

Hampshire Athletics Association President's Report – 6th March 2020

I have been involved with Hampshire Athletics for around forty years having been recruited as an Official whilst I followed my son who competed for the County in sprints and hurdles. It's a familiar story, I was attending the athletics meetings anyway, so I might as well do something, so I qualified as a Technical Official. My son stopped competing over thirty years ago, but I kept coming because I enjoyed the sport and the camaraderie of the people involved in it so much.

I was honoured to be asked to be President of Hampshire Athletics for 2019/2020. The Chain of Office was presented to me and the names of Past Presidents engraved there was a Who's Who of Hampshire Athletics, past and present.

My main duty was to act as a figurehead for the County Athletics Association and present medals at the various County Championships. I am usually working behind the scenes so it gave me enormous pleasure to see the happy faces of the athletes standing on the podium to receive their medals. It reminded me of the joy that I had as a parent and the huge pride that my son took in being County Champion.

I would like to pay tribute to the army of volunteers behind all of the County Championships. It takes a lot of people to organise and put on the championships, including all of the Officials on the Track and in the Field. Without them, the Championships would not take place.

Further tribute should be paid to the clubs with their commitment to developing athletics in the County. The Coaches and Managers turn out in all weathers to make sure that their athletes are fit and able to compete.

Lastly, I would mention the members of the Executive Committee who do a lot of work behind the scenes which is hardly ever recognised. They put in a tremendous time commitment to make sure that athletics in the County runs as smoothly as possible.

Stan Burton
March 2020