

# CHESHIRE COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2003

## AGM - Additions.

One thing missed from the previous Newsletter concerning the County AGM held in February was that two new Vice Presidents were elected. They were Bob Lynch and Brian Warren. Congratulations to both.

## Indoor Successes for Cheshire Athletes. "A County of Shot Putters"!

The past winter has seen a number of successes for Cheshire athletes in indoor competition.

Top of the pile has to be Allyn Condon (Sale) who after winning the North of England 200m championship then the AAA championship, was selected to represent GB and NI in the World Indoor Championships at Birmingham in March, reaching the final of the 200 metres.

There were a number of successes in North of England Championships (held in the new indoor facility at Sports City in Manchester, adjacent to the Stadium used for the commonwealth Games). In the Under 17 60m Hurdles Craig France (formerly West Cheshire, now Liverpool H) was first followed by 6<sup>th</sup> place in the National championships. W Lowndes (competing for the North West Throws Group) won the U17 shot, while James Callaghan (West Cheshire) was third in the U15 Boys shot. Two more third places in shot put events were obtained by Nicola Gore (West Cheshire) in the Under 20 Ladies event and Louise Burton (Macclesfield) in the Under 15 Girls event, while Lydia Morgan (Vale Royal) was second in the Senior Ladies event. Alex Carter (Vale Royal) won the Senior 1500 metres title.

Sports Hall Athletics provides a lot of competition during the winter for the younger athletes. After competing as clubs in 4 meetings through the winter, the best athletes are then selected to compete as a Cheshire Team in the North West Regional Final, with the winning County team in each age group going forward to the National Indoor Final at Birmingham (held on April 6<sup>th</sup>). The Cheshire Under 13 and Under 15 Boys teams won the North West Final and so went to Birmingham to finish 10<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively.

## Road Running Success - and Disappointment.

Congratulations to the Under 13 Boys Team of Matt Jackson, Daniel Cliffe and Lawrence Walker from Warrington AC for winning the National Young Athletes Relay Championship on 6 April in Sutton Park (Sutton Coldfield). Lawrence on the last leg produced the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest time of all of the runners. In the Under 17 Ladies event, the Vale Royal team of Beth Carter, Fiona Rudkin and Becky Ellis were just outside the medals in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Contrast this with the fact that only one club from Cheshire (Vale Royal - men) entered a team in the North of England Mens 12 stage and Ladies 6 stage Relays held the previous day (April 5<sup>th</sup>) on a superbly sunny day at Blackpool. And road running is supposed to be the most popular branch of our sport.

In the Inter-counties ½ marathon championships held in conjunction with the Wilmslow event at the end of March, the Cheshire mens team finished 6<sup>th</sup> and the ladies 5<sup>th</sup>.

The highest placed Cheshire male athlete in the London Marathon was Mike Proudlove (City of Stoke) who was 25<sup>th</sup>. I do not know who was the first Cheshire female to finish - I am sure someone will tell me!

## County Qualification.

It is not always easy to identify Cheshire qualified athletes who compete for clubs outside the county (There are also problems in that not all members of Cheshire clubs are eligible to compete for or in Cheshire championships). I am sure that if I have missed anyone who has performed well at Regional or National level, I will be informed.

The main qualification is by birth (in the current Cheshire, plus the unitary authorities of Halton and Warrington). Alternatively, 9 months continuous residence in the County immediately prior to a championship provides a qualification. However, an athlete can only compete in or for one County in any competition year. We do have problems at times with athletes whose postal addresses suggest they are in Cheshire - but who in reality do not live in Cheshire.

For full details see UK Athletics Rules for Competition, Rule 9.

And just to add more complications, for county schools competition it is a requirement (only?) to attend a school in the county.

## Development

As indicated in the March Newsletter, the County AA has a responsibility to provide Education and Training for Technical Officials and to assist in Coaches Education.

Of special interest to clubs whose members are involved in distance running should be a course to be held at Macclesfield on 19 July which is aimed at **"Fitness in Running and Walking"**. We hope that this will be well supported by Cheshire clubs as it has been organised by request. Those interested in attending are asked to book in well in advance with the Regional Education and Training Administrator, Tony Airnes (on 01253 358168). Courses which are not well supported will be cancelled. *[Race Walking is the Cinderella discipline in our sport, but may be of interest to young athletes - I am sure it would be possible to get something going in this area if there is sufficient interest].*

As yet, no lectures nor exams for prospective Track and Field Officials have been arranged - through lack of interest. If you are interested in becoming a qualified official, please contact the County Officials Secretary, Joe Shellhorn (Tel : 01244 679196). You do not have to take an exam to start on the process - just register your interest with Joe, get a work sheet from him and fill in the details of what you do at each meeting.

