

RIPON RUNNERS – 24th March 2015

29th Report of the Chair to the membership

Mr. President and members of Ripon Runners; this report concludes my 4th year as Chair.

Membership

New runners continue to visit Ripon Runners, many of whom become members. Current membership stands at over 140

Review of Achievements in 2014

The last year has been momentous in the history of Ripon Runners with our Ladies conquering all before them. Never in our 29 years have we won the Ladies Team Prize in the Harrogate and District Evening League. Also our ladies won at least a dozen team prizes in a huge variety of events in the district.

Our Ladies Team won the hard fought Knaresborough Bed Race for the third year in succession.

Many of our members achieved great results in road and fell races, LDWA events and ultra events. Most of these were outlined at the annual dinner and awards.

Social Events

New members and visitors comment on our friendliness and camaraderie. It is therefore important that we continue to offer social events and runs.

Annual Dinner and Presentations. Over 100 members and guests had one of the best annual dinners in the history of the club. The Old Swan Hotel, managed by member Dave Ritson, made sure that members had a memorable evening. It is to my eternal regret that heart surgery prevented my attendance.

Social Weekend. Mike Pennock successfully organised a weekend run from Hebden to Malham. In spite of challenging weather, runners enjoyed themselves so much that even more participants are expected for this April's weekend away.

Outside Social Nights. Last summer saw three Tuesday social runs, at Martin-Cum-Grafton, Brimham Rocks NT Centre and perhaps most unexpectedly of all, Masham Golf Club. This later event was acclaimed an overwhelming success as the Golf Club was so welcoming.

Nibbles Night. This has become an annual tradition for the club. For the first time we were able to hold it in the far more spacious facilities of the Rugby Club. A Yorkshire quiz, facilitated by Mike Pennock, sorted out the true Yorkshire men and woman from in-comers like me!

Ripon Rugby Club

The most momentous decision of 2014 was to move from the Cricket Club to the Rugby Club. It had been obvious for some time that we had outgrown the facilities available at the Cricket Club and so in September we moved our base. So far I believe that the move has been an outstanding success. We have been made to feel welcome and when we have requested alterations the RC has been happy to comply. For my part I am pleased not to have to visit Booths regularly for beer supplies, also our 2 barmen can now relax after running and actually enjoy a drink.

As Chair I particularly thank Mike Allen, the Rugby Club bar steward who has been so helpful to Ripon Runners and made us all feel welcome.

Jolly Holly Jog and Ripon 10 mile

These two events are well known in the area and in fact the last JHJ was our most successful yet with a record entry. The success of our races is down to Tim Joynson and his team. Tim successfully introduced electronic timing to our races in 2014. Whilst the initial capital outlay was considerable this will be more justified over the next few years. There is also the possibility of earning fee income from other clubs who wish to hire our timing equipment.

Juniors

The success of our juniors was recently exemplified when **Rees Dalton**, one of our protégées, won the 2015 Lightwater 10k outright. Lisa Sorby will report on the juniors later.

Tribute and Thanks

After 10 years of looking after our money **Lisa Sorby** is resigning as Treasurer. We all thank her most whole heartedly for keeping our accounts balanced and in credit for so long. *(at this point Lisa was presented with a Camelia plant in ceramic pot in appreciation of her 10 years as custodian of our finances)*

Tim Joynson has proved himself hugely successful in his role as Race Director, arguably the hardest job in the club! We thank him and his enthusiastic team for all their hard work. However without an army of willing members it would be impossible to organise our races, at Ripon Runners we are fortunate in having so many members willing to volunteer. From the Chair I thank all of you.

Matt Holt produces interesting copy every week which means that our website carries the latest news on our race successes as does the local paper. Thank you press secretary, Matt.

Jill Holt recently agreed to take on the onerous job of Championship Coordinator and has already placed her mark on the role. I thank her for agreeing to take this on but we must not forget **Leah Horner** who organised the championship for 3 years.

I also thank the committee for their enthusiasm and willingness to take on many and various roles. Without them we would achieve nothing. **Claire Walker** proved herself a most able Vice-Chair when I landed her with the role of presenting the awards at the annual dinner. I also thank **Jo Wallace** for taking on the role of secretary last year and agreeing to continue in this post.

It must not be forgotten that **Tim Joynson**, as well as being Race Director, is responsible for the website but behind this is our webmaster, **Phil Holden**, who has recently altered the appearance of the site so that now it is smart-device compatible, enabling people to peruse the Ripon Runners site on smart phone or tablet.

Ray Johnson is resigning as men's captain after many years organising the evening league for Ripon members. We thank him for all his hard work over the years. **Jo Lofthouse** has agreed to captain the Men's Team for the 2015 Knaresborough Bed Race.

In presenting this report for 2014 I feel that the club is stronger than ever before and that its future based at RRUFC is assured, such is the enthusiasm of so many members.

Chris Bennett – Chair. March 2015