

# CHESHIRE COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2003

## International Honours.

Congratulations to a number of Cheshire athletes who have been on international duty recently.

In the European Under 23 Championships in Poland, 3 Cheshire athletes competed in the Great Britain & NI team. Tom Carter was 4<sup>th</sup> in the Mens 1500 metres while Louise Whittaker competed in the Ladies 1500m event and David Brackstone in the 4 x 400m relay team. In the European Under 20 Championships in Finland, Kate Dennison was 11<sup>th</sup> in the Pole Vault.

Meanwhile on the Fells, Karissa Hawitt running for England Juniors, easily won the "Girls" race in the Black Forest. Winning by over a minute, Karissa broke the course record.

## Successes at the English Schools Championships at Sheffield

Several medals were won by Cheshire schools athletes at the English Schools Championships held earlier in July.

Craig France won the Intermediate Boys 100m Hurdles event to add to his Northern and Scottish Championship titles. Williams Lowndes gained a silver medal in the Intermediate Boys Shot Put, while Katey Read and Claire Neeve gained bronze medals in the Senior Girls 100m Hurdles and Pole Vault events respectively.

Craig and William both won their events in the Schools International a week later.

## Additional NoEAA Championships success.

One athlete was missed from the North of England results in last month's Newsletter. Andrew Spence of Liverpool H was second in the Under 15 Boys 400 metres in the NoEAA Junior Championships held in Liverpool at the end of May. Apologies to Andrew

## Cheshire County Track Relay Championships. Warrington, Sunday 13 July.

A successful but hot day at Warrington with some extremely close competition, no more so than in the Under 15 Girls 4x100m event where Vale Royal just beat West Cheshire on the line, Vale Royal having broken the County record in the heats. It was noticeable that we required heats in the younger age group sprint relays but the older events were rather thinly supported. The Cheshire County AA thank all who helped at the meeting and also to Brian Warren, the meeting secretary. We also acknowledge the significant secretarial help provided by the International Team and Fun Athletics Association in preparing and copying the programme and results. The results are now on the Cheshire AA website.

## John Young Award 2003.

At the County Relays meeting we took the opportunity to present the John Young Award for 2003. The award is given to individuals in recognition of their contribution to Cheshire athletics over a long period of time.

The 2003 recipient was our President, George Bunner, MBE. George, born in Liverpool, has had a lifetime involvement in athletics. As a Junior he won the AAA 880yds title in 1950. After a break from athletics for a

number of reasons, he returned to the sport as an organiser, when with others formed an athletics club in the 1970's in his then home town of Frodsham.

Very quickly he had started the development of Sports Hall athletics after recognising the need for something different to introduce young children into the sport of athletics. This has now grown along with the Fun in Athletics concept to become an accepted part of athletics all over the world through the IAAF. In recognition of his contribution to athletics for the young, George was awarded the MBE in 2002.

George has also been an organiser and motivator for conventional athletics - for example, introducing the Cheshire Track & Field League as a means to provide an introduction to track and field for new athletes, reviving the Frodsham Hill races (one of the first events I ran in on a Sunday!), secretary of the NCAA District 5, organiser of the Women's National CC Championships at Runcorn (in the early 1980's), developer of the Youth Games athletics events and organiser of the Millenium Youth Games final at Southampton, our County Track Relays, an occasional competitor for his club in the Northern Mens League (I recall seeing you throw the discus further than most of the other competitors) and perhaps the event which causes most comment - organiser of the Cheshire Road Relays which were interrupted by the opening of a swing bridge over the Ship Canal!

A lifetime of contribution - thank you George.

## Cheshire Road Running Grand Prix.

A reminder that the final event in this year's County GP series is the Birchwood 10K on August 17<sup>th</sup>, which also doubles up as the **Cheshire 10K championships** (for individuals). After much investigation by Adrian Thiemicke it does seem that our winning Mens and Womens teams will get free entry and reimbursement of travel costs to compete in the final held in conjunction with the Robin Hood ½ marathon at Nottingham in September, courtesy of Sweat Shop who were co-sponsors of the Grand Prix event with UK Athletics. UKA now seem to have not confirmed their part of the sponsorship.

Adrian Thiemicke's request for ideas, comments, events for next year's grand prix series assuming the Cheshire clubs want one has so far produced only two reponses!. Cheshire County AA are keen that the event continues in 2004 and Adrian is willing to co-ordinate again as those clubs which took part appear to have enjoyed the competition - **but it would be good to hear from you!!**. Adrian can be contacted on :  
[roadrunning@cheshireaa.com](mailto:roadrunning@cheshireaa.com).

