

CHESHIRE COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September 2003

More Successes for Cheshire Athletes.

Tony Hulme was justifiably very pleased to report that the Cheshire mens team finished second in the Inter-counties Fell Running Championship held on 20 July at Ingleborough, in North Yorkshire. This is Cheshire's highest men's placing, so congratulations to the team of Andy Ellis, Malcolm Fowler, Alex Johnson and Tim Egerton - a blend of youth and experience. The ladies team of Sally Gilliver, Sarah Jones, Rachel Pleeth and Kate Eyres finished 4th team in their race.

Competing for Great Britain and NI in the Under 23 International at Ashford in early August, Tom Carter was 2nd in the 1500m. David Brackstone was 2nd in the 400mH and was a member of the winning 4x400m relay team.

In the AAA of England U15/17 Championships at Sheffield in mid-August, Craig France (Liverpool H) won the Under 17 100mH and a week later also won the Scottish Championship, while Becky Ellis was 3rd in the U17 Ladies 3000m.

Four Cheshire Under 20 athletes were selected to compete for the North of England Team in the Inter Area match held at Watford at the end of August. Those competing were Elliott O'Neill (Macclesfield), Becky Ellis (Vale Royal), Laura Bestow and Nicola Gore (both from West Cheshire AC). Laura had previously finished 3rd in the NoEAA U20 3000m championship at Trafford on August 12.

One response from July's Newsletter was from Matt Barnes of Altrincham who observed that he had won the NoEAA Senior Mens 1500m back in June and was not recorded in the report. Subsequent correspondence has provided some interesting information. Matthew is a recent convert to track athletics having for the previous 10 years competed in the (Modern) Pentathlon - 5 different sports of Fencing, Horse Riding, Swimming, Shooting and Cross Country Running. Matthew has already competed for Cheshire in this years Inter County cross country and half-marathon championships.

Cheshire Championships.

Since the last Newsletter, 2 County Championships have taken place. The 10K road race championship was held in conjunction with the Birchwood 10K, organised by Spectrum Striders in August. The male champion was Andy Ellis (Vale Royal) and female was Jennifer Heath (Sale).

On September 14 (yesterday!) we had our Junior Multi-event championships at Macclesfield in excellent weather. Organised by Jim Lethbridge of Handforth with officials from the County and beyond, the competition was strong, including athletes from outside the County in the Open events. But it was noticeable that some of the Cheshire clubs who have strong junior sections only had one or two athletes present. Results are on the CheshireAA web site.

Cheshire Road Running Grand Prix.

As predicted by Adrian Thiemicke Wilmslow men and Vale Royal Ladies duly won their sections of the Cheshire Road Running GP at the final event in this year's series at the Birchwood 10K on August 17th. Both

teams were presented with a trophy to recognise their achievement. After much continued investigation by Adrian the winning Mens and Womens teams were due to take part in the final held in conjunction with the Robin Hood ½ marathon at Nottingham yesterday, but confirmation of that only came through in the week leading upto the event.. Not the best preparation for the teams.

In the Cheshire committee we have not yet considered details of next year's event - assuming it is decided to go-ahead with a repeat. If any clubs still wish to send in comments please contact Adrian on : roadrunning@cheshireaa.com.

UKA Coaching Courses :

Those Clubs who are signed up to the UKA Club:futures scheme will have received an up-date very recently to their manual which lists a large number of courses. However we can only find one additional course in the local North west to the list given in the previous Newsletter. The local courses are :

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)
23/11/03 at St Helens
18/01/04 in North Manchester

Level 2 (Core) :

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)

No Level 3 or 4 courses are listed in the North West.

In all cases contact Tony Airnes for an application form on 01253 358168 or 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!!*

Health & Safety Courses for Track & Field.

The final 2 courses this year will be :

Wed 17 September at Cumberland track, Crewe (6:30 to 8:30pm).

Mon 20 October at the Macclesfield Track (4 to 6pm).

The second course is being held in conjunction with the Cheshire Schools AA following discussions with them by the County AA. Hopefully the education sector will fully support this initiative.

In both cases PLEASE inform Bob Lynch (Tel/fax : 01625 829229) that you wish to attend several days before the course take place as there is a need to get sufficient handouts from UK Athletics.

