



# WHITE HORSE HARRIERS

## 2011/12 Chairman's Report

19<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Gareth Smith

### Jess Harrison

Long standing member Jessica Harrison finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Triathlon at the London Olympics while representing France. This is a fantastic achievement and even better than her 12<sup>th</sup> place in the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Further achievements including winning the 2012 Paris Triathlon and being part of France's silver medal winning team in the world mixed team triathlon relay. These results show an athlete at the very top of their sport and deserve our congratulations.

### Cross Country 2011-2012 Season

The Cross-Country season has continued the standard pattern that we have had for some years with the season based around the Oxford Mail league and Championship races. For the last four seasons we have affiliated in addition to the Chiltern League, and have renewed this for the 2012/13 season. This provides some additional competition, both in terms of standard (it is a tougher league), different venues and Saturday races. During 2011/12 we again affiliated to the Wessex league which provided additional competition both cheaply and with a number of courses that our runners have enjoyed. However, a change in the Wessex League dates for 2012/13 means that this league will not provide us useful extra races this coming season and we have not renewed our affiliation.

The 'Mini' Cross Country races for Young Athletes are now in their sixth season. Last year we had two races (one on a Thursday evening, one on a Saturday).

### Oxford Mail XC League

#### Women's Results

##### INDIVIDUALS - Final league Positions:

- Under 13 Girls: Amy Godfrey 27<sup>th</sup>, Georgia Paxton-Doggett 29<sup>th</sup>
- Under 15 Girls: Josephine Harrison 5<sup>th</sup>
- Under 17 Women: Sophie Lloyd 1<sup>st</sup>, Becky Hodgson 5<sup>th</sup>
- V45 Women: Ros Burgess 7<sup>th</sup>

##### TEAMS

- U15/17 Girls: 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Women: 17<sup>th</sup> (Div 2)

#### Men's Results

##### INDIVIDUALS - Final league Positions:

- Under 11 Boys: Rueben Paget 17<sup>th</sup>
- Under 13 Boys: Charlie Harrison 8<sup>th</sup>
- Under 15 Boys: Ben Claridge 6<sup>th</sup>
- Under 20 Men: Jonathan Cornish 1<sup>st</sup>, Anthony Holmes 5<sup>th</sup>
- Senior Men: Paul Jégou 11<sup>th</sup>, Graham Wiggins 51<sup>st</sup>.
- Vet 50 Men: Dene Stringfellow 24<sup>th</sup>, Simon Lord 29<sup>th</sup>, Jeremy Smeddle 31<sup>st</sup>.

##### TEAMS:

- U13 Boys 6<sup>th</sup>
- Men 1<sup>st</sup> (Div 2)



Our thanks to the League Organizers. I would like to express a particular thanks to Frank Briscoe who again produced the results and attended the fixtures despite living in Barcelona.

## Oxfordshire County Championships



Held at Middleton Cheney 8th January 2012

- **U11 Girls:** Phoebe Leech 20<sup>th</sup>
- **U13 Girls:** Amy Godfrey 24<sup>th</sup>, Georgia Paxton-Doggett 31<sup>st</sup>
- **U15 Girls:** Josephine Harrison 4<sup>th</sup>
- **U17 Women:** Sophie Lloyd 2<sup>nd</sup>, Becky Hodgson 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Sen/Vet Women:** Ros Burgess 20<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> V/45)
- **U11 Boys:** Rueben Paget 13<sup>th</sup>
- **U13 Boys:** Okan Onay 5<sup>th</sup>, Charlie Harrison 11<sup>th</sup>
- **U15 Boys:** Ben Claridge 4<sup>th</sup>
- **U/17 Men:** Sam Marshall 5<sup>th</sup>
- **U/20 Sen/Vet Men:** Jonathan Cornish 9<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> U/20), Paul Jégou 15<sup>th</sup>, Steve Marshall 22<sup>nd</sup>, Anthony Holmes 48<sup>th</sup> (9<sup>th</sup> U/20), Alex Mills 57<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> U/20), Simon Leech 73<sup>rd</sup>, Stewart Scott 76<sup>th</sup>, Graham Wiggins 100<sup>th</sup>; Dene Stringfellow 119<sup>th</sup>, Simon Lord 125<sup>th</sup>

TEAMS: U/20 Men 1<sup>st</sup>

## Berks Bucks & Oxon – Swinley Forest, Bracknell 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011

- **U/13 Boys:** Okan Onay 8<sup>th</sup>, Benedict Fletcher 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **U/15 Girls:** Josie Harrison 6<sup>th</sup>
- **U/15 Boys:** Ben Claridge 9<sup>th</sup>
- **U/17 Men:** Mitch Lomas 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Senior Women:** Ros Burgess 32<sup>nd</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> Vet).
- **Senior Men:** Jonathan Cornish 7<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> U/20), Paul Jégou 10<sup>th</sup>, Alex Mills 29<sup>th</sup> (9<sup>th</sup> U/20), Anthony Holmes 38<sup>th</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> U/20), John Peake 44<sup>th</sup>, Adi Evans 65<sup>th</sup>, Simon Lord 72<sup>nd</sup>, Dene Stringfellow 75<sup>th</sup>

