

# **HAMPSHIRE & IOW ATHLETICS DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

## **HAMPSHIRE ATHLETICS – GENERAL**

In 2012 London Olympics year, Hampshire Athletics comprises 13 Track & Field, 3 Channel Island, and 30 Running Clubs. The Hampshire Clubs and Hampshire Schools structures remain the healthy 'lifeblood' of our sport with a significant influx of new athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers in 2011/2012. Reporting to the HAA Executive Committee, Hampshire Athletics is managed effectively through a number of Sub Groups (Sports Hall, Road, Cross Country, Track & Field, Coaching, Finance & Sustainability, Disability Athletics, Officials). Each Sub Group has terms of reference to ensure long-term sustainability, and to manage and grow their sphere of Athletics. 2011/12 has been a tremendous year of achievement for Athletics in Hampshire & IOW. Highlights are reported below.

### **1. FINANCE & SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **1.1 General**

The Sub Group met 3 times in the last 12 months. The starting point was to address the Hampshire AA financial position with losses of over £11K suffered during 2009/2010 and assets declining from c.£36K to £25K (at this rate of attrition Hampshire AA would cease to exist by November 2013). A Hampshire Athletics Business Plan was constructed, with all branches of the sport tasked with self-financing in 2011, and returning to profitability in 2012. A whole set of initiatives were implemented including:-

- Successful negotiations with facility providers to reduce hire charges
- Annual Club affiliation fees doubled from £25 to £50 in 2011, with a further increase proposed for 2012.
- A Club membership fees analysis was conducted and shared with Clubs.
- Hampshire competition fees were elevated, following comparisons with other sports. (Athletics had been viewed as a 'cheap' participation sport.)
- Hampshire Officials volunteered not to provide 'meals' for Championship events.
- New income streams and funding sources successfully targeted.

Consequent to modernising and professionalising many of our activities, breaking new ground and accepting some uncomfortable messages, Hampshire Athletics has emerged in better financial shape with a 2011 surplus of £270. As responsible current custodians of Hampshire Athletics, we are providing a sounder legacy for the future.

#### **1.2 Hampshire Athletics Saucony Partnership**

Following a number of meetings, Hampshire Athletics and Saucony announced a 3 Year Partnership Agreement effective 1 February 2012. (Saucony is the UK's fastest growing running brand). Prime agreed areas of cooperation include the County Cross Country Championships, Hampshire 10K, T&F Championships, and a Hampshire Athletics Grand Prix in Basingstoke - 18 July 2012 to coincide with the appearance of the Olympic torch in Hampshire. An annual cash payment will

be made to Hampshire AA, with some of the above events underwritten and prizes donated. Saucony will 'appoint' a Hampshire-based sports retailer for each event.

## **2. COMPETITION**

### **2.1 Hampshire Championships, 14/15 May 2011, Portsmouth**

640 athletes competed in an excellent competition with many Championship Best Performances. There was a record entry of 60 for the Multi Events Championships, with 50 Under 11s in the Quad Kids competition.

### **2.2 Hampshire Schools Championships, 11 June 2011, Aldershot**

The Hampshire Schools Championships were successfully integrated into the Hampshire Games Multi-Sport Festival for the first time with 650 Schools participants. The **Year 7&8 Championships, Southampton - 5 July 2011** attracted 835 athletes, and **Year 5&6 Championships, Southampton** comprised 15 School Sport Partnership teams and 180 athletes.

### **2.3 English Schools Championships, 1/2 July 2011, Gateshead**

Hampshire Schools achieved 15 medals and won 2 agegroups – a great result!

### **2.4 UK School Games, 1-4 September 2011, Sheffield**

9 Hampshire & IOW athletes represented the SW team with Nick Percy winning gold in the Discus, and Sarah-Jane Antony and Dudley Mason achieving bronze medals in the Hammer and 800m.

### **2.5 Island Games, 27-30 July 2011, Sandown**

This bi-annual event was a huge success for the Isle of Wight and Channel Island competitors and largely staffed by Hampshire & IOW Officials.