These courses which are part of the UK Athletics requirement, are open to current and prospective Technical Officials, Coaches, Facility Staff and Teachers.

Future Cheshire Championships.

Probable **Fell Running** Championship at Cilcain near Mold (North Wales) on Sunday, 2nd November - details later. Entry in any case will be on the day of the event.

Cross Country Championships (SATURDAY, 3rd January 2004) at Knights Grange Sports Complex, Winsford with the assistance of Vale Royal AC and Vale Royal BC. Entry forms for the event are being prepared and will be distributed to all Cheshire clubs who are registered for cross-country and to clubs in adjacent Counties who normally have Cheshire qualified entrants..

Please also note that a radically new date has been proposed for the Inter-county Cross Country championships - namely 6 March 2004 at Nottingham.

Team Managers - Cross Country.

Pauline and Bob Lynch have indicated that they are stepping down from being team managers for U17/Junior Male and Female Cheshire CC teams in the Inter-County event. They have carried out that task for over 10 years and deserve a break. Our thanks for their stewardship of the County teams in that period.

Jack Ellis of Vale Royal has offered to take on the job of team managing the Under 17 and U20 Ladies teams, while we understand that Richard Mitchell is interested in moving up from the young lads to manage the Under 17 and Under 20 Mens teams.

So, a call is made for offers for some one to manage the Under 13 and U15 Boys teams. Please contact the newsletter Editor or the County Secretary, Brian Warren.

Road Running Statistics.

Since the formation of the NoEAA the Cheshire Newsletter Editor has compiled statistics on Road Running in the North of England producing an annual survey.

That for 2002, just completed provides a summary of the last 10 years. Copies are available as well as a Cheshire summary (but only by e-mail) from John Driscoll (details at end of Newsletter).

Active Sport - Sports Action Group.

Those of you who have seen (and read) the AAA NW Region Athletics Development Update Newsletter for September sent out recently by Jeremy Harries, the RDC may be puzzled by the statement under the heading of Cheshire concerning management of athletics in the County.

It is the view of the Cheshire County AA that the Action Group is not a sub-committee of our organisation but a group of interested parties in Athletics Development in Cheshire run by Sport Cheshire (the Active Sport organisation in Cheshire). We do support it and will have links to it, but it is important to remember that the development being discussed is essentially for the young (12 to 17?), unless things have changed, and so relates to clubs in Cheshire with junior sections. The aim of Active Sport (a Sport England part funded initiative) is to recruit more youngsters into 9 different Active Sports, which in our case is Athletics.

There is an open invitation for all Cheshire clubs to attend the inaugural meeting of this group at the Community Centre, Frodsham at 6pm on 15th October. The next Cheshire AA committee meeting will follow at 7:30pm, so all are invited to stay on and boost attendance at our meeting.

North of England Matters 2.

Following the discussion in the last Newsletter concerning possible radical reorganisation of athletics in England which could have a dramatic affect on the functions of the North of England AA, 3 members of the County committee (Brian Warren, Bob Lynch and John Driscoll) represented Cheshire at the NoEAA General Committee meeting on September 13th.

The NoEAA Chairman, Mrs Pat Green gave a detailed account of the tortuous, conflicting, changing discussions which have taken place so far and are continuing with as yet no agreed position. In fact the whole process is being carried out with virtually no paper work so that there is nothing printed to pass onto clubs. It appears that UKA in conjunction with or under duress from (*my words*) from Sport England are still pursuing the concept of 9 Regional Offices ("hubs") in England for administration and development of the sport, with delivery to clubs via "clusters" (that is, Counties). An additional factor (argument?) is the role of an England body and the degree to which that might get involved in controlling athletics along the proposed lines in England. Apparently it seems that it is the government's intentions to obtain a similar structure for all sports in order to qualify for funding!!

The meeting gave the Chairman their support in future meetings with the request to ensure that what eventually might be proposed will maintain the interests of athletes in the North of England and to retain the NoEAA. When (if?) anything is resolved that appears acceptable, the proposals will be put to all North of England clubs at a Special General Meeting of the Association.

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 : 15 October and 17th November (NOTE : a Monday) 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.

Editor - John Driscoll (0151 339 5341 or, preferably, 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