TEAMS: Senior Men 5<sup>th</sup>

## Southern – Stanmer Park, Brighton – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012

- **U/13 Boys:** Charlie Harrison 166<sup>th</sup>
- **U/17 Women:** Sophie Lloyd 42<sup>nd</sup>
- **U/17 Men:** Mitch Lomas 45<sup>th</sup>
- **U/20 Men:** Jonathan Cornish 50<sup>th</sup>
- **Senior Men:** Paul Jégou 197<sup>th</sup>, Malcolm Ward 643<sup>rd</sup>, Dene Stringfellow 680<sup>th</sup>, Jeremy Smeddle 725<sup>th</sup>

## National – Parliament Hill – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012

- **U/13 Boys:** Charlie Harrison 212<sup>th</sup>
- **U/15 Girls:** Josie Harrison 97<sup>th</sup>
- **U/17 Women:** Sophie Lloyd 47<sup>th</sup>
- **U/17 Men:** Mitch Lomas 169<sup>th</sup>
- **Junior Men:** Jonathan Cornish 68<sup>th</sup>
- **Senior Men:** Paul Jégou 308<sup>th</sup>, Graham Wiggins 1120<sup>th</sup>, Malcolm Ward 1443<sup>rd</sup>, Dene Stringfellow 1508<sup>th</sup>, Jeremy Smeddle 1652<sup>th</sup>

## Wessex League 2010/11 season.

- Overall Winner of Senior Men's Category: Paul Jégou (for the fourth year running)
- Runner Up of V40 Men's Category: John Peake

We did not manage to compete in the Ridgeway relay this year. Organising the team for this event is a major task even though the event is popular with a number of members.

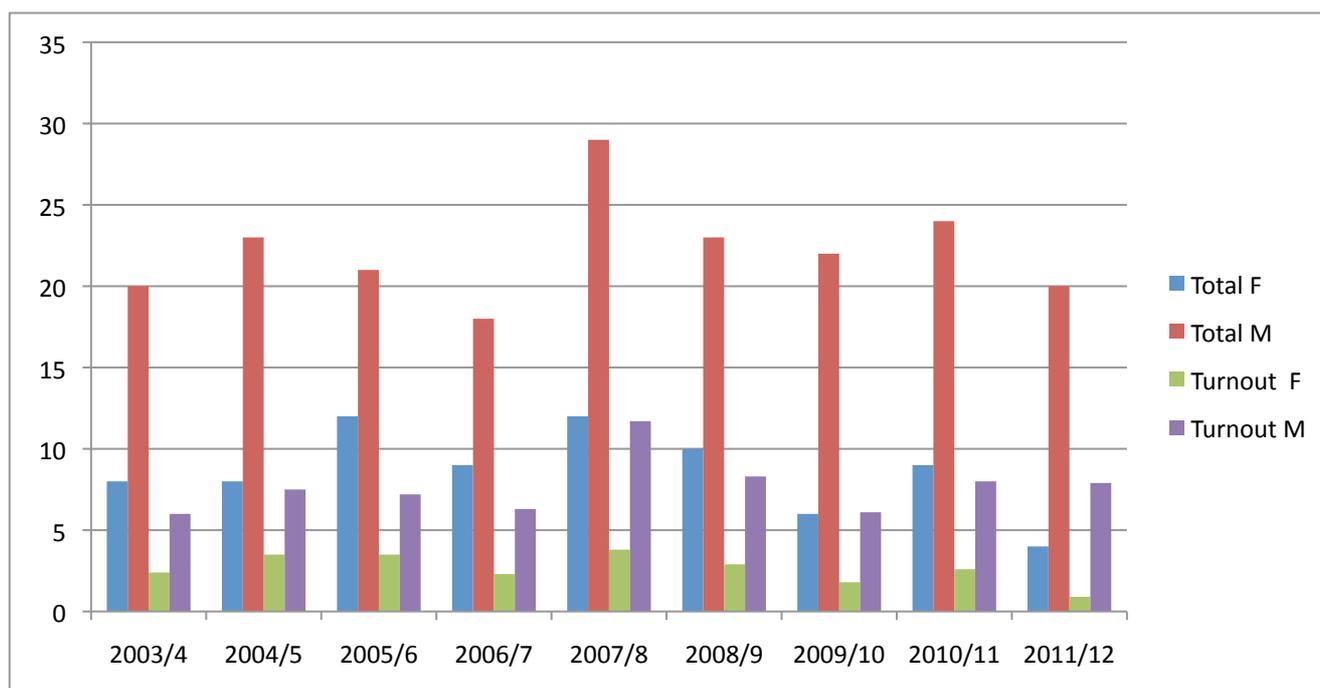
Jan McCabe won the Club **Cross-Country Handicap**.  
Susan Christie won the **New Year's Day Handicap**.

## X-Country Champs (Senior)

The championship was formed from a total of 10 races with each runner's best 8 to count. These being: 5 \* Oxford Mail League (including County Champs); 1 \* Wessex League; 1 \* Chiltern League, Southern, National & BB&O

**Winners: Senior Men:** Jonathan Cornish, **Vet Men:** Dene Stringfellow  
**Senior & Vet Ladies:** Ros Burgess

The following graph shows the total number of Harriers (Male & Female) who have competed in each of the last nine cross-country seasons along with the average number of Harriers at each of the races in the club championship.



## X-Country Champs (Junior)

Total of 12 races:

5 \* Oxford Mail League (including County), 1 \* Chiltern League, BB&O, Southern, National, 2 \* Club Time Trials

Statuettes were presented to the individual age group winners for ages Under-11 and upwards, with the additional requirement that the winner had competed in at least four events. Medals were presented to all who had taken part in four or more of the events.

