

Chairman's Report 2006

Development

Two junior training weekends for aspiring internationals were held and were well attended. A team of juniors once again attended the Marco Germaneto race in Italy, which proved to be very successful. In addition we took a team of U23 to the Grand Prix race in Slovenia for the first time and this proved a great success which we hope to repeat in future years.

The popular navigation courses were held at Kettlewell and Elterwater.

A small team of experts have worked hard to develop a Fell & Mountain coaching course which is now available and the first course is scheduled to take place later this year at Ilkley. This is a great example of cooperation between the FRA and UK Athletics.

International

The World Trophy was held in Turkey and England again just missed out on medals. The team faced problems on the journey as the airplane had mechanical problems and meant that instead of arriving in time for an evening meal they just got there for breakfast the following day. All members of the team performed well especially the hard worked management.

England were well represented in the GB team at the European Mountain Running Championships where the men won medals again.

Our juniors performed with distinction at the British Championships which incorporate a home international at a well organised event in Northern Ireland.

Championships

All races were well attended this year and congratulations to all those that achieved success. It was particularly heartening to see the continuing number of junior competitors taking part, which hopefully bodes well for the future. They held their prize giving party in October and this was well attended.

For the future it has been decided to incorporate the U20 championship which has not always been well attended into a U23 championship. This should give increased numbers taking part and give those daunted by the long races a little longer to develop their running strength. I look forward to seeing the winners at our dinner next year.

Modernisation

The new England Athletics scheme is in place but the various new regions are moving at differing paces and it is much too early to pass judgement. Financing the England Team has not been straightforward this year with our budget request being passed back and forth between England Athletics and the three northern regions. Yorkshire were great in agreeing quickly that they would fund a third of the costs but the others were less helpful. For 2007 we are advised that funding will flow from England Athletics for international events and have recently submitted our budget for approval. Registration of athletes is likely to be the next item on the agenda and we are already in talks with England Athletics regarding this.

Synopsis

Thanks are due to all members of the Executive Committee and all those other volunteers who give their time freely to ensure fell running continues to take place. This year we have faced a surfeit of moans but a shortage of volunteers to fill the posts on the committee and I would urge those with an interest in our sport to offer to help. Don't just sit there grumbling do something about it.

I would like to give my personal thanks to all those who have helped over the last 6 years and wish my successor every good fortune.

Alan Barlow
Chairman