## UKA Coaching Courses :

### Level 1 :

21/09/03 at St Helens

15/11/03 at Sportscity, Manchester

17/01/04 in North Manchester

### Children in Athletics :

28/09/03 at Warrington (Victoria Park)

16/11/03 at Sportscity (Manchester)  
18/01/04 in North Manchester

**Level 2 (Core) :**

13/14 September at St Helens  
06/07 December at Sportscity (Manchester)  
21/22 February 04 at Sportscity (Manchester)

**Level 2 (Event Specific) :**

10/11 Jan 04 at St Helens  
24/25 April 04 at Sportscity (Manchester)

In all cases contact Tony Airnes for an application form on 01253 358168 or [tairnes@ukathletics.org.uk](mailto:tairnes@ukathletics.org.uk). It is essential to book as early as possible as courses will be cancelled if there are insufficient bookings. *That is, do not leave it to the last moment as though you were entering an athletics event!!*

**Cheshire Championships.**

Forthcoming Cheshire Championships are :

**10K Road Running** at Birchwood, nr Warrington on Sunday 17 August - entry forms are out (Spectrum Striders), individual self entry.

**Junior Multi-Events** at Macclesfield on Sunday 14 September. Entry forms have now been sent out.

**North West Counties Road Relays** (*which normally incorporate our County Championships*)- **we understand these will be held on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Sefton Park, Liverpool - we expect to have entry forms for distribution very shortly.** Cheshire are due to organise this event in 2004. We have had a tentative offer from Spectrum Striders to host it on their course at Risley and we will be requiring some one to act as the secretary for the event.

Probable **Fell Running** Championship at Cilcain near Mold (North Wales) on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November - details later.

**Cross Country Championships** (SATURDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2004) at Knights Grange Sports Complex, Winsford with the assistance of Vale Royal AC and Vale Royal BC. Details later, **but please note the proposed day.** The courses for the event have now been devised. Please also note that a radically new date has been proposed for the Inter-county Cross Country championships - namely 6 March 2004 at Nottingham.

**North of England Matters.**

All Club secretaries will recently have received a letter from the Chairman, Mrs Pat Green and a position statement on the Future of Athletics in the North of England. Please do not put it in the recycling bin (or incinerator). Read it; think about it; draw your own conclusions and send them to the North of England office as requested. Decide what you wish to see for the structure in the North and the one which will work best for athletes and athletics.

The Cheshire County committee discussed the matter at their committee meeting (July 23) but did not come to a collective view.. A number of points were made by those present. There was a dearth of information in the North of England pamphlet, although it is clear now that Sport England wish to see regionalisation which they feel brings the administrators closer to those in the sport. We would not wish to see the demise of North of England Championships. We would not wish to lose the

office staff in Leeds who make a large contribution to athletics in the North. Regionalisation already exists in the North in athletics. Coaching education has always been carried out on a regional basis in the NoEAA territory and more recently the RDC's have worked with the same framework. The 4 County Districts in the North East combined from the formation of the North of England AA into one District which coincides with the proposed North East Region. The NoEAA is too large to administer athletics effectively. Should Derbyshire and Lincolnshire be in the North? If administration was carried out regionally, could that reduce the work load on Counties?

**New Club Secretaries :**

**Ellesmere Port Running Club :** Danny Legg, 11 Eastway, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH66 1SG.

A new club has applied for affiliation through Cheshire : **Sandbach Striders and Strollers**; proposed club colours : white with 2 diagonal stripes, one turquoise, one purple.

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

**New Regional Development Co-ordinator.**

Following the departure of Alison Wyeth to be Head of Development for England, a new Regional Development Co-ordinator for the North west has been appointed - Jeremy Harries, Preston Sports Arena, Tom Benson way, Preston PR2 1SG. Tel : 01772 728872, Mobile : 07968 498710; Fax : 01772 735518; email : [jharries@englandathletics.org](mailto:jharries@englandathletics.org).

We welcomed Jeremy to our July committee meeting.

**Communications**

We would ask those who do receive the Newsletter electronically to "send" it on to their contacts in their club and/or put a paper copy on your Club notice board.

**Next County committee meetings : 10 September and 15 October at the Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham at 7:30pm - hopefully we will see some new faces at them.**

**The October meeting will be preceded by the first meeting of an Action Group for Active Sport. Emma Deakin of Sport Cheshire who runs the Athletics part of Active Sport in Cheshire will be issuing details and invites, but a representative from all athletics clubs in Cheshire is invited.**

*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.*

Remember Cheshire County AA web-site for latest news and information :

**[www.cheshireaa.com](http://www.cheshireaa.com)**