Age Group	Winner	No of participants (For 09/10 & 10/11 shown in brackets)
U/9 Girls:	Eda Onay	1 (2,3)
U/9 Boys:	Aiden Fletcher	1 (0,2)
U/11 Girls:	Phoebe Leech	4 (14,12)
U/11 Boys:	Reuben Paget	2 (9,1)
U/13 Girls:	Amy Godfrey	4 (13,5)
U/13 Boys:	Charlie Harrison	3 (16,11)
U/15 Girls:	Josie Harrison	2 (5,9)
U/15 Boys:	Ben Claridge	5 (9,9)
U/17 Girls:	Sophie Lloyd	3 (4,2)
U/17 Boys:	Mitch Lomas	2 (3,4)

I note is that in several age categories numbers were significantly down compared with previous years.

The Trophies for the Best Young Harriers were awarded to Sophie Lloyd and Mitch Lomas.

## **Track & Field Athletics**

White Horse Harriers has not fielded a senior team in Track & Field competitions for some years. A few WHH members compete in T&F athletics for other clubs, including in the Southern and Veteran's Leagues - although numbers doing this were very low this year. For the Young Athletes (up to U/17) the Oxfordshire Junior T&F League has provided some competition, although the league only comprises three fixtures each season and the first one (at Banbury) this last season was called off in very bad weather. We lack sufficient numbers to do well as a team in this competition.

This year was the second season of the Oxfordshire Combined Team that has taken part in the National Junior T&F League. This again provided a significant amount of extra competition for our Under-20 and Under-17 athletes.

The remaining fixtures are made up of the Oxfordshire Championships along with open events etc.

This year also saw the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Club Athletics Championships, held at King Alfred's School West on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The weather for the event was very wet. Despite this a total of around 20 people taking part in at least one of the four (100/75m; 800/600/400m; Long Jump; Vortex Throw). The Shot Putt, although planned, was not held owing to the weather.

I note that we continue to be very short of officials who are obviously crucial to the hosting of athletics competitions in the area. The Oxfordshire Athletics Network is planning to organise an officials' course locally, and I encourage anyone interested to attend this.

## **Oxfordshire County Championships Horspath: 12/13 May 2012**



- U13 Girls 800m 10<sup>th</sup> Georgia Paxton-Doggett 3m10.41
- U15 Girls Javelin 5<sup>th</sup> Eloise Graham 16.07m
- U15 Girls Discus 9<sup>th</sup> Eloise Graham 11.04m
- U17 Women 3000m 1<sup>st</sup> Josie Harrison 11m 16.07s
- U17 Women 800m 2<sup>nd</sup> Josie Harrison 2m 30.65s
- U17 Women 1500m 3<sup>rd</sup> Sophie Lloyd 5m 05.99s
- U17 Women Long Jump Megan Ostle 8<sup>th</sup> 3m40
- U17 Women 100m Megan Ostle 7<sup>th</sup> in heat 15.03
- U20 Women 400m 1<sup>st</sup> Becky Hodgson 59.79
- U20 Women 800m 1<sup>st</sup> Becky Hodgson 2m 28.25
- U15 Boys 800m Ben Claridge 1<sup>st</sup> 2m13.03; 9<sup>th</sup> Charlie Harrison 2m41.80
- U15 Boys 1500m Ben Claridge 2<sup>nd</sup> 4m35.69
- U15 Boys 100m 1<sup>st</sup> Zack Smith 12.19 (12.16 in qualifying) ; 6<sup>th</sup> Ryan Craze 13.26 (12.82 in qual.)
- U15 Boys 200m 4<sup>th</sup> Zack Smith 26.35 (26.29 in qualifying) ; 7<sup>th</sup> Ryan Craze 27.77 (27.59 in qual.)
- U15 Boys 300m 3<sup>rd</sup> Ryan Craze 42.18 (41.81 in qualifying)
- U15 Boys Long Jump 3<sup>rd</sup> Zack Smith 4m32 ; 5<sup>th</sup> Joe Bradstock 3m94
- U15 Boys Javelin 4<sup>th</sup> Joe Bradstock 25m39
- U17 Mens 100m 5<sup>th</sup> Jake Allen 12.28
- U17 Mens 400m 3<sup>rd</sup> Jake Allen 55.94
- U20 Mens 400m 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Marshall 55.93 ; 4<sup>th</sup> Mitch Lomas 56.61
- U20 Mens 800m 4<sup>th</sup> Sam Marshall 2m08.64 ; 5<sup>th</sup> Anthony Holmes 2m10.85
- U20 Mens 1500m 1<sup>st</sup> Jonathan Cornish 4m19.61 ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitch Lomas 4m24.12 ; 3<sup>rd</sup> Anthony Holmes 4m27.87
- Snr Men 800m 7<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 2m30.91
- Snr Men 1500m 6<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 5m08.50
- U20 Men 2000m 1<sup>st</sup> Jonathan Cornish 9m20.14
- Masters Mens Hammer 4<sup>th</sup> Richard Jégou 27m15

## Richard Jégou : Masters (V65) Throws:

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: British Championships - Discus in the Winter
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: British Championships - Shot Putt in the Summer.

