



CHAIRMANS REPORT 2025-2026

The AGM inevitably houses change, following last years meeting we welcomed Mary Edgerton (Pennine Fell Runners) as Fixtures Secretary, Renee McGregor (Ambleside AC) as Coaching and Education Co-Ordinator and Chris Hodgson (Ambleside AC) as Commercial Officer. It is very refreshing to see the Executive Committee is 50/50 split male/female team.

Membership continues to grow, with a manageable annual increase, we currently sit at 9,623 (9,556 this time last year) active members.

FRA accounts for 2025 are in very good shape albeit we had a slight loss which was due to unforeseen Legal Costs the FRA had to bear. Simon Long and I have continued to review the Capital and Operating budgets on a regular basis and can confirm there will be no increase in membership subscriptions for 2027.

IT There was shift in our focus to enhance the website and we now have the digital magazine available and we prepare for future plans such as displaying SMOTS, live “on the day” senior championship results and archive material.

Coaching and Training all courses continue to be very well supported. The CiRF FHMT (Fell/Hill/Mountain/Trail) module was piloted in September 2026. This will be rolled out during 2027 alongside the LiRF FHTM module.

Access remains a major concern for the future of fell racing, to mitigate this we continue to work closely with Natural England, United Utilities, Forestry Commission and the Natural Trust.

Environmental Issues, a climate change sub group has been set up, in collaboration with the WFRA. This is particularly relevant to all of us run in the fells with recent high temperatures, storms causing flooding, lightning and wildfires. Look forward to outcome of this group soon.

Safeguarding & Welfare, we have had to deal with a higher number than of cases than previous years and have identified a number of areas to improve on such as general review of our policies, increase the number of welfare team members and a training plan.

Races, with some 500+ fixtures our focus remains to ensure we support the 300+ Race Organisers for fair and safe running through the Safety, Equipment and Rules sub-committee.

Senior and Junior Championships, another successful year of racing. The use of SI Entries and Crazy legs consecutively continues to prove efficiency, meeting our requirement in race entry, timing and results for both series of races.

Governance, it has been clear when stressing and questioning policy over the past few years that the “Articles of Association” do not align with our current working practices and are not fit for purpose and will be fully reviewed in 2027. The “Disciplinary Process” was as promised reviewed in 2026. See ToR 2.8.

It has been a pleasure to be Chair of the FRA for the past 4 years, Clive Thornton has volunteered to take on this role. Having known Clive for many years, most recently welcoming him to the Executive Committee as Race Liaison Officer - Lead, I am confident that the FRA is in good hands for the future.

Stuart Ferguson
Chair
The Fell Runners Association
15th September 2026