

HADDINGTON EAST LOTHIAN PACEMAKER

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2005

The past twelve months has been another productive and enjoyable year for the club and all the members in competition, training and socially.

The club is managed successfully by the committee of dedicated members who give up much of their spare time to ensure the smooth running of our activities. Secretary, Paddy McDonald, Brian Carr as Membership Secretary and Alan Proudfoot as Treasurer all ensure the organising of events and the efficiency of the administration. George Armstrong, Frank McPartland, Claire Simpson and Joe Forte have all assisted and Krish Bissoonauth is our leader in the Junior section of the club. I am indebted to them all and I am sure I speak for the whole membership in passing on the thanks for their achievements. The two races sponsored by the club are organised by specific committees of club officials and other members and their contribution to raising the club profile and attracting income cannot be underestimated.

Krish Bissoonauth and Keith Szymoszkowski continue to lead the Junior section. On Monday nights, with the help of George Armstrong, Joe Forte and Colin Menzies, they attract up to forty youngsters who get together for fun athletics and already some budding talent has been recognised and we hope that will filter through to the adult ranks in years to come. We will hear more about these activities in Krish's report.

Members have travelled the length and breadth of the country and sometimes abroad to compete on the roads, hills and cross-country and had a mixture of success. It is difficult to pick out outstanding achievements without missing others, but three or four athletes have consistently made the headlines and kept the HELP name at the forefront of Scottish Athletics.

Brian Marshall has had his most successful year on the hills by winning the Scottish Hill Running Championship. This was achieved over a series of races with outright wins at Bishops Hill, Glamaig and Yethom. In addition he also had individual successes at Ben Lomand, Goat Fell, Criffell, Dollar, Greenmantle Dash and Clachnaben.

Colin Menzies continued his improvement with first overall position in the Borders Cross Country series, a very credible 33rd in the massive Blayden 6 mile race and 3rd place at Traprain Law. His sister Lisa deserves a special mention for the number of times she has turned out in the red and white on the roads and country.

Paddy Jumelle also had a good year with an incredible 3rd place in the West Highland Way race together with a 5th position in the Two Bridges race and a first at a 5k in Kirkaldy

Bill Watson continued running multi terrain ultra distance with top placings.

Of course the club is much more than just about taking part in races and members take a lot of enjoyment from training together on Wednesdays, along the beach on a Sunday, at the track on Fridays or in other sessions arranged in small groups all around the county. We have always been a very sociable club and this past year has been no exception with many events being successfully held and including :-

- The annual Goats Gallup organised by Dave Jones last November. This year's one is scheduled for 20 November.
- A Christmas night out at the Indian restaurant.
- The Barcelona Marathon was the 2005 club tour when eight of us ran, supported by friends and partners. Everyone had a good run and the few days in the Catalonian capital was enjoyed by everyone.
- A social night was held at Tynninghame Village Hall last October in conjunction with the tri-athletes.
- The Carfraemill run took place in the summer and has become one of the most enduring events in the club calendar
- The Chairman's Challenge was held at Yellowcraig last weekend and took the form of a mixed relay race which was enjoyed by everyone.
- The Three Peaks Challenge which started last year is to be repeated again 6 November.
- Another social night is being arranged at Tynninghame Village hall on 29 October 2005.

The club is vibrant and in a healthy condition and we should all look forward to another year of enjoyable training, competition and sociable companionship.

Finally, on a sad note, a couple of weeks ago Billy Hogg died. Billy was a popular active member of the club for many years and also a sponsor of our road races. He always showed an interest in the club and he will be missed by all those who knew him. Can I ask for a moment's silence for Billy.

Sandy Wallace
Club Chairman