**CHAIRMANS REPORT 2023-2024**

The AGM inevitably houses change, following last years meeting we welcomed James Parsons as General Secretary, Olga Woods as Communication Officer and Judith Cole as Junior Editor. We currently have one Executive Committee vacancy for a membership representative.

Membership continues to grow, with a manageable annual increase, we currently sit at 9,397 ( 9,053 this time last year ) active members.

FRA accounts for 2023 are in very good shape. Simon Long and I continue to review the Capital and Operating budgets on a regular basis and can confirm there will be no increase in membership subscriptions for 2025.

IT. We successfully transitioned to a Microsoft 365 platform from a number of existing legacy and expensive stand alone systems. This gives the FRA a cost effective and efficient solution with enhanced security for email, video conference, cloud storage, document management and planning tools.

Coaching and Training courses, all continue to be very well supported. The CiRF FHTM (Fell/Hill/Trail/Mountain) module is scheduled for release spring 2025. The partnership agreement is now in place with Will4Adventure for First Aid Training. We have also approved a number of Navigation Course providers to satisfy the growing demand from members to improve Mountain Craft skills.

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 continue to work with 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 now have available to Race Organisers an Ecological Risk Assessment template to assist in local land owners negotiations.

Senior and Junior Championships, due to proven inconsistency in standards and quality of a number of entry and timing suppliers, we mandated the use of SI/Sportident and Crazy Legs for Senior and Junior Championships respectively.

Stuart Ferguson

Chairman

The Fell Runners Association