



## ANNUAL REPORT 2003 - 2004

Pride of place in our Annual Report must go to our 2004 Olympians: Trecia Smith representing Jamaica 4<sup>th</sup> in the women's triple jump, Yamile Alderma representing Sudan 5<sup>th</sup> in the women's triple jump, and for the UK Abi Oyepitan finalist in the women's 200m, Lee McConnell Women's 400m and 4 x 400m relay that finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the final, Nick Smith part of the UK 4 x 100m relay squad and Nick Neiland men's javelin

### TRACK & FIELD

During the summer the Club competed in the British Athletics League, The UK Women's Track & Field League, The National Junior League, The National Young Athletes League, the London Inter Club Challenge and the Southern Masters League. The women maintained their place in Division 2 of the UK Women's Track & Field League and were in line for promotion to Division 1 after the first two fixtures. In the Cup Final the men and women were a very creditable third. Our Juniors had a very successful summer with both teams going through to the National final. In the final the boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the girls 7<sup>th</sup>. The Club then received an invitation to compete in the European Junior Clubs Cup and in their fixture the boys were 3<sup>rd</sup> and the girls were 1<sup>st</sup>. This year in the National Young Athletes League final positions were decided on joint scores of boys and girls. The Club competed in the Southern Premier division and finished 5<sup>th</sup> just missing out on going to the National finals. The London Inter Club Challenge was a new competition and in this inaugural year we came out first on joint scoring of men and women. Our veteran athletes, now called masters were catered for in the Southern masters League.

At the World Indoor championships Yamile Aldama finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Trecia Smith 4<sup>th</sup> both in the women's triple jump.

Sarah Heath was European masters champion for 800metres and 1500metres both indoors and outdoors in the over 40-age group and also broke the British over 40 800metre age group record. Greg Dunson also became double outdoor European Masters champion in the over 40 age group winning the 110m Hurdles and the 400m Hurdles.

Mention has already been made of our Olympic athletes, others who gained international honours were Emma Ania for Great Britain in sprints, under 23 great internationals were Joanna Ankier, steeplechase, Zoe Brown, pole vault, Marilyn Okoro 800metres and Jade Wright 5000metres. Victoria Webster gained a Great Britain Junior steeplechase vest. Other International colours were won by Kirsty Morrison representing England at javelin, Taneisha Robinson-Scanlon (Ireland) at triple jump and Gemma Nicol(Scotland) 400 metres.

Katherine Deal aged 13 was an England international for athletes with disability.

## **ROAD RUNNING**

The first event in our club year is the Southern Road Relays and in the 2003 race the senior women led from the start and won by over 1 minute. The senior men were 13<sup>th</sup> and in the young athlete races the under 13 boys were 8<sup>th</sup>, under 15 boys 12<sup>th</sup> and under 17 men 14<sup>th</sup>. The under 13 girls were 19<sup>th</sup>, under 15 girls 2<sup>nd</sup> and under 17 women 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the National 6 stage road relay championships the senior men were 18<sup>th</sup> and the women 5<sup>th</sup> in the 4 stage road relay. Lucy Elliott ran the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest time of the day and was selected for Great Britain to run in the Chiba Ekiden in Japan.

The spring road relays are 12 stages for men and 6 stages for women. In the Southern championships the men were 5<sup>th</sup> and the women 2<sup>nd</sup> then in the national championships the men were 14<sup>th</sup> and the women 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was the fourth time in the five years of the women's event that we have won medals.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

The increasing entry indicates that the cross country relay are a favourite amongst clubs our positions were: senior men 18<sup>th</sup>, Junior men 5<sup>th</sup>, under 17 boys 13<sup>th</sup>, under 15 boys 9<sup>th</sup> and under 13 boys 11<sup>th</sup>. The senior women were 8<sup>th</sup>, junior women 3<sup>rd</sup>, under 17 women 6<sup>th</sup>, under 15 girls 5<sup>th</sup> and under 13<sup>th</sup> girls 22<sup>nd</sup>. We were one of the few clubs to have teams in every relay.

The Southern cross country championships were at Parliament Hill and our best team results came from the Senior women who were 2<sup>nd</sup> with Jade Wright our highest finisher in 6<sup>th</sup> place. The senior men were 19<sup>th</sup>, the under 17 women 4<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 girls 7<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 girls 13<sup>th</sup> with Britney McGowan finishing a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup>. The under 13 boys were 14<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 boys 9<sup>th</sup> and the under 17 men 9<sup>th</sup>.

The National cross country championships were held over a tough course in Leeds. Dominic Bannister ran a great race to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the senior men's race with the team 20<sup>th</sup>. The senior women's team were 5<sup>th</sup> with Jade Wright in 13<sup>th</sup> place. The junior men were 4<sup>th</sup>, Tom Bedford was our leading scorer in 10<sup>th</sup> place, the under 15 boys were 18<sup>th</sup> with Dominic Easter 9<sup>th</sup>. The under 13 girls finished 16<sup>th</sup> with Britney McGowan 13<sup>th</sup> and the under 15 girls 11<sup>th</sup> with Lucy Yates 16<sup>th</sup>. Vicky Webster had an outstanding run in the under 20 women's race to finish 6<sup>th</sup> and Sarah Waldron was 13<sup>th</sup> in the under 17 women. Vicky Webster went on to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in the inter Counties under 20 women's race which was also the UK world cross country trials as consequence Vicky went to the world cross country championships and finished 61<sup>st</sup> in the junior women's race.

## **GENERAL**

In last year's annual report mention was made of negotiations with Hendon Football Club and Barnet Council regarding the future of the Barnet Copthall Stadium. Negotiations are still in progress but it is likely that we shall be managing the Stadium for a short period until Hendon FC are ready to move in then a joint venture will be put into operation. Our application to Sport England for a grant hit a number of snags during the year but in October 2004 we heard that a grant will be made and resurfacing will take place once a suitable contractor has been found.

In February there was a Club Dinner for those members with 25 or more years membership and presentations were made to 7 members who had 50 years or more service. Dave Carey, Don Lee, Bob Parker, Jim Cunningham, Joyce Smith, Tony Sunderland and Bryan Smith.

During the year Geoff Morphitis was selected by UK Athletics to be part of a group to look at athletics in Sweden with a view to seeing if there was any good practice that could be incorporated into UK Athletics.

Once again we thank all those who have given up their time during the year to help the Club. This includes those who coach, who have officiated and our administrators whose numbers never increase and take on an increasing burden of providing athletics for all our athletes.

The Club continues to be at the top of UK Athletics but if we are to stay there we need to strengthen a number of areas where weaknesses are beginning to show.