

Retiring President's Address

I noticed on the Agenda for this evening that Item 1 is the address from the Retiring President, I'm sure those of you who know me will agree that retiring is not an adjective that describes me! It has been an honour and a delight to have represented Hampshire as its President since March 2014. I have also had the sad duty of representing the County at many funerals of colleagues and friends in my year of office, starting with Graeme Lowndes (Past President), Gerry North (Past President), Stephen Sear, John Hewitt, Liz Jukes and John Loftis (Past President). More recently, we have heard of the unexpected loss of Allegra Whittome, a young athlete from Winchester. We remember them with fondness and draw on their inspiration to continue the work that they had done for athletics and the County.

We are the envy of other counties across the region and beyond. Our athletes perform at the highest level, I won't mention here individual performances as that would take away from the reports of Team managers and other County Officers, and their success is supported by the coaching system that we have within our clubs. Our officials are considered to be amongst the best (certainly at national meetings there are more than a fair share of Hampshire officials working in all disciplines) and again perform at the highest level. Athletics in Hampshire moves forward, as it must. Sport is evolving all the time, and we must evolve with it. Kate, I wish you all the best for your year in office, I hope that you enjoy the experience and don't have to attend as many funerals as I had to!

Later items on the Agenda will allow the successes of 2014 to be shared, but it is now my last duty to present Kate with the chain of office and ask her to take over the next section of the meeting.

Pam Rogers