

We had a fantastic response with 108 taking the time to provide very useful insight and ideas which will help us take the group forward.

Over two thirds of us run 3 times a week or more with the benefits of running with others and making friends being top reasons for being in the Harriers. Coaching sessions and competing are much appreciated and other specific comments regarding reasons for membership include motivation, volunteering and insurance for coaching and organising events. Meeting friends is important and we have good comments supporting social gatherings with most attending at least one social event last year.

We asked some specific questions regarding the things we do and how we do them and here are the views and conclusions so far:

The coaching, training sessions and running events are much appreciated as an opportunity for meeting friends, for motivation and to improve, with Tuesday nights being highlighted. We have lots of ideas to build on e.g. more coach development and liaison, combine social events after runs, consider more offerings like the psychology offer from Leeds Beckett and perhaps there are others they can offer, also nutrition, health and there are other organisations we may be able to tap into and could more be done for the under 45s perhaps a weekday session with cafe meet afterwards.

Post run social get-togethers are well liked as well as family races or fun relays with BBQs, mulled wine, pub nights etc. There is support for more social events and to cater for the less active runners more. This should encourage all our existing organisers plus we would welcome many more to volunteer. It would be great too to see more of us attending these events.

The annual awards do attracted a third of respondents this year with a third never attending. It is a showcase event much appreciated for what it is and the organisation that goes into it, particularly appealing to an important sector of members. Timing and cost do not seem to be issues and there is no requirement for live entertainment. There is a perception that it is for the "elite" and awkward for less enthusiastic runners and for partners, which is not at all intended. It shouldn't be seen as the only club get together.

For the club the two biggest items of expenditure of our fee income are for membership of English Athletics and use of the Tennis club. The reasons for EA membership seem reasonably well appreciated and a summary of these will appear shortly on the website. Re the Tennis club; a review is underway with the Tennis club and other possible options.

People use and appreciated having a wide variety of communication channels and whilst the website is the primary means of receiving information the newsletter and Facebook are well liked. This does make life difficult for organisers though and it has helped that items now remain visible on the forum list for longer plus monthly events bulletins might be a good way forward.

Hopefully you can see there is much food for thought and ideas. This is not the end, please continue to talk to us or send ideas in. As you can see these things won't happen without volunteers so if you can help please do join in or if you would like to organise something please get touch.

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