



## NFR - AGM 2026 Chair Letter

Welcome to my third annual review as Chair. I continue look to forward to carrying on the work to keep the club on a trajectory of being informal with an energetic group of active & committed fell racers and runners.

As you are aware NFR is affiliated to English Athletics (EA), to continue with our compliance, John Telfer is currently working on the following additional standards and will be available soon on the Club Standards Page. “Health and Safety” & “Inclusion”.

As a collective club NFR does not have a regular training venue, this is due in essence to the very wide geographic area the club represents from Berwick to Durham and Newcastle to Keswick. Many members already train with their local clubs or groups. Not having a regular weekly meeting is not a hindrance at all. Here is a list of social runs completed. Thank you to all the leaders.

<b><u>NFR Social Runs</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Headtorch</b>
January	Dexter	Riding Mill	✓
February			
March	Dexter	Stocksfield	✓
March	Stu	Bollihope recce	
April	Dexter	Stocksfield	
May	Paul	Beacon Hill recce	
June	John Tollit	Ouseburn	
July			
August	Stu	Blanchland	
September	Matt	Thropton Show recce	
October			
November	John B	Thrunton Woods	
December	John Tollit	Chopwell Soltsice	✓

The club championships were a great success with 31 members completing in the series, this was successful mostly due to Mark Latham and Paul Appleby's selection of "true" fell races. Well, done to all category winners.

In other races we had some huge turn-outs of runners. There were many top Individual achievements (I refer only to fell and hill racing) a few which caught the eye were:

Chris Larkin 1st Brough Law (course record).

Karen Robertson 1st Female Brough Law.

Kevin Richardson 1st MV40 Bollihope ( course record ).

Chris Eggett 1st MV50 Bollihope.

Karen Robertson 1st FV50 Bollihope.

Chris Larkin 3rd Edale Skyline ( English Champs ).

Chris Larkin 1st Heartbeat Hobbie ( course record ).

Chris Larkin 19th Stua Chrion ( British Camps ).

Adam Malloy 28th Buttermere Horseshoe L ( atrocious conditions ) .

Mark Clarkson / Andrew Higgins 1st Score ( 2nd year ) Saunders .

Karen Robertson 1st Female Beacon Hill.

Chris Larkin 8th Tebay ( English Champs )

Chris Larkin 1st Chapel Fell Top.

Karen Robertson 1st Female Chapel Fell Top.

Chris Larkin 6th Borrowdale ( English Champs ).

Chris Larkin 1st Roseberry Topping.

Chris Larkin 1st Alwinton.

Jarleth McKenna 2nd, 1st Vet 40 Alwinton.

Karen Robertson 1st Female Alwinton.

Chris Larkin 1st Carnethy Skyloop

Karen Robertson 1st Female Wild Boar Fell.

Chris Larkin 1st Simonside Cairns.

Karen Robertson 1st Female Simonside Cairns,

Chris Larkin 1st Silent Night.

Well, done to everyone who proudly wears the purple and green vests at races, it is particularly pleasing to see our members mixing it up with the elite in our sport and bearing this in mind particularly Chris Larkin who was 4th overall in the Senior FRA English Fell Championships.

It was a great shame that the Hodgson's relay was cancelled. Joe had assembled a very strong team, so let's look forward to the race this October with optimism. With the UKA relays in Wales and again issues with entry ballots it was always going to be a difficult sell, but Roger tried hard to enter a team but in the end , just not to be.

The North East Championships included some 41 NFR runners across the series. Well done to category winners Chris Larkin, Joe Stringer, Karen Robertson and Claire Calverley. Great to see Karen, Emma Burke and Nina Cameron 1, 2 and 3 in female champs.

The club dinner and awards night in February, was well organised by Paul Appleby and very well attended. The evening included a talk by the legend that is Nicky Spinks.

There are many FRA licensed Fell Races supported by our club members such as Brough Law, Windy Gyle, Thropton Show, Simonside Cairns and Beacon Hill. Support these races either by running it or an offer of help such as Marshalling a checkpoint or a job at registration.

We have reviewed and simplified our Social Media feeds:

The e-group (members only).

Northumberland Fell Runners (members only) FB page.

Northumberland Fell Runners and friends (open to all) FB Page.

Instagram @northumberlandfellrunners (open group)

NFR website.

Lastly I would like to thank all members of the extended committee notably John Telfer, Dexter, Ross, Karen, Colin and Rob whom keep NFR on track for day to day operations.

Stuart Ferguson.

Chair - Northumberland Fell Runners.

February 2026