### **2.6 Parallel Games, 10 June 2011, Aldershot**

130 athletes participated in events for children with Medium Learning Difficulties, Visual Impairments and Physical Handicaps a good participation level.

### **2.7 SLD Athletics Festival, 25 May 2011, Portsmouth**

140 athletes with severe impairments participated in this event with adapted events.

### **2.7 European Junior Championships, 21-24 July 2011, Tallinn, Estonia**

6 Hampshire Club athletes represented Great Britain with Emelia Gorecka and Jonny Hay both achieving silver medals and Millie Clifford gaining gold in the 4 x 400m relay.

### **2.8 World University Games, 16-20 August 2011, Shenzhen, China**

Andy Vernon was GB's only medallist in winning gold in the 5000m.

### **2.9 Sports Hall**

Two Hampshire teams progressed to the National Sports Hall Finals, **3 April 2011, NEC Birmingham**. Both the Hampshire U15 Boys and U13 Girls teams eventually finished 2nd in the UK from 49 English Counties, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland – our best ever results! I am pleased to report that both the Hampshire U13 Boys and

Girls teams won the **S.E. Regional Final, 12 February 2012, Burgess Hill Olympos Centre**, and will compete at the **National Finals at the NEC on 21 April 2012**.

The Hampshire Sports Hall League has really strengthened in 2011/12 with a record team participation (9 Hampshire Clubs and Mountbatten School). Approximately 200 athletes have taken part in each match. A fourth League fixture has been added, with the poorly-supported County Championships deleted in 2012.

### **2.10 Cross Country**

The Hampshire Cross Country League has continued to attract magnificent support, with an average 585 runners completing each of the 5 matches (656 and 657 at Farley Mount and Goodwood). The **Hampshire County Championships, Dibden Inclosure, 7 January 2012** had a record entry of 663 athletes and was a well-organised, profitable event. Hampshire Clubs had 9 representatives in the Great Britain team at the **European Cross Country Championships, 11 December 2011, Velenje, Slovenia**. All achieved GB team gold medals, with Emma Pallant and Emelia Gorecka winning individual gold in the U23 and U20 events.

### **2.11 London Mini Marathon 7 April 2011**

15 Hampshire Club athletes (from total teams of 36) contributed to the winning South East England teams.

## **3. COACHING**

### **3.1 National and Local Coach Development Programmes (NCDP/LCDP)**

9 Hampshire & IOW coaches currently attend the England Athletics NCDP workshop programme, assuming mentoring responsibilities. The Local Coach Development Programme managed by Christine Benning for Hampshire and South Surrey continues its success with regular, well-attended coaching workshops.

### **3.2 County Coaching Days**

Coaches from the LCDP (above) and their U15/U17/U20 athletes attended 3 County Coaching Days: 15 October 2011, Portsmouth (16 coaches, 70 athletes); 10 December 2011, Andover (18 coaches, 37 athletes); 24 March 2012, Winchester (?? coaches, ?? athletes). These are high quality coaching days covering physical preparation/strength conditioning, event-specific work, pre-season planning, and linking athletes to Clubs. The Days have attracted excellent feedback, and a considerable number of unaffiliated Schools athletes have now joined Clubs.

### **3.3 Coach Education**

Hampshire & IOW have successfully hosted a whole range of England Athletics coach education programmes in 2011/12, including Athletics Leader, Assistant, Coach, and Leadership in Running Fitness courses. Coaches are progressing through the new EA structure, with Clubs needing to increase capacity to meet the current influx of new athletes.

## **4. EDUCATION**

In August 2011, following Government recommendations, the existing School Sports Partnership structure ceased, with the loss of a number of roles (Partnership

Development Managers (PDMs), School Sport Coordinators (SSCOs), Competition Managers and Further Education Sport Coordinators (FESCOs)). The consequences are that Hampshire Schools have to revert back to the 10 Schools Districts organisation to stage a number of events. We are now working with 14 newly appointed School Games Organisers (SGOs) to continue the good work in Hampshire Schools athletics, and ensure no competitions are lost.

