

Strathearn Harriers Juniors

AGM 2025 Report

Summary

Yet again, it's been another brilliant year for the juniors. Membership hit record levels of 74 at the end of 2024 with strong renewals for 2025 suggesting we may exceed that number again. 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 a 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 two of our athletes winning national titles at cross country and on the track. We also had a record number of five of our juniors picked for the East District at the Interdistricts in January.

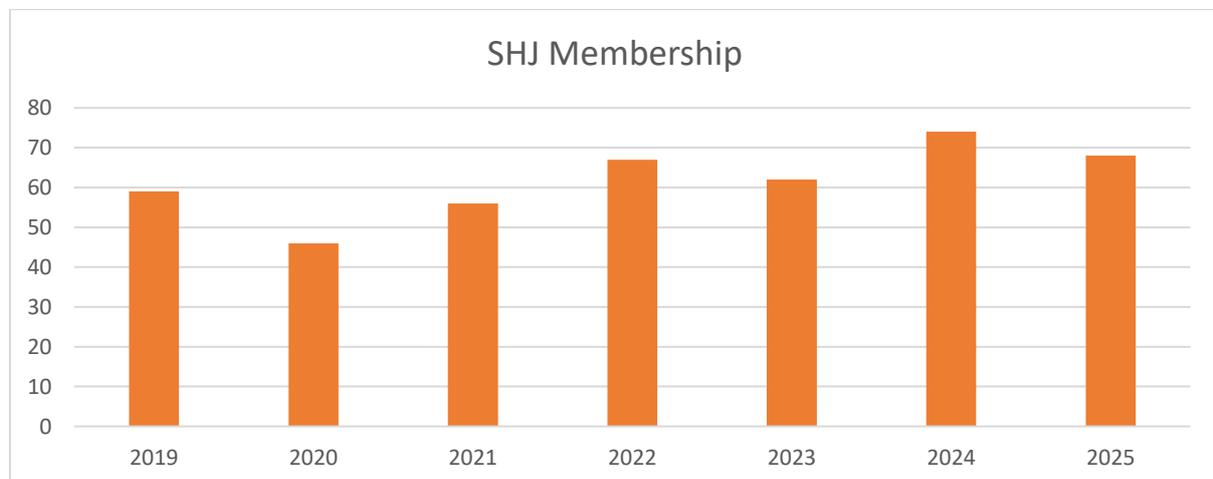
We now have three qualified coaches and one more on the way! This is providing a greater level of resilience and flexibility for our coaching. And we continue to have a reliable and wide pool of coaching assistants and parent helpers.

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 out with the club. They are a credit to the club, their families and themselves.

Membership

Membership peaked at 74 in 2024 which is a record for the club. Renewals have been excellent which means we currently have 68 junior members and a strong likelihood of exceeding last year's high by the end of the year.

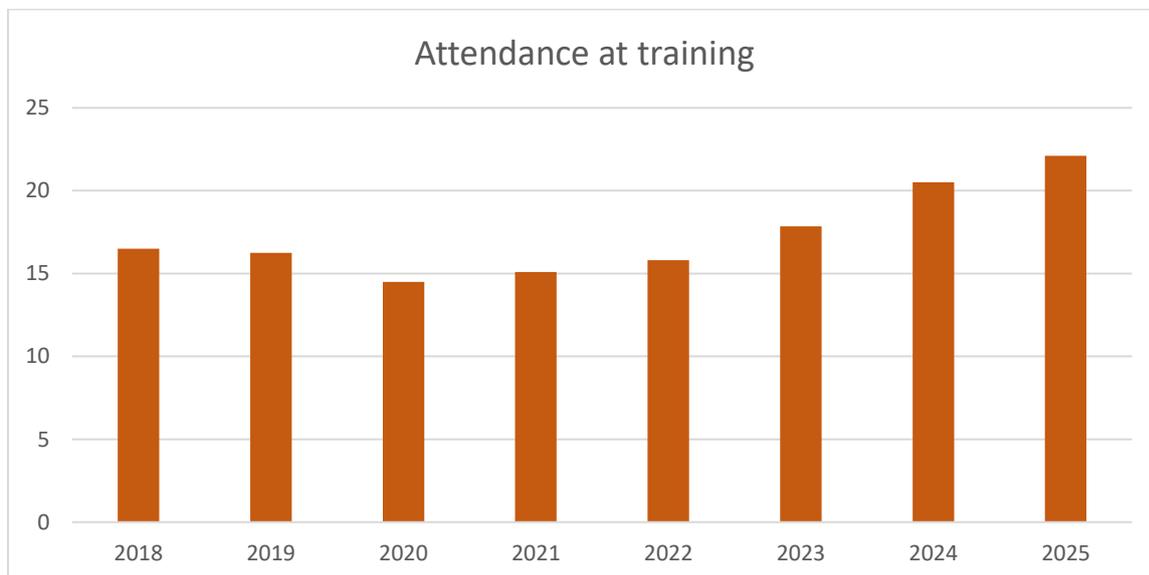
SHJ Membership 2019 – 2025 (as of March 2025)



