

Sedgefield Harriers

AGM 2013

Report of the Committee

General

The year since the AGM of 2012 has been another one of significant developments for Sedgefield Harriers. During this year developments in athletic performance has matched development of the club as a whole. The committee reported at the AGM last year that the focus of the club had moved more towards athletic performance to compliment athletic development that had been the main focus in previous years. This focus on performance is paying off in both senior and junior sections where there have been much improved and consistent results and more strength in depth. The main development away from competition has involved the athletics track and associated facilities that the club is endeavouring to have built at Sedgefield Community College. The club has benefited from funds resulting from the Sainsbury's foodstore development in Sedgefield and planning permission for the track has been granted by Durham County Council. To coordinate the fund-raising for the track a Friends Group has been established which it is hoped will become a registered charity. The club has established a Back the Track campaign through which support for the project will be focused. The club continues to be a focus club for support by England Athletics and continues to play an active role as a member of County Durham Athletics Network.

Seniors

Over the winter of 2012/13 for the first time the club had full team representation in the men's North East, Northern and National cross-country Championships. The club competed for the first time in cross-country in the North East Harrier League. Seniors have competed in a wide range of races on road, fell, trail, track and cross-country thus fulfilling the aims of the club in the constitution. A significant number of seniors took part in marathons and there has been increasing representation in track events from 100m to 10,000m and a small number of seniors have competed in field events. There are three coach led running sessions per week for all levels including advanced and beginners and there are specific beginner sessions. There is a well-attended weekly strength and conditioning session and a number of club runs on other days. Senior membership has increased to 98 from 72 reported at this time last year.

Juniors

The revisions made a year ago and reported at the last AGM, to cope with the demand for admission to the club junior section have been successful in establishing organisation and control. Demand continues to be high and there are waiting lists for many of the junior coaching groups. The junior section is structured for groups of minis and minors up to school year 9 and then for athletic disciplines of sprints, throws, jumps, endurance and multi-discipline beyond year 9. The main junior night continues to be Wednesday and there are endurance sessions at weekends and a junior strength and conditioning on Monday. Junior athletes have competed in track and field and cross country in local leagues and competitions where there has been a big increase in the number of medals won including 15 at the North East Grand Prix series. The club won the County Durham Athletics Network Quadkids competition for the third year in succession. Junior athletes, particularly in endurance, have received recognition at county and regional level. The junior section has traditionally gained more success at under-13 level but as juniors progress through the club there are higher

numbers in the over-13 age categories which is enabling the club to achieve success in those age groups. It is expected that this will continue and will enable the club to gain higher placing's in competitions with recognition across the board in all age groups through juniors to seniors.

Coaching

The committee believe that quality and up-to-date coaching is central to the performance success of club athletes and therefore continues to positively support coach education by funding or obtaining funding for coaching courses. This support is matched by the dedication and enthusiasm of club coaches and a number of coaches have gained or increased their qualifications this year. This includes coach, assistant coach, athletics leader and leadership in running fitness qualifications. Coaches from the club attend England Athletics coaching conferences including the Local Coach Development Programme Northern Conference. Four coaches from the club are supported by England Athletics on the Local Coach Development programme and these and a number of other coaches attend the series of discipline specific workshops held on a number of weekends in the winter months. There are regular additions to coach numbers as volunteers come forward to assist at club sessions and subsequently gain qualifications. The club has coaches qualified to coach endurance, sprints, throws, horizontal jumps and children in athletics. The committee believe that this focus on and support of coaches will be instrumental in the future success of the club and individual athletes from the club.

Volunteering

A volunteer's event was held for the fourth time in May with the aim of creating a Friends group to support the club with fund raising, community activities and direct support for the activities of the club. This initiative was successful and has led to the establishment of the Friends of Sedgfield Harriers as a constituted group which aims to secure charitable status. The primary short term aim of FoSH is to secure funding for the proposed athletics track at Sedgfield Community College. The committee are very grateful that all club activities continue to be well supported by volunteers.

Club Race Events Programme

Club races and events have increased their profile in the local athletics calendar and have been well attended and there has been good feedback about the quality and friendliness of the events. Teams entering the Neptune Relays increased to 100 with some significant athletes taking part from other clubs in the North East. The entry for the Serpentine Trail Race increased to 146 and has become a popular event for the nature of the course, the location and the events such as the supporting BBQ. The club handicaps continue to be popular and well attended. The club also hosted a Junior Sports Hall Athletics event.

Awards

The following awards were received;

Tim Dredge, runner-up England Athletics North East Development Coach of the Year; Ean Parsons. Runner-up Northern Echo Local Heroes Contribution to Sport Award.

Community

The club continues to play an active part in the local community and supports events including Run Santa Run in aid of Butterwick Hospice and the annual Town Council Snow Party. Club events have a positive impact on other organisations such as the cricket club which benefits when the club hires the pavilion for events and uses the facilities and bar for the Serpentine Trail Race. The club is an active participant in Sedgefield Village Games which is a London 2012 legacy initiative supporting sport in Sedgefield. The committee decided not to renew the clubs membership of Sedgefield Community Association due to the cost and consequent lack of significant benefits in return for the annual subscription.

Partners

In the past year Sedgefield Harriers has worked with the following organisations who support the aims of the club; England Athletics, County Durham Athletics Network, Sport England, Durham County Council Sport Development, the School Sports Partnership, Sedgefield Town Council, Durham County Council, Sedgefield Community College, Sedgefield Village Games, the Area Action Partnership and County Durham Community Foundation. The number of partners is expected to increase further in the coming year as a result of the development of the track project.

Social

The annual club dinner in the past year was held at Sedgefield Racecourse and was well attended and supported by Olympic athlete and BBC commentator Alison Curbishley. To accommodate increasing numbers and change the focus of the event to be more of an awards evening the nature of the dinner will change in the coming year. There was a Christmas social night at the Nags Head and a club BBQ at Ceddesfeld Hall in August. A new social evening 'New and Old' took place in January jointly organised by an existing member and a new member to welcome to the club members who had joined the past year; this was held at Ministers and was well attended. The junior section held its annual presentation evening at Sedgefield Racecourse organised by the juniors themselves and featuring presentations by the juniors on their experience of being members of Sedgefield Harriers in the past year. Members of Sedgefield Harriers attended the Friends of Sedgefield Harriers charity ball, Durham Sport Awards Dinner, England Athletics Awards Dinner and The Northern Echo Local Heroes Awards Dinner. It is expected that all club social events will be repeated in the coming year.