

Hello Erme Valley Harrier members. Thank you for taking the time to read my second Chair's annual report.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Committee for all of their efforts over the last year, a lot of work goes on unseen by every member of the committee which allows the club to run smoothly. If anybody else would like to join the committee please do get in touch we would welcome input from the full spectrum of club members.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all of you for coming along on a club night, it's great to see so many people turning up regularly on a Tuesday night. We're trying to keep the planned training sessions following a similar format each month including regular speed sessions along with hill reps which always seem to be popular. If anyone has suggestions for routes or speed sessions etc then please let me know.

Looking back on my aims for 2023 we had three targets:

1. Recruit more run leaders to assist on club nights
2. Increase senior membership level to greater than 150
3. Increased engagement with club members and organisation of regular club trips to races etc

We have a few more people leading / helping lead club runs now but we could still do with more volunteers. We have increased our senior membership compared to 2022 but we haven't achieved our stretch target of 150, we still have ambitions to reach this number and we are keen to develop strategies for increasing both our senior and junior membership numbers. We have had a successful year with club trips to local and regional relays races. The planned club trip to the Tavy 7 had to be cancelled due to a mix up with the minibus firm unfortunately. I'd be very keen to get a club trip organised for the spring so if anyone has suggestions for a race we could travel to together then please let me know.

Looking back at the last year, a few things stand out as highlight for me:

Firstly, our continued success at hosting races that are popular with running clubs and social running groups alike. The 10k continues to be a very successful local race and we are praised for how well organised it is. The relays are always great fun and once again there was a great atmosphere (despite the pouring rain and obliterated race numbers). Finally, our fell race in its second year attracted even more runners than the first year and the feedback is always positive despite the challenge the route presents.

It simply wouldn't be possible for us to host these events without the support of our members, can I say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped out in any way at these races. Your efforts are very much appreciated, we are very grateful to you supporting us when we host these events.

Secondly, it was lovely to see so many people at the Tavistock and Torbay relays in the summer, I was especially pleased to see a good number of our juniors representing the club at Tavistock. Torbay relays will be remembered for the for our men's team winning the race outright and in a record time; especially pleasing was that Luke, Charlie and Jamie are juniors who have been part of the junior set-up at the club. We followed this up with a trip to Sutton Coldfield to take part in the Midland Road Relays for the first time in the clubs history, the team performed extremely well against a very high standard field.

My third highlight was the 40th anniversary celebration including the relay round Filham Park, many thanks to Keith and Jayne for all their efforts in organising both the running and social aspects of the event. It was great to see lots of current and former members reminiscing and sharing stories of hard

cross country races and club trips. Many thanks also to Dave Fox for putting together the bumper addition of The Harrier (along with the regular monthly editions) with some great race reports and photos.

On the subject of cross-country, I'd like to thank Becky Lee for her continued management of the cross-country teams last season and continuing to do so this year. We had a fantastic turnout at the recent Newnham cross-country and it would be great if we could have a similar showing at the next race at Newquay.

Parkrun continues to be very popular with a lot of our members, I think it demonstrates the spirit of our club that you can turn up at any of the local parkruns and your almost certain to bump in to a club member and often share a coffee with them after the run. The weekly reports put together by Andy Trigg are always fascinating and it's great to see so many people reaching run and volunteering milestones.

The couch to 5K and beyond group continues to be a success with thanks to Sharon, Ruth, Steve and Phil for their commitment and efforts with this. Thanks also to Phil for his organisation of the regular away day runs on a Friday evening and the occasional breakfast run.

Chris has covered the finances so I won't go in to detail but we have essentially broken even this year which given the increased number of events we have paid for members to enter, the 40th anniversary celebrations, social occasions alongside general inflationary costs I think is a good outcome. Our 10k remains the bedrock of our finances and helps us to keep our membership fees down but we aren't able to absorb all of the additional costs we are faced with and as such there will be a modest increase in annual membership fees this year.

My aims for the club next year are as follows:

1. Increase senior membership level to greater than 150
2. Encourage even more club members to participate at some of the races available to them as part of their membership
3. Increase entry numbers to the 10k, our relays and our fell race.

Thank you again for reading and I look forward to seeing you at club or a race soon.

Tom Davies