*2025 – as of March 14 2025

Attendance at Training

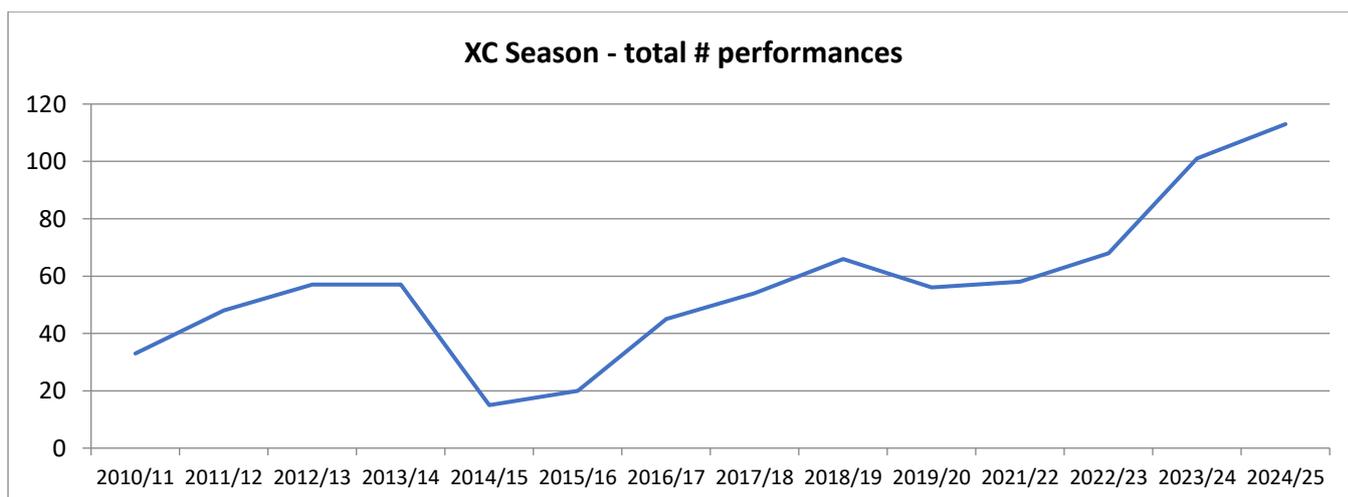
We train twice a week and have been keeping records of attendance for many years. 2024 saw record levels of attendance, for the first time averaging over 20 at each session. This is currently standing at 22.4 for 2025 to date.



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 every single race of the entire East League Cross Country Series. We had 16 juniors at the National XC Champs which is also a record number.



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.

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

- 5 Scotland vests from 3 different athletes (IYC, Mini-Marathon, SIAB XC, SIAB T&F, Liverpool International)
- Gold at National XC Champs U15G
- Gold at National Short Course XC Champs U20M
- Gold at National 3000m Outdoor Champs U17W
- Gold at National 3000m Indoor Champs U17W
- Runners up at East League Cross Country for U11 Boys
- Winners of Hartley Relays
- Five athletes selected for East District XC Teams
- Silver at National Track Champs
- Bronze at Scottish Schools Outdoor champs
- Gold and Bronze at East District Cross Country Champs
- Bronze at the National XC Relay Championships Female U13/U15/U17
- Gold and Bronze 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 have increased our coaching capacity with Katy Turnbull completing her Athletics Coach course. This now gives us three qualified coaches with Gareth supporting our sprinters and disability athletics programme. Ross McNaughton has started the Athletics Coach course and, hopefully, this will give us a fourth coach by the Summer. 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 2024, the juniors operated within the budget that had been agreed with the committee. In total, the juniors cost the club just under £3000. 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 £2100 in 2024. The other main costs included coach education (£513), facility hire (£161) and prizes/awards/webinars/events (£468). Costs were offset by nearly £1000 in memberships, and £300 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 2025.