

HADDINGTON EAST LOTHIAN PACEMAKER

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2007

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, Judith Donaldson and Joe Forte. The junior section has continued to be very active and we will here more in detail from Keith Szymoszkowskyj later. I am indebted to them all and I am sure I speak for the whole membership in passing on the thanks for their achievements. Our two races sponsored by Asics were once again well supported and very successful. Special thanks are due to Paddy MacDonal and his dedicated team of club officials and other members and their contribution to raising the club profile and attracting income cannot be underestimated. Thanks are also due to other organisations for their help and support during these events. Our members have also assisted, and attracted funding, in other races and particularly in the Edinburgh Marathon.

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 some members have made the headlines and kept the HELP name at the forefront of Scottish Athletics.

The Eastern Borders Cross Country series was well supported by men, women and juniors and members took various age category trophies at the end of the series. The East Lothian Summer Series was successfully promoted again by HELP, Dunbar and Musselburgh who hosted two races each and the competition was based on a handicap which rewarded the most improved athletes in the end.

Brian Marshall has had another successful year on the hills by winning races at Glamaig, Ben Rhinnes Isle of Mull and Clachnaben. However, of much more significance was the fact the once again he won the Scottish Hill Runners Championship. Points are awarded in the championship and Brian scored maximum by wins at the Devil's Beeftub, Merrick and Morven.

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 and at other sessions throughout the week notably with Tom Harley or George Armstrong with his Jog Scotland girls. We have always been a very sociable club and this past year has been no exception with many events being successfully held and including :-

- Two Goat's Gallops have taken place since the last AGM. In each case very successful and enjoyable with a big turn out from members and guests.
- A Christmas night out at the Tyneside Tavern.

- The Conemara and Salzburg Marathons were the 2007 club tours when a few ran, supported by friends and partners. Everyone had a good run and the few days holiday was enjoyed by everyone.
- The Carfraemill run took place in the summer and was very successful with over 20 runners taking part and another 10 joining us for the meal.
- Perhaps the social highlight of the year was the club's 25th anniversary celebrations which included a low key fun run along the River Tyne by about 17 members in the afternoon followed by a meal at the Tyneside Tavern at night. Almost sixty members, old and new and friends and associates gathered for chat and reminiscences. It was a delight to see so many of the "old" faces and particularly so many of the original club members from 1982.

Our web site continues to develop and post news and information about the club and, once again, our thanks go to Jean Jumelle for all his good work.

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.

Sandy Wallace
Club Chairman