## **5. OFFICIALS**

### **5.1 Officials Evenings**

75 Hampshire & IOW Officials attended an Officials Evening at Basingstoke Hockey Club on 8 April 2011. The keynote speaker was Keith Davies, 2012 Technical Director. The 2012 evening is planned for 30 March with guest speaker - Chris Cohen, International Paralympic Chairman and 2012 Paralympics Meeting Manager. A number of Officials Education courses have run during 2011/12 in Hampshire, IOW and the Channel Islands.

### **5.2 2012 Officials**

A magnificent total of 17 Hampshire Officials have been appointed to work at the 2012 Olympics. Most will be required to attend the two 2012 'test' events (British Universities Championships and UK School Games) at the new Olympic Stadium.

## **6. DISABILITY ATHLETICS**

### **6.1 Wheel Chair Racing**

The Hampshire Wheel Chair Race Group was launched at Winchester Stadium in August 2011 with 3 new racing wheel chairs purchased with Accentuate grant aid. The group now meets monthly, with newly qualified coaches operating with great energy and enthusiasm.

### **6.2 County Athletics Assessment Day (CAADs)**

Approximately 50 disabled young sportsmen attended an assessment day at Portsmouth - 22 June 2011. A number have now been linked with Athletics Clubs, and have attended Hampshire Coaching Days.

## **7. GENERAL**

### **7.1 Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme (HTAS)**

57 Hampshire athletes ranked in the 'Power of 10' top 15 applied successfully to the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme from 305 County representatives across all sports. Successful applicants are benefitting from a range of support including financial grants, free facility access, fast-track physiotherapy and transport passes.

### **7.2 Hampshire & IOW Sports Awards 21 March 2012 St Mary's Stadium**

12 nominations were submitted against the various Award categories for athletes, coaches, officials. 5 have been shortlisted for Awards.

### **7.3 Club Mark**

Eight Hampshire Clubs have achieved the Club Mark quality accreditation - Basingstoke & Mid Hants, Winchester, Southampton, IOW, New Forest Juniors,

Andover, Havant. Fleet & Crookham and Overton are working towards. This is increasingly becoming a pre-requisite in terms of attracting funding and future School-Club links working.

#### **7.4 Hampshire & IOW Clubs Forum 28 September 2011, Winchester Stadium**

20 senior Club officials attended a consultation/communication evening to share and exchange information on the England Athletics 'Are You Ready' programme, financing and sustaining Clubs and County, and how to access various Club grants and funds. A number of Clubs have ambitious current facility plans.

#### **7.5 Hampshire Athletics Best Practice Case-Study**

A Hampshire Athletics case-study was included in the England Athletics best practice 'Are You Ready' Guide - focussing on the benefits of productive partnership working.

#### **7.6 Social/Recreational Running**

Sport England have awarded Sport Hampshire & IOW £35,000 to introduce 1100 new recreational runners to the sport by April 2013. A part-time coordinator has been appointed to initiate new beginners courses with Clubs, Leisure Centres, Local Authorities and other providers.

#### **7.7 England Athletics 2013-2017 Whole Sport Plan.**

MGC/CG/CB attended an England Athletics 2013-2017 Planning Meeting in London - 7 November 2011. The emphasis was largely on 'evolution' rather than 'revolution' and building on the successful National/Local Coach Development Programmes, and Athletics Networks. The role of the County was perceived as critical.

The announcements relating to the hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and 2017 World Championships in London are seen as very positive to maintaining the 2012 legacy.

#### **7.8 Hampshire Athletics**

A proposal has been tabled to adopt the generic name of 'Hampshire Athletics', as an attractive modern brand name to be instantly recognised by all participants in our sport (athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, business partners, sponsors).

*Michael Coker Athletics Coaching & Performance Officer March 2012*