

Chairman's Report 2022-2023



Time flies by, it does not seem a year since I took over as Chairman.

The AGM inevitably houses change, at last years we welcomed Kathryn Miller as Access and Environment Officer and Daryl Hardman to the Magazine Editorial Team, Design and Layout. This year we say Thank You to Ed Gamble after 7 years as Welfare Officer, Dave Littler, Junior Editor, Pita Oates, Race Liaison Office (RLO) Lead and James Lowe, Communications Officer. James was instrumental in the 50@50 series and the launch of the club ambassador scheme. Ian Winterburn moves to a Safety Consultant role, which better fits Ian's contribution to the FRA. Clive Thornton, Esk Valley Fell Club has kindly agreed to take over as RLO Lead and Julie Carter joins as Welfare Officer. Current Vacant roles are Junior Editor, Magazine Editor Assistant and Communications Officer.

Andy Watts contribution to the FRA is well documented, to reflect the ongoing work assisting committee members, I am pleased to advise that this has been recognised as a Honorary Committee Member.

Membership continues with a manageable annual increase, we currently sit, at 9,053 (8,930 this time last year) active members.

FRA accounts for 2022 are in very good shape, thank you for the handover of the first nine months of 2022 accounts in such a healthy state from Charmian Heaton and Andy Watts. Simon Long and I have reviewed Capital and Operating budgets for the next 2 years and can confirm there will be no increase in membership subscriptions for 2024.

Website. The major project build activity has been completed with the transition of the forum. The website activity is now focused on Maintenance and Upgrade work.

Coaching and Training courses, all continue to be very well supported. The CiRF FHTM (Fell/Hill/Trail/Mountain) module production has re started. We are working with Will4Adventure with a view to a partnership agreement for 2024 for First Aid Training.

Access remains a major concern for the future of fell racing, to mitigate this we are working closely with Natural England, United Utilities, Forestry Commission and the Natural Trust. We have also reached out to other agencies such as the British Mountaineering Council, Trail Runners Association and British Orienteering Federation to explore joint working practices and knowledge transfer.

Environmental Issues, we supported the Upper Derwent Valley Coalition against the Seven Trent Water plans for the potential major reservoir construction.

Juniors. The Junior Championships Do at Marl Pitt's was a fine day out, well done to Gareth Hardcastle, the junior championships co-ordinator along with Graham Wight and the Rossendale team. Nichola Jackson's talk was particularly inspiring for all ages.

Stuart Ferguson
Chairman
The Fell Runners Association