## Club Track & Field Records Update

I have not yet had a chance to update all the club records for 2012. However, I am aware of the following new records:

- Eda Onay has re-written the Under-9 girls records with new marks for the 50m, 75m, 600m, 800m, Long Jump, Standing Long Jump and Vortex Throw.
- Zack Smith has broken the U15 Boys 100m record with a time of 11.87. Zack also competed in **the English Schools** Championships in Gateshead – our first sprinter to do so.
- Ben Claridge has set new records for the U/15 Boys 300m and 800m.
- Mitch Lomas has broken the U17 Men 2000m steeplechase record with a time of 6m33s.
- Beck Hoddgson has broken her own U/20 and Senior women's 400m record.
- Jonathan Cornish has improved on his own U/20 10,000m track record.

I am maintaining the additional spreadsheet that started last year to track updates to the club records so that we can look back at the history of these records.

## Track & Field Trophies (2011 Season):

Best Track Performance:	Becky Hodgson
Best Field Performance:	Eloise Graham
Best Young Male Athlete:	Ryan Craze
Best Young Female Athlete:	Chloe Craze
Most Improved Young athlete:	Josie Harrison

*The above list is for 2011 as we have not yet presented the trophies for 2012.*

## Road Running 2011 Season

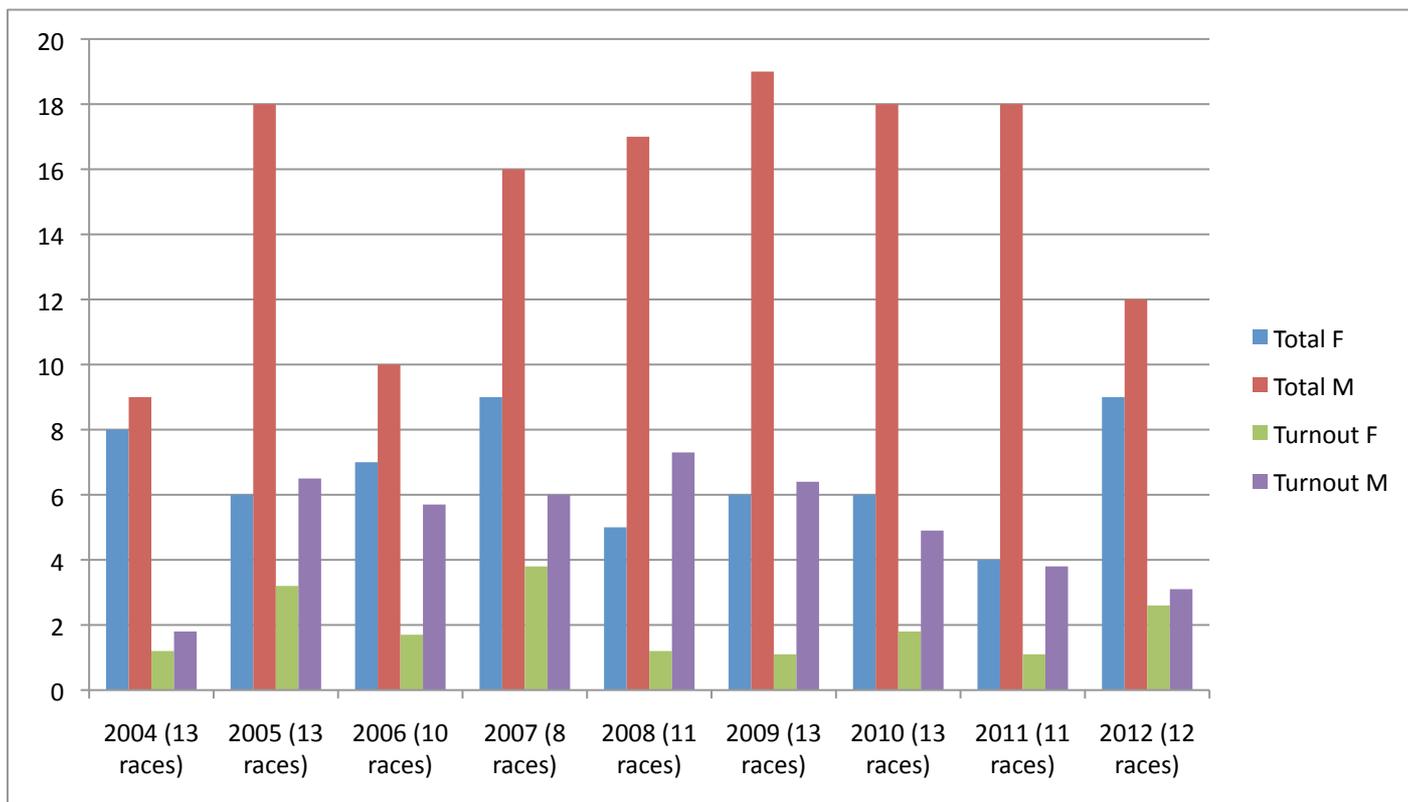
This year's championships tried something different with the inclusion of two parkruns with the aim of increasing turnout. Although the numbers that turned out for these was good compared to other fixtures in the championships it did not lead to the large participation hoped for. The season was also partly disrupted by the bad weather with one of the championship races being postponed. In addition to the races listed below runners could include their best marathon and half-marathon into the results. Notable in this year's championship are the greater numbers of women who took part, but the very poor number of men who did so.

## Road Running Championship Events

List with results for first Harriers home, along with the number of Harriers in the event.

