

2011 has been without doubt the most successful season in the long history of Manx Fell Running. Entries have been at record levels in every race apart from the Manx Mountain Marathon. The number of female competitors has also shown a very healthy increase which has been one of the most pleasing aspects of the season. The season opened on New Years Day with 122 competitors at the St Johns race. All entry fees were donated to charity and along with donations from spectators MFR were able to pass over more than £800 to Hospice.

There was considerable success in off island competition with Lloyd Taggart winning the English Championships and he also retained his British Veterans Championships. The Isle of Man was represented in the Commonwealth Mountain Running Championships in Llanberris and at the same venue three juniors took part in the British Junior Home International. The junior event is held annually and there is every possibility that we will be able to send more juniors in the coming years. Each home country takes it in turn to stage the international and we are hopeful that eventually it will be held on the Isle of Man.

In October the Junior Fell Championships were held at Peel. It attracted 105 youngsters from the age of six. This was a most remarkable event with a quite superb atmosphere generated by the school children and their parents. There is still huge potential to greatly increase the numbers of schools involved in this event. Talks are already ongoing for next year.

The first in a planned series of navigation courses was held in August which was very well received. It is planned to hold further courses in 2012.

Finally the Winter Hill League is currently being held. The first two rounds have attracted 93 runners which is way above the previous best.

The one negative this year has been the continued decrease in numbers in the MMM. In a bid to halt this trend the committee of the MFR have taken the bold decision to move the race to a much later date. It is accepted that this is a fairly big gamble but it is one that MFR are prepared to take.