

# Strathearn Harriers Juniors

## AGM 2026 Report

### Summary

Yet again, it's been another brilliant year for the juniors. Membership hit record levels of 79 at the end of 2025 with junior membership now standing at 83. Engagement among junior members is excellent. Attendance at training has also hit record levels again and we've seen a further significant increase in participation in competition including yet another record-breaking cross-country season. We also continue to hold on to some of our older juniors into the U20 category and into the senior ranks.

We continue to provide a strongly positive environment which encourages inclusion but also celebrates success, whether absolute (medals, records, top 10s, selection for representative teams) or relative (personal bests and improvements).

At the top end, we had three athletes selected to run for Scotland and a number of medals at district and national events at cross country and on the track. We picked up our first ever team medals at the National Cross Country Champs last month with our U13 boys taking bronze and our first team medals at the East District Champs with silver for the same team. We also had a record number of five of our juniors picked for the East District at the Interdistricts in January.

We now have four qualified coaches which is providing a greater level of resilience and flexibility for our coaching. And we continue to have a reliable and wide pool of coaching assistants and parent helpers. However, with growing numbers attending training, we may need to recruit a few more to ensure the load is spread sufficiently.

The group of juniors we have at the moment are amazing. Committed, hard-working, supportive and friendly and polite to each other, coaches and those outwith the club. They are a credit to the club, their families and themselves.

### Membership

Membership peaked at 79 in 2025 which is a record for the club. Renewals have been excellent which means we currently have 83 junior members and a strong likelihood of more joining by the end of the year.

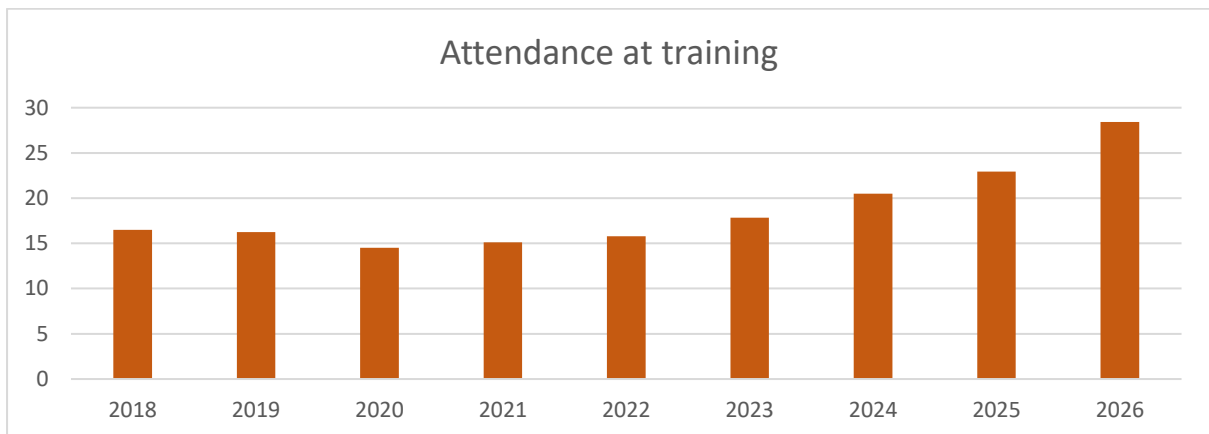
SHJ Membership 2019 – 2026 (as of March 2026)



