

Hello Erme Valley Harrier members. Thank you for taking the time to read my 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.

There's a couple of people I would like to thank in particular; Lynne Whitfield who joined the committee last year and was instrumental in getting the internal Club Championship back up and running, this has been a great success and provides some friendly competition within the club. I'd also like to thank Emma Lake who supported Lynne with getting the Club Championship going and she has also taken on the organisation of the summer and winter handicaps including designing a new summer handicap route (twice!). Thanks also to Charlie Milward who along with Emma organise the weekly training routes including the popular speedwork sessions which Emma often leads

Also whilst not committee members I'd like to thank Dave Fox for his great work in producing the Harrier every month, Ken Summers for everything he does with kit sales and Monica, Ali and Liz Bristow for their ongoing support to the club with the supply of kit, race t-shirts etc.

Finally, 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, representing the club at local (and not so local races), parkrun meet-ups etc. As has been said many times before but it is worth reiterating; thank you to all our members who helped out with marshalling etc for the three club events which we host. Your efforts are very much appreciated, we are very grateful to you supporting us when we host these events.

Looking back on my aims for 2025 we had three targets:

1. Increase senior membership level to greater than 150.
2. Encourage more people to lead / help lead club runs.
3. Support the junior coaches and parents both at training nights and competitions (track and field and cross country)

We have increased our senior membership compared to 2024 but we haven't achieved our stretch target of 150, we have ongoing ambitions to reach this number and we are keen to develop strategies for increasing both our senior and junior membership numbers and would welcome ideas from the wider membership as to how we achieve this.

We have a couple of additional people leading and supporting on club runs but we really could do with more people to come forward to support us on this part. Especially when we are running in the winter evenings it's important that we know people are sticking together and looping back as required and that nobody is left behind. We will be bringing this up regularly so please do get in touch if you are able to support on this.

We have seen an increase in juniors representing the club at track and field and cross country events over the last year, however, we hope that these numbers increase this winter for XC and into next years T&F season. The junior coaches provide a great training environment and it would be fantastic to see a larger number of juniors at local events.

My own personal highlights for the last year:

Hearing about the personal achievements for so many of our members; this ranges from people taking part in a race distance or event for the first time, people achieving PB's, representing Devon County at the inter-county championships, England Age group representation alongside team successes at several local races including Torbay relays, Tavy 7, our own relays, First Chance 10k, etc

Greater involvement from both our junior and senior membership at local track and field events; we had a great turnout of juniors at some local meetings and several of them came away with medals from the County Championships. We also had some of our senior members returning to race on the track including Sally Erith, Jeremy Westmore and Peter Allen (who's 'swim' as part of the steeplechase was a particular highpoint).

Keith receiving his England Athletics lifetime achievement award for his long service to athletics and running. I'm sure everyone will agree that it's well deserved and it's a wonderful way for his contribution to be recognised.

Chris has covered the finances, so I won't go into detail, but we have effectively broken even this year which given the increased number of events we have paid for members to enter, the additional club funded trips, social occasions, charitable donations alongside general inflationary costs I think is a good outcome. It is clear that the Ivybridge 10k remains the foundation of our stable financial position which does help us to keep our membership fees down to one of the lowest in the local area. As has been reported elsewhere, the England Athletics affiliation fee has risen by £3 per year and with other items of our expenditure forecast to increase it is necessary for us to propose to increase our membership fees accordingly. I would encourage everyone to make the most of your membership fee by taking part in the local league races for cross country, track and field etc, use the club funded minibus for the various events we attend, weekly training sessions, subsidised social events etc

As a reminder, the EVH committee is focused on ensuring that every decision we make reflects the club's mission to provide a friendly running community here in Ivybridge.

We're proud to be an inclusive club that welcomes runners of all abilities from those competing at the sharp end to those who are relatively new to running and looking to progress and those who prefer a steadier social run. We're also a member-led club, and that means you help shape what EVH becomes next. We always welcome new ideas and suggestions for how we can improve what we offer whether it's training sessions, social events, volunteering, or ways we can give back to the local running community. If you've got an idea, please let us know.

This year we are looking to introduce a couple of new roles to help support both the committee and the wider club membership and this is through the introduction of a male and female club captain. The remit of these roles is not constrained and will be flexible to allow the individuals to make the role their own. In general terms, the club captains will be a link between the committee and the wider membership, encourage participation at local league races and other events, co-ordinate teams etc.

We will also be rolling out an additional way of communicating with members as well as hosting information such as upcoming training sessions and races through the use of Spond; the sports team management app. Full details and joining instructions to follow and I will provide a brief demonstration at the AGM. I would encourage everyone to engage with using Spond as the more people who use it the more effective it will be. This won't be a replacement for other sources of information such as the club website or announcements on club nights but helps us deliver information without the use of emails or social media posts.

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

Tom Davies