

DPFR AGM – Juniors report 2019/2020

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Overview

The Juniors section had 33 members in 2019. 2020 membership is abeyance due to Covid. There have been no junior activities since March 2020.

Covid

Whilst we are keen to return to running, we will only do so in a fashion that is safe, sensible and complies with the rules. The risk of creating an intra-school infection vector is significant and one that we absolutely want to avoid. The key challenge in restarting runs is the availability of Leaders. English Athletic rules are predicated on group supervision by qualified leaders (LiRF & CiRF – see below). The necessity to ensure groups are entirely self-sufficient means that registered leaders cannot cross group boundaries to provide supervision.

Qualified Leaders

Currently, the club has a limited number of formal leaders that are active with the Juniors: Lewis Ashton, Helen Elmore, Kristian Groom and Adam Taylor. This group of leaders has been static for the last two years. Declarations that we might possibly provide financial support to members for training have not induced additional people to become leaders. Without gaining additional leaders and creating an ongoing route to bring on leaders, the Junior Section is unsustainable.

It is proposed to the AGM that the Club provides a training budget for 2021 to pay the enrolment cost for two LiRF (approx £140 each) and one CiRF (approx. £260) courses for people to lead Junior runs. It should be anticipated that a similar requests would be made in future years.

Leader in Running Fitness (LiRF) is the England Athletics entry level qualification for the leadership and teaching of running groups.

Coach in Running Fitness (CiRF) is the England Athletic second level qualification for the leadership and coaching of running groups.

First Aid

Currently there are limited people available with first aid qualifications for Junior runs. It is highly desirable to get adults that regularly attend Junior runs certified. In 2019, following AGM request, the club reviewed the possibility of staging a course to enable circa 10 participants to become qualified. It was felt that despite AGM enthusiasm for this, that there was no purpose to enabling this number of people to become qualified. This position should again be reviewed. The necessities of conducting Junior Runs and the influx of new,

younger runners that would benefit from such training may have considerably altered the value proposition.

Continuity

We have had another of our Juniors join the Senior ranks this year.

I would like to personally congratulate Emily Barnett on her running and competition over the last few years. Her endeavours have inspired me to try harder and do more to create an enduring Junior Section. She has run with consistent determination; to continue to provide good results in Junior Championship races and great results in Mountain Marathons. Emily's results seem to get even better as the terrain gets tougher. Certainly one to watch! I wish her every enjoyment and success in her future running, as well as for the long list of other sports she does. Please welcome her into the senior ranks with generosity and kindness, listen to her route choices, keep an eye out for her, and take note that she may well be showing you the way!

It is with Emily's graduation to the senior ranks in mind that we need to focus on continuity between Junior and Senior Ranks. I have been working with the Senior Captains to try and build bridges in this area. It's a complex one, as many of our youth group move away for University, and equally we get young runners join us as they move into the area to study. It is really important that we enable these young runners to gain experience and skills – some of whom will be totally unfamiliar with the local terrain.

It is proposed to the AGM that Dark Peak continue to pay the annual club membership fees of existing members, whilst they are absent from Sheffield for education and training. This is on the condition that they continue to represent Dark Peak as first claim for fell and hill running for the duration of their supported membership.

There is a strong case to be made that some younger runners would benefit from participation in leadership training and they would then be better equipped to support their peers and help to develop a vibrant youth group. An ideal would be for the group itself to drive development and for the Junior & Senior club to support and facilitate that.

It may also be that some younger runners want to take on some Leadership of the Juniors. Such activities would be beneficial for all.

I am constantly reminded of races in Scotland, where the average age is significantly lower and gender representation much more balanced. These are both measures to aspire to.

It should be noted that in 2019 (unfortunately cancelled in 2020) that the Rucksack Club held a young persons running meet at one of their huts. I have every expectation similar will be scheduled for 2021 and I commend it to younger runners as a great way to explore Snowdonia - or the Duddon valley - in the company of peers, with some old hands on hand to share their experience and past misfortunes.

2019 Junior Championships

Team standing

Dark Peak came 13th with 700pts.

12th place scored 712 pts. 1st place scored 876.

50 clubs are represented.

To achieve higher scores, it is good to get as many juniors running as possible. Scores are based on position. Entries in the older age groups are particularly beneficial.

Individual standings

Category	Position	Name
U13B	39	Joe Moss
U13G	32	Gracie Moss
U13G	37	Emily Bradley
U13G	38	Isobelle Groome
U13G	63	Jazz Doyle
U15B	28	Eddie Fitzpatrick
U15B	46	George Doyle
U15G	21	Amelia Theobald
U15G	28	Ffion Patton
U15G	49	Alyssa Lowrie
U15G	61	Summer Lowrie
U17B	8	Euan Patton
U17B	24	Thomas Bradley
U17B	28	Jonah Patton
U19G	4	Emily Barnett