- **Banbury 15:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Jégou 86:44; 41<sup>st</sup> John Peake 103:25; 68<sup>th</sup> Simon Leech 107:34; 152<sup>nd</sup> Ian Rees 120:59; 171<sup>st</sup> Clare Hazell 123:33; 209<sup>th</sup> Dene Stringfellow 130:00; 238 Jeremy Smeddle 136:39; 247<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 139:58; 252<sup>nd</sup> Sharon Bedford 142:54;
- **Motavation Series – Charlton:** (Delayed from May to August) 8<sup>th</sup> Paul Jégou 22:33; 123<sup>rd</sup> Dene Stringfellow 32:35; 156<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 36:55;
- **Thames Run:** 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Jégou 35:34; 24<sup>th</sup> Simon leech 42:14; 47<sup>th</sup> George Smith 44:30; 57<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 45:43; 125<sup>th</sup> Ian Rees 49:05; 131<sup>st</sup> Catherine Wainwright 49:27; 218<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 55:00
- **Abingdon Parkrun:** 12<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 20:47; 26<sup>th</sup> Ian Rees 22:32; 34<sup>th</sup> Sheila Bailey 23:15; 46<sup>th</sup> Clare Hazell 24:03; 56<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 25:18; 76<sup>th</sup> Barbara Margetts 26:54; 78<sup>th</sup> Sharon Bedford 27:04; 92<sup>nd</sup> Gareth Smith 27:57
- **Hornton 6m:** 60<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 46:16; 66<sup>th</sup> Ian Rees 47:21; 90<sup>th</sup> Clare Hazell 50:37; 110<sup>th</sup> Sharon Bedford 56:59;
- **Hook Norton 6m:** 6<sup>th</sup> Paul Jégou 34:29; 84<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 44:27; 179<sup>th</sup> Sharon Bedford 55:27; 196<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 57:52
- **Oxford Parkrun:** 20<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 22:15; 39<sup>th</sup> Clare Hazell 24:50; 46<sup>th</sup> Gareth Smith 25:39; 53<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Margetts 26:40; 60<sup>th</sup> Kezia Margetts 27:19; 64<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 28:01
- **Medmenham 10m:** No-one (Despite some attempting to get there!)
- **Woodstock 12m:** 5<sup>th</sup> Paul Jégou 71:08; 87<sup>th</sup> Ros Burgess 96:00; 92<sup>nd</sup> Sheila Bailey 97:55; 98<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 100:52; 109<sup>th</sup> Clare Hazell 105:09;
- **Hanney 5m:** 5<sup>th</sup> Paul Jégou 27:59; 16<sup>th</sup> Dan Peace 29:00; 47<sup>th</sup> Paul Finch 32:30; 62<sup>nd</sup> Hayley Chaundy 34:15; 67<sup>th</sup> Graham Wiggins 34:22; 82<sup>nd</sup> Sheila Bailey 35:27 (1<sup>st</sup> L55); 107<sup>th</sup> Clare Hazell 38:08; 11<sup>th</sup> Gareth Smith 38:50; 117<sup>th</sup> Dene Stringfellow 39:15. **Ladies Team 2<sup>nd</sup>; Men's Team 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The above list of races is not the complete list that the club has entered. Our team came 11<sup>th</sup> in the Highworth Half Marathon in January. In the County Road Relays at Hook Norton our Ladies team (Lucia Singer, Sheila Bailey, Ros Burgess) finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the veterans category. We did not manage to put out a men's team for this event.



As announced via The Harrier there will be endurance trophies awarded for the Vet50 (men) and Vet45 (women) categories. These will be based on a combination of the runners performances in cross-country and road running, with each runner's best five races of each type counting towards their total.

**The winners of the Road Running Championship for 2011 were:**

Senior & Vet Ladies: Jan McCabe

Senior & Vet Men: John Peake

*The above list is for 2011 as we have not yet presented the trophies for 2012.*

Paul Jégou has had significant achievements in multi-terrain races in this year. His most notable successes being:

- 1st Compton 20 miles;
- 1st Neolithic Marathon;
- 1st South Downs Marathon;
- 1st Senior - 3rd overall North Devon Coastal Marathon (run under Fell running Rules),

**London Marathon.**

The club was awarded two places for the 2012 London Marathon. One was taken Jan McCabe (as winner of the Road running Championship); The other place was won by Jeremy Smeddle in the draw.

Places for the 2013 race will be awarded using the same method. I.e. First offered to the winners of the club road running championships and then any remaining places allocated by a draw.

**Virgin London Marathon. 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.**

950<sup>th</sup> Dan Peace 2h57.17; 7278<sup>th</sup> James Lawton 3h45.08; 13680<sup>th</sup> Jan McCabe 4h11.01; 22115<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Smeddle 4h43.38

