

Junior Ilkley Harriers Update

www.junior.ilkleyharriers.org.uk



Autumn 2020

I am sending this update to all those from the summer membership list which means some will no longer be actively taking part in athletics with us, however there are one or two notices that may be relevant for the future. In addition with everything stopping so abruptly in March (and then not being able to restart in the summer term) we didn't get the chance to say how much of a pleasure it has been having you in the athletics programme and we hope that you have enjoyed your time with us.

The last couple of months have been a challenging time but we are back doing 'subsidence athletics' until we can return to a more normal state of affairs. Importantly I need to thank all lead coaches who have worked so hard to restart their sessions despite the rules and restrictions forever changing around them.

THANKYOU Liz & Nicola, Sally and Ros, Kate & Christine, Sally J & M and Katrina for putting in so much time and effort to bring a degree of normality back into children's lives. **THANKYOU** also to the additional adults who came forward to help and the army of junior helpers and leaders without whom we could not run the sessions.

All the training groups are now established and where we have been able to we have brought newcomers into the programme but we are aware that we have a considerable number of children wanting places, so when normal services are resumed we will reduce those waiting lists.

OUTDOOR RUNNING SESSIONS: none of us know what the next few months will bring so any changes to outdoor sessions will be given to the relevant groups by lead coaches. I think it would be wise to check your email and Facebook before leaving home each week because it will not just be weather that will see sessions cancelled.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS: Katrina and I have decided that we will **NOT** restart the indoor SHA sessions this year but instead we will make a decision in January (the earliest possible start date being the week beginning 18th January 2021). Given the spring term is short we will not have enough time to do our usual SHA decathlon award so instead we will do a AAA outdoor one in the summer term. We appreciate that the current Year 6 will not have had the opportunity to do one final year of the award so for next year only (September 21- July 22) we will allow them to return as Year 7's. However from September 2022 SHA will be for Years 3-6.

YEAR 9 JUNIOR HELPERS: this is for future reference but any junior who has been in the SHA programme up until Year 6 will be eligible to come back as a helper in Year 9 even though they may not have been a member of JIH in years 7 & 8. Helping in Year 9 will then give you the opportunity to be eligible to do the Year 10 leadership programme.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS AND JIH AWARDS: All awards have been handed out, collected or posted to juniors. Please let me know if you were expecting an award and have not yet received it

SPECIFIC COACHING (TRACK & FIELD ATHLETICS): Lockdown gave adult volunteers the time to re-evaluate their lives and commitments and as a result we have had to make some changes to the junior section. Without the appropriate facilities to train on and a number of coaches now wishing to step back from volunteering (and no one new coming forward wishing to take the lead) we can no longer provide any Track and Field training. Athletes currently training with us have been advised to join other local clubs but to tide them over we will do some outdoor sessions in 2021 when it is light enough in the evenings again. Personally it is a shame to see things going backwards after almost 20 years of development but it is what it is.

JIH ANNUAL SESSION FEE PAYMENT: We will not be charging any session or JIH membership fees for the coming year 20/21 for anyone. Due to the uncertainty of the coming year and the fact that we have money from years of fundraising we are able to make this gesture. We ask that sometime in the future (if you can afford to) you make a donation to a local voluntary sports, art or community group who need the money.

THE WHARFEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOLS XC LEAGUE: The two events scheduled for 2020 have been cancelled due to the logistics of running the events with the current restrictions and Felicity and her team will review the 2021 events nearer the time. Details of a KS2 Virtual Cross Country event that can take place within each school, if they choose to take part has been sent to schools. Briefly it's a timed 600m for Years 3 & 4 and 800m for years 5 & 6.

CONTACT

Shirley Wood (JIH administrator): Shirley@ilkleyharriers.org.uk or 01943 831765 for any questions or queries and I will also pass on messages to other coaches.