*\*2026 – as of March 10 2026*

### Attendance at Training

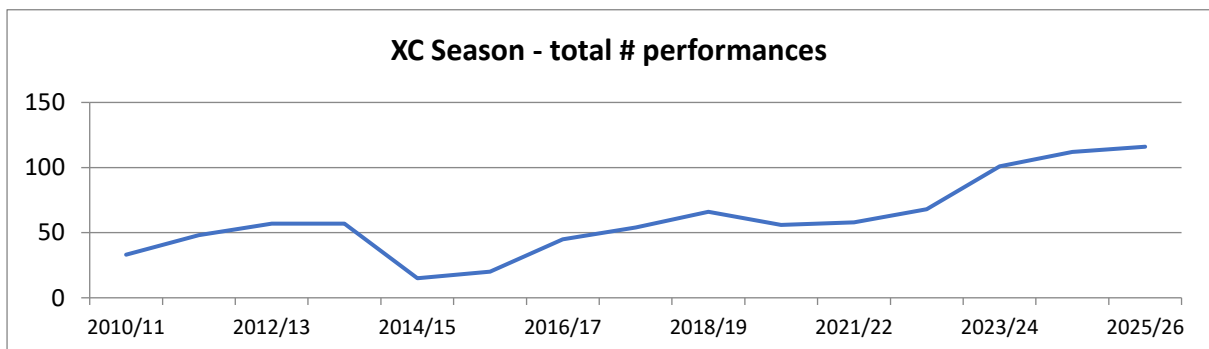
We train twice a week and have been keeping records of attendance for many years. 2025 saw record levels of attendance, averaging 23 at each session. This is currently standing at 28 for 2026 to date.



### Competition attendance

It's been a hugely busy and rewarding year on the competitive side of the club.

We have again had record levels of attendance over the winter cross country season. For the first time we had Harriers in ever single race of the entire East League Cross Country Series.



Last year we had a busy outdoor track and field and hill running season with good levels of participation and performance at Open Graded, Sprint Galas and Championship events as well as the junior hill running league and championships.

We have also just completed our 2<sup>nd</sup> season in the Scottish Athletics Indoor T&F League which has given a large group of our juniors a wonderful experience of competing at the world class Emirates Arena. Our U14 boys narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final as they finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the league.

Our intra-club events (time trials, track day and intra-club XC) have all been well supported with lots of evidence of improvement and progress both individually and as a club. We have also seen good support from junior Harriers for junior Parkrun in MacRosty park. Perth and elsewhere. The Parkrun is a great way to dip toes into competition and it's proved a good funnel for some younger athletes to join the club.

### Performance

It's been a great year for our athletes with some very fine performances across the year. Here are just a few of the highlights

- 9 Scotland vests (including 2 Senior call-ups) from 3 different athletes (Celtic Nations XC, Snowdon International, SHI, Trofeo Vanoni, SIAB XC, SIAB T&F, Mini-Marathon, JHI)
- Gold at National 3000m Outdoor Champs U17W
- Gold at National 3000m Indoor Champs U17W
- Runners up Teams at East League Cross Country for U11 Boys and U13 Boys
- Winners of Hartley Relays
- Five athletes selected for East District XC Teams
- Gold and Silver at Interdistricts Cross Country Champs
- Silver at East District T&F Champs
- Silver at National Road Race Champs

There are so many other fine performances and achievements, but this hopefully gives a sense of what a year we've had.

### Coaching Team

In the last year, we increased our coaching capacity with Ross McNaughton completing his Athletics Coach course. This now gives us four qualified coaches with Gareth supporting our sprinters and disability athletics programme. Monica Thomson also completed her Coaching Assistant course. This should mean we have more flexibility and options to tailor sessions better to meet the variety of levels and interests we have in the juniors.

We have an excellent group of coaching assistants and helpers with some new faces joining the team which means that we almost always have enough helpers to run the sessions.

### Finances

In 2025, the juniors operated well within the budget that had been agreed with the committee. In total, the juniors cost the club just under £2300 (and this excludes junior member income of £1.1K). The main costs were for travel costs of coaches attending events and the cost of race entries for athletes at regional and national events. These two items accounted for approx £2350 in 2025. The other main costs included coach education (£685), facility hire (£54) and

prizes/awards/webinars/events (£573). Costs were offset by over £1000 in memberships, £500 grant from PKSC and £275 mainly from training fees and event income.

### **Finally...**

This report only scratches the surface of what the juniors have been up to this last year. I have also deliberately steered away from mentioning individuals by name as there are so many that deserve mention and just not enough time or space to ensure everyone gets the specific praise they deserve. The contribution to our club that continues to be made by these juniors in terms of raising awareness, our profile and our reputation is really amazing and I know that we are all extremely proud of them and their achievements over the last year. Let's see if we can continue to grow and develop this in 2026.