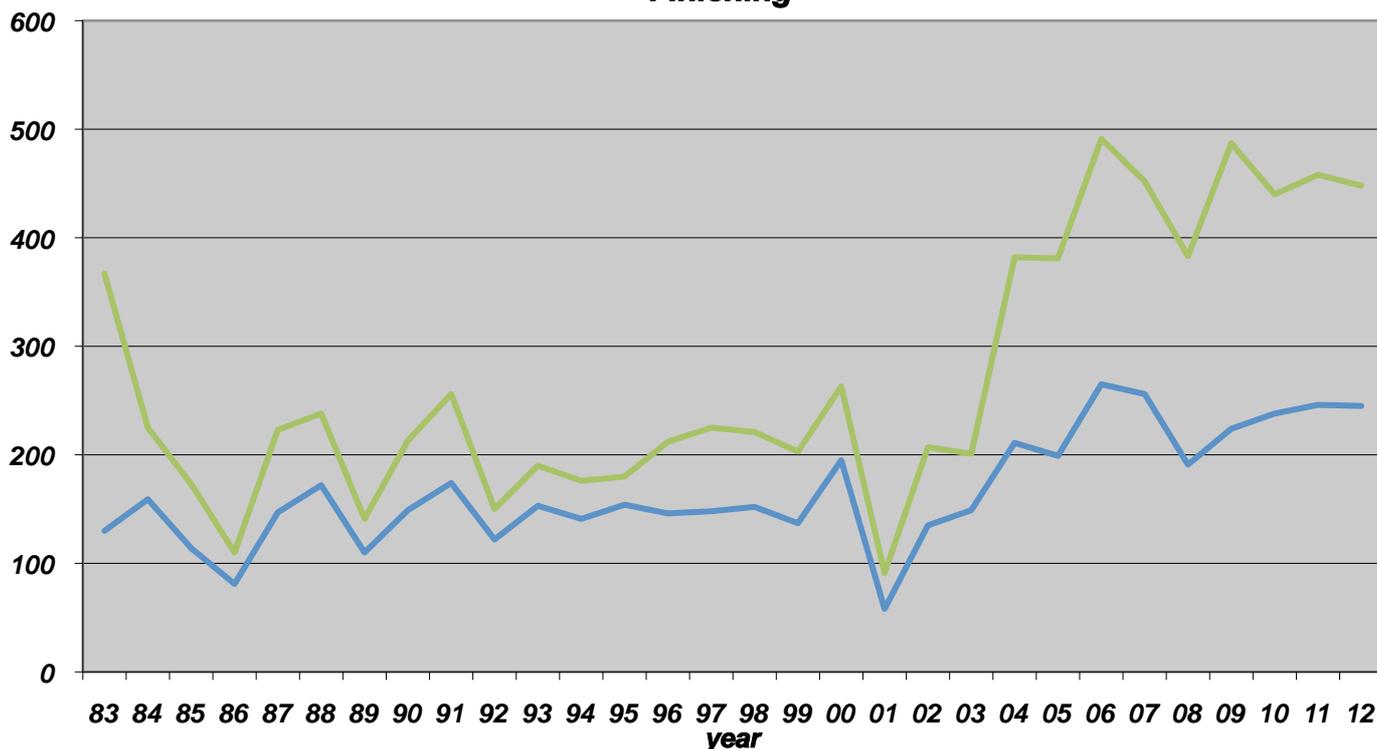
**White Horse Half Marathon 2012**

The 2012 race was again a successful and profitable race which received many very favourable comments. The race was full before Christmas – continuing a trend of filling earlier and earlier. One change to the event

was the presence of St. John Ambulance personnel on bicycles. My particular thanks to the organising team: Bob Harrison, Dene Stringfellow, Kevin Harris, Lucia Singer, Roger Turnbull & Clare Hazell. Our thanks go to "Fit 2 Run" for sponsoring the race. Thanks as well to everyone who helped by marshalling or in any other way. The WHH committee has made a donation of 25% of the profits of the race, a sum of £822, to The English Federation of Disability Sport. Our thanks also go to Grove Scouts for again manning two of the drinks stations. There were 448 finishers with 5 disqualifications. Of the finishers 245 were affiliated club runners.

Plans are well under way for the 2013 race. This will take place on Sunday 7th April and, as agreed at the 2011 AGM, will support the 14 Club. Chip timing will be used for the first at the race in 2013 and it has been necessary to significantly increase the entry fee – in particular to cover the costs of both the chip timing and the use of a traffic management company to assist with the start.

**White Horse Half Marathon. Total Finishers and Affiliated Runners Finishing**



**Web Site & Communications.**

There has not been much change in this area over the last year although the discussion at last year's AGM did pick this up as an area for improvement. The web site is active, although there are still two separate sites maintained in parallel. One of the sites, [www.whitehorseharriers.org](http://www.whitehorseharriers.org) contains relatively more static information. The other, the 'Latest News' site contains news and results. My thanks to Dene Stringfellow for continuing to carry out most of the maintenance and updating of the web site. There remains the task of rationalizing the web pages but that is a significant undertaking.

The Harrier newsletter has only been published once this year. My thanks go to Jason Cooke for producing this. As before, members have the option of opting for electronic communications and in that case a paper copy of The Harrier is not posted but members receive an e-mail directing them to a version on the web.

In addition we make extensive use of e-mail for point contacts and reminders of events etc. My thanks to Dene Stringfellow for maintaining the necessary lists and sending out the e-mails. Again this is another area where some rationalization, and reducing the dependency on any individual, needs to take place.

The suggestion of a Facebook page (made at last year's AGM) has not as yet been followed up. However, a Twitter account has been set-up and used for short items of information and reminders.

Finally my thanks to everyone who has provided material for the web, newsletter and press articles and in particular to Dick Jégou who has submitted a lot of material to the papers.