One area where the County is aiding Track and Field Officials Education is in Health and Safety. We had a very good attendance at the Workshop at Macclesfield on 29 March and are now planning another one :-

### **Health & Safety Workshop for Track and Field.**

To be held at Victoria Park, Warrington on Wednesday, 4 June commencing at 7pm. This is predominantly for Track and Field Officials as they are required to attend one before the end of 2003. UKA qualified coaches are also welcome as we understand that they will eventually have to attend a course. Also Track Facility staff are welcome.

Persons interested MUST register well beforehand to ensure we get sufficient handouts from UK Athletics. Notify John Driscoll by phone (0151 339 5341) or by e-mail (see end of Newsletter). This is an approved UK Athletics course, presented by UKA trained persons.

In addition to the County's work in Development, Alison Wyeth, the North West AAAofE Regional Development co-ordinator, works very closely with, supports and helps us. Alison produces a Development Update Newsletter on a regular basis - if your club does not get one, contact Alison on 01772 728872 or by e-mail : [awyeth@englandathletics.org](mailto:awyeth@englandathletics.org). In March, Alison also produce her first Athletics Development Education Update which summarises all of the different schemes that are in operation aiding development of our sport. Again if you did not get a copy, contact Alison.

An additional area of Development is **"Active Sport"**, which is an initiative part funded by Sport England to encourage 10 to 15 year olds who are interested to make the link between sport at school (in our case, athletics) and specialist clubs in a structured way. Sport Cheshire is the County body which operates this initiative and through Emma Deakin, the Cheshire Active Sport Athletics contact, the programme is now entering its second year (of 5). This involves working with the 7 athletic clubs in Cheshire who have a young athletes section, schools and local authority Sports Development personnel.

### **North of England news** (from the General Committee Meeting on 25 April) :

A decision was taken to recommend an increase in Membership Fees to £3 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May **2004**. The long period of notice is to help clubs when setting their subscription levels.

Since the introduction of Regional Development Co-ordinators, the North of England have had to find an extra £30,000 a year as their one-third share of the development programme. Following the demise of BAF, the NoEAA does not receive any financial support from the governing body. It has made a loss in each of the past 3 years, although these have been smaller than estimated. The membership fees (£1 a head) have remained unchanged during this period and the proposed increase is one item aimed at helping the Association to operate in balance.

The Association has been looking at a number of other ways to raise income. It has been advised that the Membership Database is a valuable asset. A draft Confidentiality/Privacy Code of Practice for use of the information by companies and organisations was presented to the meeting.

Both of these proposals will eventually have to be agreed by clubs - but you now have early notice!!.

### **"A long, long time ago....."**

Steve Yeomans is currently researching the history of Warrington AC and would be interested if anyone has any early information on the club. Warrington AC appears to have been formed in 1901, but an athletic club operated in the Warrington area from at least 1884 under different names. Steve can be contacted at : [steve.yeomans@talk21.com](mailto:steve.yeomans@talk21.com).

Cheshire's oldest athletic club is Cheshire Tally-Ho Hare and Hounds formed in 1872 in a pub at Wilmslow by amalgamation of 2 other Hare & Hounds clubs (*acknowledgement : Joe Park of Cheshire TH H&H*). However a quirk of the North of England AA rules allocates them to Greater Manchester as their Hon Sec lives in Stockport and by their nature they are almost unique in not having a club headquarters. Their tradition was(is?) to send out the Hares with torn up paper to lay the trail and then for the Hounds to attempt to catch up.

**.....when those runners used to make me smile"**  
(*Apologies to Don McLean*).

### **New Club Secretary :**

**Tattenhall Runners** : Steve Hammond, Wynton, Quarry Bank, Utkinton, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0LR (Tel : 01829 733576, e-mail : [steve.hammond@talk21.com](mailto:steve.hammond@talk21.com) ).

Please ensure the County Secretary is informed immediately there is a change of Secretary in your Club, League or Association.

### **Communications - 2**

No apologies for returning to the area of communication again, prompted by problems recently in 2 clubs. This time - within clubs.

All too frequently it becomes clear that when the secretary of a club changes, information is not passed on to the new secretary by the previous incumbent. During the year, a number of important documents are sent to club secretaries by various athletic bodies. For example the NoEAA Handbook (annually), and the UKA Rules for Competition (usually every other year). In addition, this year was a new publication from AAA of England listing sources of funding in the North West. It is very important that these and other documents are passed on to ensure clubs can operate effectively.

*We aim to produce the Newsletter on an approximately monthly basis - after committee meetings. If you have anything which you would like to see in the Newsletter, or if you would like an e-mailed copy, please contact the Editor - John Driscoll (0151 339 5341 or, preferably, [jld@sunnyfield.co.uk](mailto:jld@sunnyfield.co.uk)).*

*Any views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Cheshire County AA.*