fell running before there are short and medium events that anyone that does our summer training runs should be able to cope with. Why not have a go at one of these friendly, relaxed events. Most are entry on the day and very cheap to enter, compared with most road races. Contact Phil Hobbs if you would like to have a go, I'm sure he will advise about good events for "1<sup>st</sup> timers". Clark has revamped the Road Race Championships so it is well worth looking at on the Road section of the club website. There are 11 local races included, from 5K to 15 miles, so plenty to choose from.

For those of you over 35, the planning of YVAA series is also well under way. As well as all the usual road, cc and T&F championship events the fantastic Multi-terrain series looks like being back up to 8 or more events in 2018. This will go on website soon and emailed out to all vets on my email list.

*Wishing you all, of whatever faith, or no faith at all, a Happy Christmas and New Year.*

*Rob*

