



ANNUAL REPORT 2002 - 2003

A year of mixed fortunes but one in which we have remained as one of the top clubs in the UK. There have been some excellent performances from club members and teams that give encouraging indications for the future. Apart from the athletic performances that our members and teams have been participating in, the Club has been involved throughout the year in discussions and negotiations over our future at Barnet Copthall Stadium.

TRACK & FIELD

The main international championship of 2003 was the World Championships in Paris and the Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers competing were Lee McConnel 400metres finalist and 4 x 400 finalist, Natasha Danvers 400m hurdles and 4 x 400 relay final, Catherine Murphy 4 x 400m relay final and Abiodun Oyepitan 200m. Abi, Lee and Natasha also competed in the match against Russia and USA. In the European under 23 championships in Poland Jo Anker was in the final of the 3000m steeplechase setting a British under 23 record, Zoe Brown competed in the pole vault and Nick Smith ran in the 100m. Marilyn Okoro ran for the Great Britain junior team in the 400m at Loughborough and was selected for the European junior championships in Finland but was unable to go due to a passport mix up. At the World Youth Games in Edmonton, Canada, Jamahl Alert Khan was 3rd in the 200 and later in the season went on to break the British under 17 record with a time of 20.97seconds. Gemma Nicol was also in Edmonton and ran in the 200m. Julie Dunkley competed in Croatia for England at her speciality, the shot. Mention must also be made of Daniel Russell who was undefeated throughout the season in the under 17 Steeplechase and was therefore Schools International, English Schools and National champion. Yamile Aldama broke the club triple jump record with a leap of 15.29m that put her at the top of the world rankings but unfortunately Yamile's request for British citizenship has still to be agreed by the Home Office which resulted in her missing the World Championships.

The Young Athletes and Junior teams were the most successful on the track. The Boys were 2nd in the National Junior League final and the Girls 3rd while the boys young athletes team finish 2nd in the Southern Premier league and went on to place 3rd in the main final with the girls team finishing 6th in the Southern Premier League. The men's track teams finished 6th in the British League Division 1 and 4th in the Southern League while the women were relegated to division 2 in the UK Women's track & field league. While the women's masters team won their division of the Southern Veterans track & field league. In the British Golden Jubilee Cup final our combined senior men and women's team finished 5th.

ROAD RUNNING

Road relays are the main team competitions and the women finished 2nd in the Southern 6 stage road relay and 4th in the National 6 stage road relay. The under 15 girls won the

Middlesex road relay championship. The under 17 boys team were 6th in the Southern road relays and the under 15 boys 10th. The senior men were 8th in the National 6 stage road relay with the senior women 9th in the women's 4 stage championship. In the National young athletes road relays our best performances were the under 17 boys who were 2nd and the under 17 girls 8th.

In May our vets team of Mel Ellis, Kate Armstrong and Maggie Cooper won the British Masters road relay championships at Sutton Park, Birmingham and a different team had earlier in the year finished 2nd in the Southern Masters road relays.

Internationally Mel Ellis ran for Wales in the past year

CROSS COUNTRY

At the National cross country relays the junior women were 2nd and on the same day at a different venue the women's masters team were second in the National masters cross country relay. Other team successes were first in the Hertfordshire women under 20 championship, first in the Middlesex girls under 15 championship and second senior Middlesex women's team

The National Cross Country Championships were held over Parliament Hill Fields and the senior men were 8th, the under 17 boys, 12th, the under 15 boys 23rd and the under 13 boys 18th. The senior women finished 7th and the under 15 girls 21st. Performances at the Southern championships held at Bicton College in the SouthWest were much better with the senior men finishing 2nd team, Sam Hall won the under 17 individual championship and the under 15 team was 4th. The senior women were 4th, the under 20 women were team champions with Chloe Wilkinson taking the individual honours and Jade Wright second while the under 15 girls won the team bronze medals.

Dominic Bannister ran for Great Britain team in the European championships and the Lynne Gallagher gained representative honours for Wales. Chloe Wilkinson was in the GB junior cross-country squad and also ran for England and the South of England. Other South of England representatives were Victoria Webster and Sian Bentley.

GENERAL

The onus of administration in Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers is falling on fewer shoulders and all are volunteers. We are grateful to all you have given some time and to a few a great deal of time that have benefited our members and the sport of athletics.

London Borough of Barnet's proposal that the stadium is managed jointly by Hendon Football Club and Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers has been a major item at all the Club's Council meetings. Hendon F.C. ground in Claremont Road needs major renovation and Barnet Council has suggested that they move to Barnet Copthall Stadium. The Council would recompense the football club for the loss of their lease and this money would be used to improve facilities at Copthall. While these negotiations have been going on Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers have applied to Sport England for partial funding for the re-surfacing of the athletic track with Barnet Council providing the remainder of the costs. These negotiations are ongoing.