



Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers



SHAFTESBURY BARNET HARRIERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2000 – 2001

Every year seems to be busier than ever before. Last year we witnessed a tremendous Olympic Games with many British successes this year saw the holding of the World Championships in Edmonton and again Shaftesbury members formed a large part of the British team. We also have representatives in the World Indoor Championships, the European under 23 Championships, the European under 20 Championships and the World Student Games. While it was certainly very busy on the International scene it was just as hectic on the domestic front. Shaftesbury teams were competing in all the National, Territorial and County championships and well as in the following Leagues: the British Athletic league division 1, The UK Women's track and field league division 1, The Southern Men's Track & Field league, the women's track & field league, The men and women's National Junior league, the McDonald's boys track & field league, the McDonald's girls track & field league, the Southern veterans track & field league. Over the country in addition to the numerous championships we participated in the Metropolitan League, The Southern women's cross country league, the north-west London league as well as many trophy events. Then on the road there were various events with Shaftesbury representation.

CROSS COUNTRY

The first National cross country championship of the season was the relays and we were off to a good start when the senior women took the gold medals, Lucy Elliott running the 2nd fastest leg, the junior men were 4th as were the under 17 boys, the junior women were 5th and the senior men were 14th with Dominic Bannister running the 3rd fastest leg of the day.

In the European Championships Shaftesbury Barnet had two representatives in the Great Britain teams, Jessica Nugent who was a member of the winning junior women's team and Dominic Bannister who was second scorer for the senior men's team.

The Southern cross country championships at Parliament hill was again a successful day for us. Nick Francis won the senior men's title with the team 6th, our senior women were first team with Ann Ridley leading the team home in 5th place. Chloe Wilkinson won the under 17 race and Sarah Stanmore was 4th in the junior women's race with Emma Hunt 8th in the under 15 event. Daniel Lewis won the under 17 title with Tom Bedford 4th and the team third.

The National Cross-Country Championships were held in Durham and a large contingent from Shaftesbury Barnet travelled north to compete. The senior women were third, as were the junior men with Chris Bolt 2nd and Richard Williams 7th, the senior men 5th, the under 17 men 10th with Daniel Lewis 2nd individual and Tom Bedford 7th. Lindsay Barr had good introduction to the Nationals when she finished 14th in the under 13 girls race, Chloe Wilkinson had a superb run to take silver medal in the under 17 girls and Emma Hunt was 6th in the under 15 girls. Nick Francis gained bronze medal in the senior men's race with Emile DeJonge 11th and Lucy Elliott had another good National with 5th place. Our trip to the north therefore resulted in two sets of team bronze medals, two individual silver medals and one bronze individual. A good haul from the fields which totalled 2556 finishers.

In the County Championships Middlesex champions were Richard Williams (under 20), Caroline Walsh (Senior woman), Maryan Shakiba (Under 15 girls), Lindsey Barr (under 13 girls), the Senior women's team, the under 15 girls team, the under 13 girls and boys teams. Hertfordshire champions Daniel Lewis (under 17 men), Sam Hall (under 15 boys), Sarah Stanmore (under 20 women), Chloe Wilkinson (Under 17 girls) and Under 17 boys and girls teams and the Senior women's team. Stephen Murphy was Under 20 Hertfordshire champion running for his school.

It was gold medals all the way round at the North of Thames championship with Christina Radon and the senior women winning then Emile DeJonge and the senior men matching them with the men also winning the 12 to score team event.

The senior women as reigning National cross country championships went to Vilamoura to compete in the European Club Championship and finished 7th.

ROAD RUNNING

The Southern Road relays were held in Aldershot and the senior women retained their title when they won the Southern 4 stage road relay championship, the men were 6th over 6 stages, the under 15 boys 2nd and the under 13 girls 6th

The heavy rain at Sutton Park for the National 6 stage for men and 4 stage for women road relays certainly dampened our spirits when our only medallists were the senior women who finished third. The senior men were 18th, the under 17 women 14th, the under 15 women 15th and the under 13 girls 5th.

The Spring sees the men's 12 stage relay and women's 6 stage relay taking place. The Southern championships were at Milton Keynes and the men were 2nd with the women finishing 1st and 6th. In the National championships the women were third and the men 6th.

