

Fell Runners Association - Executive committee report 2017 AGM

1. 2016 – 17 has been a good and stable year for the FRA with a slight growth in members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported our work.
2. Many of our traditional activities have continued, as in recent years, including:
 - a. A healthy financial position. Over 85s now having free life membership.
 - b. A calendar with over 500 races, resulting in a small number of disciplinary sanctions for breaches of rules, printed as part of a handbook FRA rules and other information.
 - c. There was also a further increase in the number of reported incidents (injuries resulting in a hospital admission). Sadly we also had a fatality at a fell race in April 2017, and a Mountain Rescue airlift. This further emphasises the importance of good first aid, including wilderness first aid provision and mountain rescue cover at races.
 - d. A successful championships and presentation events for juniors and seniors, both with continued sponsorship plus the U 20s, U 23s championships and the Long-distance award. The senior 'do' continue to host the British championship and the Lakeland challenge presentations
 - e. Success in holding the junior and senior Inter counties and the Schools championship
 - f. Success, as well, at international level
 - g. Developing membership beyond 6,500.
 - h. 3 Fell runner magazines produced and the website maintained
 - i. Coaching, navigation and wilderness first aid courses held
 - j. Continued positive relationships with UKA/BA, including our membership of MRAG, who organise the British fell running events and teams and with England Athletics in relation to membership issues.
3. There were some challenges and new developments during the year:
 - a. The FRA rules were reviewed and changed following UKA / BA rule revision exercise.
 - b. A fresh round of UKA Rules changes and consultations started.
 - c. The junior age categories were successfully changed.
 - d. Junior eligibility issues were successfully resolved, this took longer than planned, and we thank competitors and their parents for patience while this was resolved
 - e. The scope of the Race Liaison Officers was extended to include Junior Championship events, and as a result, the team of Race Liaison Officers has also expanded.
 - f. The FRA strategy was turned into a set of activities, allocated to individual members of the committee.
 - g. An official FRA Facebook page was launched.
 - h. The FRA's welfare policy was reviewed and changed by the welfare officer.
 - i. An U21 / U23 Co-ordinator was appointed to improve transition rates to Seniors
 - j. The UKA moved to an "online only" incident reporting procedure
 - k. A number of initiatives with landowners progressed in relation to access for races
 - l. A review of the Companies Act and FRA obligations was completed and it was confirmed that we are now fully compliant.
 - m. A number of FRA roles were advertised in the Fell Runner with an excellent response from members.
4. All roles on the committee were full for the year. We are grateful to all the members who have come forward to join the committee and to the 40 plus members who provide a whole variety of support functions that ensure that the FRA is well managed. Owen Mills, Junior Co-ordinator is not re-standing for election in 2017.

Steve Cliff, General Secretary and Nick Harris, Chair