## ***Training & Coaching.***

We continue to be very reliant on a small number of coaches – a situation that has been the case for some time. Angela Briscoe and Tom King hold level 2 coaching qualifications and provide the endurance training for all young athletes, with Angela taking the younger age groups and Tom the older. In addition Richard Jégou has a level 2 qualification and provides throws coaching in the summer. These coaches are supported by Bruce Charles, who has a level 1 qualification and takes a sprints group in the summer. In addition, a few sessions were led by Neil Dearden. There is a well-established rota of helpers also supporting this team at the Thursday evening training sessions, some members of which have a Level 1 or Athletics Leader qualification. Those on the rota are Castel Fairlie, Sheila Bailey, Elizabeth Graham, Lucia Singer, Dene Stringfellow, Simon Leech & myself.

The club still remains overly dependent on Angela and Tom in particular. As I stated last year, in addition to more coaches we need assistance organizing junior teams, both before and during matches. This would both lighten the load on the coaches and enable them to concentrate more on providing guidance to the athletes.

During the last four summers the use of King Alfred's School West site has provided local facilities for running, throwing events and the long jump on Thursday evenings. We remain grateful to KAs for the continuing use of this facility. However, our winter training venues – the field in front of Wantage Leisure Centre and Wantage Park are far from ideal. A group still train at Tilsley Park on Tuesday evenings and there are also training sessions for Young athletes on Saturdays. However, the longer runs for seniors on Sunday morning have not been happening for some months.

Numbers of Young Athletes at the Thursday training sessions is roughly the same as a year ago. We continue to restrict numbers of Under-10 athletes, as we do not have sufficient coaches to be able to provide appropriate training for them. However, the current smaller groups are well focused and many good performances are resulting.

## ***Social Events etc.***

During the last year we made some significant changes to the pattern of social events. Notably the autumn social in the Comrades Club was replaced by a trip bowling in Newbury. This was very enjoyable and well attended – although not quite so ideal for presenting trophies. The previous season's (track & field and road) trophies were presented as well as Fit2Run vouchers to Becky Hodgson, Chloe & Ryan Craze and Sophie Lloyd.

To celebrate the club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary we organized a coach trip to see the Aviva Indoor Grand Prix fixture on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. The club purchased 48 tickets up-front and these were sold with an inclusive price to cover coach travel. In order to sell all the tickets we extended the invitation to other local clubs. We all had a superb view of the athletics and a great day. My thanks go to Neil Druce for sorting out the tickets to the athletics and to Castel Fairlie for assistance with arranging the coach.

We then had a summer barbecue and presentation at the Court Hill Centre near the Ridgeway. This went well despite the wet weather - the third wet year out of the four we have held there. Thanks to Dick Jégou for braving the rain and running the barbecue.

## ***Jog Wantage & Beginners Runs.***

The beginners running course under the banner 'Jog Wantage' has run for the last four years. The 2012 course followed a similar pattern to those before, running for ten weeks from May to July and taking place on King Alfred's field behind the Leisure Centre, with runs extending out as the athletes progressed.

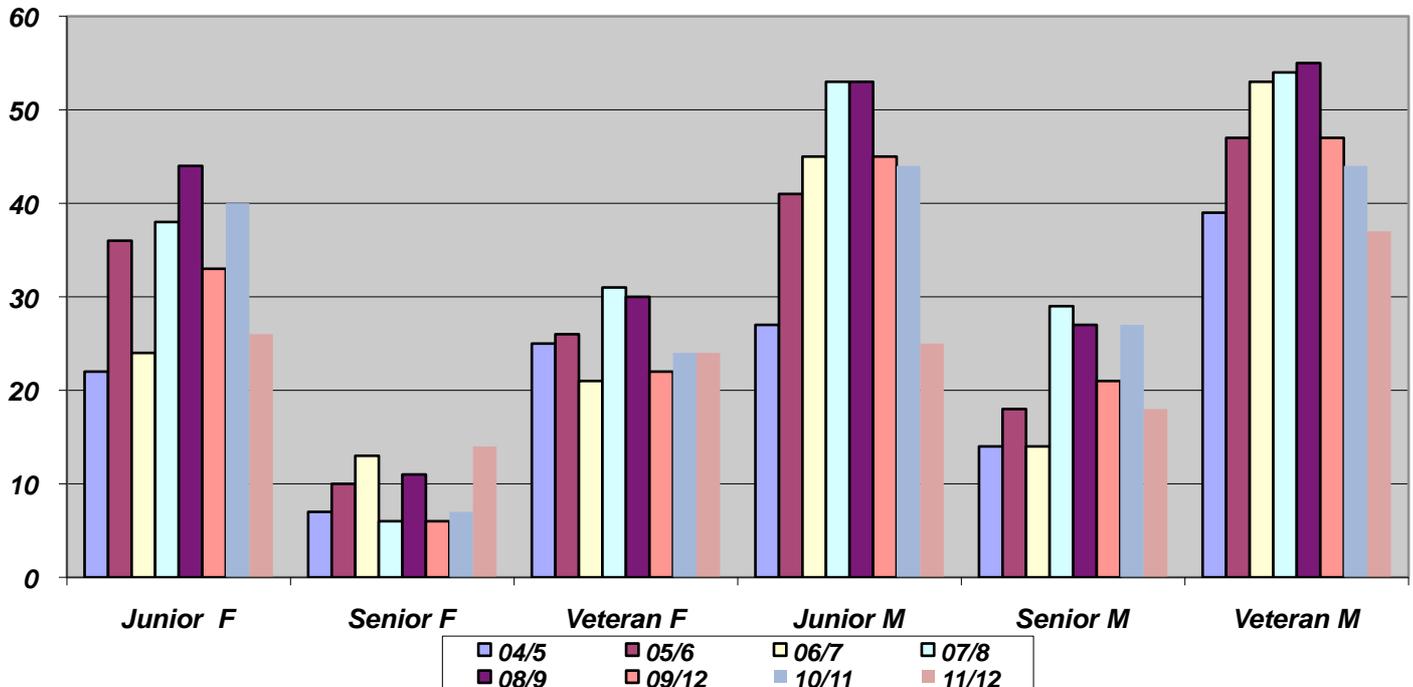
For the 2012 course 29 people signed up and the course of whom about a dozen carried on through towards the end and we regarded the course as a success. My thanks to those Harriers who have helped with the course this year: Castel Fairlie; Graham Wiggins; Simon Leech; Dene Stringfellow, Stuart Scott, Sheila Bailey (and me). Stuart Scott has also attended a Leadership in Running Fitness (LiRF) course this year. I wish to record thanks to Oxfordshire 'Go Active' who have reimbursed the costs for the last two people who have attended the LiRF courses.

