

## Chairman's Report for 2019-2020



In common with so many organisations, 2020 has proven to be a very disappointing and challenging year for the FRA. With the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organisation on 4<sup>th</sup> April, there had been plans to celebrate with a reunion of founder members at the Pendle race in Barley. The 50@50 race series had got off to a resounding start and commemorative garments had been designed for those who took part in a specified number of races. Sadly, all these plans have been put on hold but we hope to pick up where we left off if and when we are allowed.

The Senior and Junior English Championships were cancelled as were the Senior British Championships and the British Hill and Fell Relays.

One consequence of the lack of racing and limited current articles for the summer edition of The Fellrunner meant that I was able to go to town on a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative edition and I was grateful for all the contributions from some of the great participants from across the years.

**Membership** of the FRA really took off early in 2020 with almost 1000 new members up to the end of February. This was influenced by the 50@50 series and preferential entry for English Championship races. Then, when the lockdown put an end to fell racing, FRA recruitment dried up too with fewer than 200 new members between March and September. We have, however, been delighted to welcome our 8000<sup>th</sup> member who has been awarded a £100 inov-8 voucher.

**The FRA accounts** continue to record a small surplus for the year despite increased costs of production and postage associated with the new format Fellrunner magazine. Adjustments have been made to the weight of paper stock used to limit the printing and postage costs going forward.

**Race Organiser meetings** were held at various locations and were very well attended. This gave us the opportunity to discuss topics such as differential race entry fees and the use (or prohibition) of electronic devices for navigation.

**Runners' Rules** for 2021 have been finalised and circulated to all Race Organisers. From 2021 the use of GPS and other electronic aids for navigation will be banned for all fell races licensed by the FRA.

**Club Ambassador scheme.** A valuable addition to our communication armoury is the recruitment of FRA Club Ambassadors who it is hoped will be instrumental in educating new fell runners and circulating important information. The next step is to develop a suite of educational leaflets for publication.

**Website.** We are hoping to make progress with development of a new website in the near future and are grateful for the continued support of the current webmaster who keeps oiling the creaking wheels.

**Covid-19** continues to provide a challenge but we are hopeful that it will be possible to resume some form of racing in line with current regulations and guidelines. A dedicated page will be added to the website as a first point of reference for Race Organisers hoping to offer Covid-secure races.

Charmian Heaton  
FRA Chairman

16<sup>th</sup> September 2020