

Thank you – from Mandy

It's March 1989, a Monday night, and there's a dozen of us sat in the Ukrainian Club for the Todmorden Harriers AGM. Mick Wainwright the retiring Chairman announces "We need a new Chairman and a new Treasurer". We're all looking at each other...then everyone's looking at me and Hazel. "I'll be treasurer" she announces "Guess that means I'm Chairman then!" Little did I know that that decision really would change my life.

I'd joined Todmorden Harriers about 18 months earlier after the Todmorden Grueller Race.



Running never came easy to me, I was the kid off the back at school puffing and panting and it was only when I went to Danny's gym to lose weight that he helped me learn how to breathe and therefore run. At the time the Harriers was mainly a road running club with about 40 members. On joining the Harriers I got lots of encouragement to race, mainly in local road races.

It was around the late 80's and early 90's that we had started pack runs. Following the suggestion of Mark Grice we copied Clayton Harriers who ran from a different pub every month in the summer. At some of those initial

packruns we only got 4 or 5 runners. We also started a newsletter to help communication and the Grand Prix to get members out racing.

We were also encouraged to get out on the fells and, with help from Ian Morris and Dave Wilson, we even ventured up to the Lake District for Three Shires and Langdale and to compete in mountain marathons (which I discovered is my forte).

As a fairly close knit team we all encouraged each other just to get out there. Todmorden Harriers have over the years been a very social bunch and include a lot of climbers and cyclists as well as runners. We've had many weeks and weekends away together at races such as Coniston and Ben Nevis.

Over the years as Chairman I've done many jobs (as have many others) and, I suppose, Tod H was very much my baby. I would like to think that I've helped grow Tod H into the active, inclusive and welcoming club that it has become by orchestrating the massive efforts and contributions of many, many other members...and by occasionally smoothing the waters behind the scenes. I have consciously tried to step back over the past few years and pass things on as now, 26 years later, Phil and I want to spend more time travelling.

The decision to finally stand down was taken out of my hands in January when I had another attack of ventricular tachycardia and was hospitalised for three days. Thankfully Simon stepped into the breach (and the consultant zapped my heart and cured it!)

I hope that everyone finds Todmorden Harriers a friendly club where everyone matters irrespective of speed or ability. I like to think we encourage everyone just to get out there and enjoy it at whatever level you are at. It doesn't matter if you just want to potter about or to seriously race.

The support I have had from the Harriers with my various health issues has been phenomenal. Whatever I have put into the club has been repaid with interest. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and present Toddies for their support and contributions to the club and to wish our "new" committee every success. I'll still be around a lot of the time and can hopefully carry on contributing to the smooth running of our great club.

Mandy