

President's Report 7th March

Life Vice Presidents, Past Presidents, Chairman and Executive Committee, Colleagues and friends welcome to the A.G.M of Hampshire Athletics:

On accepting the nomination for President of Hampshire Athletics I recall saying I hope I live up to expectations; I can now say the role has certainly lived up to more than my expectations- I leave the rest to you! I have been extremely proud over the last year to be the figure head, so to speak, of such an organisation which works tirelessly to manage, develop and improve all branches of athletics within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Congratulations and a huge thank you to the Executive Committee, clubs, volunteers, coaches, team managers and athletes for making the year so successful. I would also like to recognise that without the continued financial support and backing of Saucony and the work of the Network our championships would not be the envy of other counties.

I tried to attend as many events as possible, and indeed a well-known Timekeeper remarked, "I'm seeing you more now than when you were officiating." I took this as a compliment! The first one was a Sports Hall event in Andover- a buzzing hive of activity. Then in May, I attended the Multi-events; Quad kids and 10K Championships and the Track and Field Championships. I also had an invitation to the Hampshire School Games at Aldershot in June where I met Olivia Broom, Paralympic medallist, who gave an inspirational speech. We staged 2 Saucony Grand Prix events, one incorporating the Doreen Old Memorial Open, which attracted a record turnout and excellent performances. I quickly realised that wearing stilettos to these events was not a terribly good idea! My last duty was to attend the Cross Country Championships at Eastleigh in the floods and on this occasion I wore my wellies!! It was a delight to meet so many friends and athletes and to present the medals at all these fantastic events.

During my year we experienced sadness too, losing Doreen Old, Todd Bennett and Graeme Lowndes, who between them made huge contributions to Hampshire Athletics. We have all been privileged to work alongside them.

I know you will hear all the annual reports charting a great deal of success and I can confirm that the 'Olympic legacy' is flourishing within Hampshire Athletics.

I've appreciated every ones' support throughout the year and I must thank the Executive Committee for their guidance. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years' presidency.

Mary Axtell