Third place has been a place we have occupied more often than we would want in the past year and at the AAA 10km championships at Cheltenham both men and women's teams took the bronze medals.

The women travelled to Salo, Italy for the European Clubs Champions Cup and finished a creditable 5th team over the 15kilometre course.

TRACK AND FIELD

Our best performance booklets will show that members are producing world class performances and this was reflected in the Great Britain team that went to Edmonton for the World Championships. Abiodun Oyepitan (100m & relay), Shani Anderson (100m & relay), Natasha Danvers (400m Hurdles & relay), Catherine Murphy (400m & relay), Lee McConnell (4x400 relay), Larry Achike (Triple Jump), Nick Nieland (Javelin), Anthony Whiteman (1500m), were our athletes in Edmonton. It was good to see in the women's 4 x 400 World championship final that three quarters of the Great Britain Team were from Shaftesbury Barnet.

However, the track and field aspect started just after Christmas with the indoor season and the star of British Indoor track was Catherine Murphy. Catherine became the first athlete to win both the 200 metres and 400 meters at the National Championship and went on to run for Great Britain in the World Indoor Championships. Abiodun Oyepitan was 4th in the AAA 60m final, Celia Brown made the 800m final, Julie Dunkley was 2nd in the Shot. For the men Jason Livingston was 3rd in the 60m, Chris Bolt was in the final of the 1500m and Rob Mitchell took silver medal in the High Jump. At the AAA Junior indoor championships Jo Ankier and Jessica Nugent were 1st and 2nd respectively in the junior 1500 metres.

Club teams had an up and down year. Pride of place goes to the junior men who won the National Junior Athletes league with the junior women also making the final. The Boys young athletes league team were 5th in the National final. Both senior men and women teams finished in the middle of their Division 1 leagues while the women's southern league team went down to division 2 and the girls young athletics league were relegated from the Premier to division 1.

Individually we could hardly have done better. In addition to our members listed in Edmonton for the World Championships. Abiodun Oyepitan took silver medal in the European under 23 100m with gold in the 4 x 100 championships plus gold medal in the world student games. Natasha Danvers also a gold medalist at the world student games (Britains only two) plus a silver in the Student games 4 x 400 metres relay. Lee McConnell a finalist in the World Student Games 400m and silver medalist in the 4 x 400. Also at the World Student games was David Parker who finished 9th in the European under 23 javelin. Rachel Felton had her first introduction to International Championships when she competed in the European under 23 championship 1500 metres. Richard McDonald another Shaftesbury Barnet Harrier in the European under 23 championship in the 400m hurdles and a gold medalist in the 4 x 400 relay. Then in the European Junior championships Jo Ankier, who only took up steeplechasing in the middle of the summer, set the British record despite falling at the final water jump.

Throughout the summer there was always a member of Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers in every Great Britain team England teams. In addition we had athletes like Lee McConnell,

Richard McDonald and Nick Smith for Scotland, Lynne Gallagher Rob Mitchell, Graham Holder and Catherine Murphy for Wales and Chioma Enjunwa running for Nigeria. As well as the athletes detailed above, Charlie Low and Lyn Sprules also gained international recognition as did 18 year old Zoe Brown who set a Northern Ireland pole vault record

GENERAL

As we end our 110th year the Club is recognised as one of the top all round Club in the United Kingdom. It has achieved that position by a lot of hard work from athletes, coaches, team managers, officials and its administrators. As we look forward to the next decade in our history the work required to keep the name of Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers to the fore of British Athletics means setting higher standards for us all. The athletes will all be looking for greater personal bests and winning more championships. Coaches will be assessing their efforts and working to help their charges to better performances. Team managers will be aiming to get even better teams out in the black and white stripes with the officials looking to increase their numbers to support the Club. While Club administration will look to strengthen what has been a firm foundation for everyone's aims and ambitions.

In some ways we have had a difficult year and in other ways we have had a successful year and we thank everyone who has contributed to the running and performance of the Club in 2000 – 2001.

We must look forward to the future with enthusiasm and positive thoughts with everyone aiming to be better, do better and help the Club to the top the ladder in which ever way they can.