One area we have not done so well is the carry on, as we have not been able to provide any regular sessions specific to relative beginners (or 'intermediates'). Nevertheless the attendees on these courses are invited to come and run with us and a couple of members of this course have done so. Last year we did put on what we called 'social runs' once per month but these stopped part way through the winter (partly owing to low turnout).

## Membership Details.

We currently have 144 members as of September (last year's total was 187). The chart below shows the numbers of members for each category over the last eight years. The drop in numbers is partly through not following up with some renewals, but also we have continued to restrict the numbers at the youngest age group (under-10) owing to our lack of coaches. There has been an upsurge of interest around the start of this current school term – part of which is (presumably) an Olympic effect. I do note the increasing numbers of senior women which is, at least in part, due to the successful 'ladies running group'.

### Membership Trends



## Oxfordshire Athletics Network, Vale Athletics Development.

The Oxfordshire Athletics Network has been in existence for over two years now. The Network did encounter problems around the start of this calendar year. Since then it has re-grouped and is focusing on a much smaller range of activities – still involving the same five clubs (Oxford City, Radley AC, Abingdon Amblers, Bicester and ourselves). The most significant benefit we have seen is the existence of a combined Oxfordshire Athletics Network Team in the National Junior Track & Field League. This has provided competition for the Under-20 and Under-17 age groups that we would not have been able to offer otherwise. I would like to thank Jane Rennells for taking on the role of team manager for this. For the 2013 season a Combined Team will be entered in the new Youth Development league that is replacing the National league.

## ClubMark.

Obtaining Clubmark Accreditation remains an important goal for White Horse Harriers. We are well on the way towards achieving this but it needs a significant final 'push'. We plan to do this in the couple of months following the AGM with the aim of submitting by the end of the year and we have been in contact with Amy Frith, the local England Athletics contact, about this. As part of this the club needs a 'development plan' – and some of the content of that will arise from discussions at this AGM. I would like to thank Simon Atkin has been leading and tracking the work to achieve Clubmark accreditation.

## Committee Members for 2010-2011

Chairman	Gareth Smith
Secretary	Richard Jégou
Treasurer	Sharon Bedford

Road Running Secretary	Dene Stringfellow
Cross Country Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Press Officer	<i>vacant</i>
Membership Secretary	Jan McCabe (replaced by Clare Hazell in the summer)
Welfare Officer	Castel Fairlie
General Members	Bob Harrison / Marion Jones / Simon Atkin (for Clubmark)

## **Other Matters**

At last year's AGM two topics came up in the general discussions after the formal meeting. One was the issue of a clubhouse. The committee has not made any significant moves in this direction but has become aware of the Tennis Club's plans to build a clubhouse in Wantage Park which may be of some assistance to us for example with additional lighting there.

The other topic of discussion was electronic communication. The only small progress on this front has been the starting of a twitter account.

## **Summary**

The large number of activities I can report on is a reflection of the club's activity. We are both very active and have athletes competing at many levels across a wide range of events. We still have two main issues that limit us:

- Insufficient coaches. Too much work falls on one or two people.
- The Thursday evening training venues in Winter are very poor.

Nevertheless we continue to provide both training and competition for our members and there is something the club is involved in most weekends of the year. Other areas I have of concern are:

- Poor turnouts (for men) in the road running championships – will this extend to the cross-country season? Possibly the road running championships are not appropriate?
- We lack a 'intermediate' level run for almost-beginners (e.g. a ~5km option on Thursday evenings),
- We are not managing communications well (only one copy of The Harrier this year, e-mail going via a single person and patchy.) Web site fragmented and the load of maintaining this information not distributed.

The main focus of the club in the last year (as in many previous years) has been keeping things going. However, as chairman I am overcommitted and need to reduce the tasks I undertake. This coming year the focus will need to be on making some changes in order to manage the club better for the future. The development plan is part of this.

I would again like to thank everyone who has contributed to the club's success over the last year. Thank you to all the committee members for their dedication, to the coaches and helpers for their enthusiasm and time, as well as everyone who has helped White Horse Harriers in any way. I look forward to another year with a lot of activity and many people enjoying athletics with White Horse Harriers.