

# STRATHEARN HARRIERS

The club for runners in the Crieff and Comrie area of Perthshire

## President's Report 2025-26

Presented to the Annual General Meeting, 14 March 2025, by Jon Williams

The presentation of this report to the club AGM marks the end of my second and final year as president after two years as Secretary.

In the past year the club has continued to build for the longer term. In 2025/26 we continued to build on the solid foundation of performance, inclusion and ambition for the club already in progress. My thanks go to all those on the Committee for their participation and support throughout the year.

The Club successfully moved its membership platform from LoveAdmin to membermojo following LoveAdmin's decision to dramatically increase its fees. The membermojo membership platform has proved much easier to use, with far fewer issues than LoveAdmin. I've agreed with the Committee to remain as Membership Administrator.

Work has continued on getting a sustainable balance between support for performance along with participation and inclusion. The Juniors continue to excel across all types of activity (track, road, trail and cross country). My thanks to Katy for her work as Juniors' Rep and to the whole coaching team. For the Seniors, we've seen a continuation of the renewed engagement and success in hill running in particular. We have also seen some Senior success in cross-country with greater numbers participating as teams. My thanks to Graeme and Monica for their work as Club Captains. There were great performances at the Scottish Disability Sport National Athletics Championships by Strathearn Harriers athletes. Thanks go to Ronan McDermott and Gareth Marchant for their continuing work on disability athletics.

We have continued to promote wider involvement in the club's organisation. It has been good to see an continued interest from members in joining the committee, as the club's future is best served by preparation for succession as longer serving members step down as required by the constitution. There has been welcome new involvement in the club's race committees too. Work continues to ensure future new involvement in the running of the club.

### Governance

The club has been run in keeping with its constitution. The Strathearn Harriers Committee has met regularly, with all meetings quorate. The character of the committee has been positive, with sufficient common ground in our vision for the direction of the club, but also having sufficient diversity of views for creative discussion.

The Committee continued to review the Club’s culture and values the results of which are briefly set out below:

Priority Area	Progress
Cohesion	Current membership numbers holding up well Badaguish, Monzievaird and other social events continue to help but may need reviewing for 2026/27. Mince Pie Run a particular Club wide highlight. Social Committee taking responsibility for co-ordinating social events in the future. Increased participation in competition. Training numbers holding up. Encourage greater diversity of abilities at Tuesday sessions.
Outreach	Website updating now being done regularly. Better use being made of External FB page.
Beginners / Recreational runners	Contribution and support of Parkruns Trial C25K sessions in early 2026 have been very successful Look for opportunities to develop on this in 2026/27
Education & Training	Additional education sessions trialled in 2025/2026. Continue to develop a structured budgeted programme in 2026/27. Consideration being given on how to use coaching resources better to assist in Seniors’ development. Now publicising sessions well ahead to allow members to include in individual plans.
Strategy	Improving, particularly with additional coaches qualifying or in development. Club Captains taking a proactive role in developing but further work needed in 2026/27.
Competition & Performance (club/individual)	Juniors continues to be excellent. Promotion has lead to better participation in competitions particularly XC. Some outstanding performances in hill and ultra running.

## Club Activity

### Training

Club training has continued to draw active participation during year for both Juniors and Seniors. The Tuesday night Senior training session has continued to engage Juniors’ parents and drawn in other participants . The provision of home baking after the Comrie sessions has proved an added attraction. Attendance has been good overall and seems to be trending upwards. Our thanks to thanks to Morrison's Academy and Comrie Cricket Club for our the continued use of their facilities.

### Club Championship

The club should be proud of the diversity of running it encompasses. However, that’s given a long-running challenge as to the configuration of the Senior Club Championship in order to recognise the variety of road, trail, hill and cross-country running seen in the club. Whilst there is never going to be a perfect configuration, changes made this past year have built on feedback and sought to increase engagement with the championship.

### Club Races

The Simon Wake Comrie Hills Relay Race, and the Strathearn Marathon have been successfully re-establishment in the racing calendar. The tireless efforts of Jim McConnell and Marathon the race committee made the 2025 Strathearn Marathon a successful and enjoyable event. The successful 2024 Simon Wake Comrie Hills Relay was followed by another very successful event in 2025 thanks go to Phil Mestecky and the race committee for efforts. The Crieff 10k continued to be a successful

and popular event as a Scottish Athletics Mid Trail Championship, thanks to all those involved organising and the provision of some amazing home baking. Thanks also to Phil Mestecky for Organising a 5k Junior Championship race alongside the 10k event. The year saw a new addition to the Club's events with the successful launch of the Ben Chonzie Hill Race in April giving the Club a fixture in the Scottish Hill Runners Calendar. Thanks go to all involved in making the inaugural event such a success and successfully relaunching the event in 2026.

### **Race Participation**

The club, despite its relatively small 'catchment area', continues to enjoy notable success in many aspects of the Scottish running scene, and in both the Junior and Senior parts of the club. The fact that we can put out a substantial bulletin on a weekly basis is testament to the broad range of competition in which club members engage. This isn't the place to pick out individual successes (and avoiding the risk of omission) I want to particularly note the Juniors' continued successes, including national representation and success, with specific appreciation of Phil Mestecky commitment and dedication to coaching the Junior section, and those others who support both Junior activity and the competitors.

### **Media and Communications**

Jason continues to email a weekly bulletin to members, covering general club matters, Seniors News and Juniors News sections. Most members continue to subscribe to the bulletin with very few opting out. We make good use our members-only Facebook groups 'Strathearn Harriers Members' and 'Strathearn Harriers Juniors' to communicate and interact with our membership. We also use a public Facebook page, 'Strathearn Harriers' which is used somewhat highlight club activity to the public. Thanks to Tony Wayte our club website is now being kept up to date and much improved. Thanks also to Al Nichol for his continued support in maintaining the Club's web presence

### **Social Activity**

My thanks to our social committee for successfully organising this important aspect of the club's activities. The club continues to be happy and healthy, and that's reflected in the social activity of the club. Particular successes were the Badaguish away weekend, the Monzievaird Relay, the Mince Pie Run and another well attended Ceilidh in January. My thanks to the organisers of and helpers at these events for making them so enjoyable.

### **Thank You**

Finally thanks for having me as your president for the last two years. It's been an enjoyable experience and the support from the club has been fantastic.