

ANNUAL REPORT 2004 – 2005

Highlight of the year was Trecia Smith's gold medal performance at the World Track & Field triple jump Championships in Helsinki. It is also pleasing to report that Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers again had a high percentage of athletes competing at international level. Yamile Aldama led at the end of round one in these world triple jump championships but disappointedly finished out of the medals in fourth place. Our other World Championship athletes were Jo Anker in the steeplechase, Emma Ania in the 100m and 4 x 100m relay, Lee McConnell 400m and 4 x 400m relay (in which the GB team won bronze medals), Allan Scott in 110m Hurdles and Nick Neiland in the javelin. Nick Neiland, Lee McConnell and Jo Anker also represented the UK in the European Cup competition and Jo went on to break the UK women's 3000m steeplechase record. Gemma Nicol was a finalist in the 400m at the European Junior Championships and at the European under 23 Championships Marilyn Okoro place 4th in the 800m final Zoe Brown was 5th in the pole vault with a Northern Ireland record and Jade Wright was 6th in the 10,000 final. Marilyn went on later in the season to take the bronze medal in the World University Championships, Zoe Brown was also at these championships placing 14th in the pole vault. We have had very good periods and some frustrating ones but generally this has been a good year for Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers.

ROAD RUNNING

At the 2004 Southern Road relays championships the senior men were 17th, the senior women 5th, under 17 men 5th, under 17 women 3rd, under 15 boys 7th, under 15 girls 3rd, under 13 boys 12th and under 13 girls 15th. It was good to see the Club turn out teams in every age group. At the national men's 6 stage relays the men were 18th and the women 8th in the 4stage relay.

In the spring we saw the men's 12 stage and women's 6stage road relays at Milton Keynes and our men were 8th while the women were 1st in an event they have place 1st in 2000, 2001, 2002 and second in 2003 and 2004 they therefore have a record of never out of the first two since this relay has been held. At the National Young Athlete road relays our under 17 men were 34th, the under 17 women 23rd, the under 15 boys 17th, the under 15 girls 47th, the under 13 boys 23rd and the under 13 girls 19th with Katherine Deal running the fastest lap. In the National senior 6 stage road relays the women finished 2nd while the men did not finish a team.

Throughout the year members have run in various road races throughout the country often with some success.

CROSS COUNTRY

The English cross country relays provide a good sharpener before the main championships of the cross country season best performances came from the Junior men 6th, under 17 men 17th, under 15 boys 8th and under 13 boys 31st. In the women's relays the seniors were 7th, under 20 2nd, under 17 5th, under 15 20th and under 13 girls 27th.

Our best performances at the Southern cross country championships came from the senior women's team that finished 2nd and the under 17 women who were 6th team.

At the National cross country championships in Birmingham excellent runs by the under 20s resulted on the junior women's team of Vicki Webster, Gemma Turtle, Daniel Cross and Lucy Goldsmith winning silver medals and the junior men's team that finishing 5th.

A full cross country season with competition in the Metropolitan League and North West London Young Athletes League in addition to various inter club fixtures provided our members with plenty of opportunities for cross country running.

TRACK & FIELD

The past season must be considered to have a successful one. The senior men finished 5th in the British Athletics League division one and extend the time as the longest ever period of one club in the top echelons. The senior women won division 2 of the UK women's track & field league and therefore return to division one next year and the joint men and women's team finished 4th in the Cup Final. The junior men and women went through to the finals of the National Junior League where the men finished 2nd and the women 3rd. While the Young Athletes teams fought their way through to the National Auxiliary finals and finished as second team. All in all a very successful set of performances that certainly marks Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers as one of, if not the top club in the country.

Those who were at Manchester for the AAA championships were pleased to see so many Club members doing well. There were wins for Julie Dunkley in the shot, Taneisha Robinson-Scanlon in the triple jump Allan Scott in 110m Hurdles and Nick Neiland in the Javelin. Other finalists were: Emma Ania 4th in 100m and 5th in the 200m, Marilyn Okoro 4th in 800m, Jo Ankier 2nd in the steeplechase, Lee McConnell 2nd in 400m Hurdles and Natasha Danvers-Smith 6th also in that event, Zoe Brown 2nd and Ellie Spain 3rd in the pole vault and Nadia Williams 2nd in the triple jump. On the men's side Ryan Moseley was 6th in the 200m, Darryll Stone 3rd in the high jump, Anthony Soalla-Bell 12th in the Shot, Neville Thompson 15th in the discus, Graham Holder 8th in the Hammer and David Parker 2nd in the javelin.

Ryan Moseley won the 100m final in the UK Challenge and was 2nd in the 200m. Darryll Stone was 3rd in the HJ whilst Nadia Williams was 3rd in both Long Jump and Triple Jump.

At the AAA junior and under 23 championships Sam Westlake-Cann won the under 23 shot, Marilyn Okoro won the under 23 women's 800m and Tom Carey was 3rd in the 400m Hurdles. Jude Beimers won the junior men's triple jump, Sam Hynes the women's hammer and Noni Mordi was 4th in the women's triple jump. Nathan Fox won the National under 15 triple jump championship and he also took gold in the English Schools junior boys triple jump but more spectacular he became the first British 14 year old to break 14 meters in the triple jump. In the English Schools Championships Daniel Russell won the senior boys steeplechase, Nonoso Okolo won the Inter boys long jump and Daniel Lewis was 3rd in the Inter boys triple jump.

On the masters side Colette Hurley was the National W40 400m title and went to take bronze in the European indoor W40 400m championships in Sweden. There were two gold medals for club members in the world outdoor master track & field championships in Sans Sebastian, Neville Thompson won the over 50 discus and Martin McKevilly took the over 55 steeplechase championship.

At the end of the season the athletes selected for the Commonwealth Games were announced and it is pleasing to record that again Shaftesbury Barnet athletes will be in Melbourne, Australia in force representing their respective countries. England athletes are: Emma Ania, Jo Ankier, Ellie Spain, Natasha Danvers Smith, Julie Dunkley, Nadia Williams, Larry

Achike, Nick Neiland and David Parker. Scotland: Lee McConnell and Allan Scott, Northern Ireland – Zoe Brown, Jamaica – Trecia Smith. There may be more to be named but certainly this club has more athletes at the 2006 Commonwealth Games than any other UK club.

GENERAL

Last year it was reported that negotiations with Hendon Football Club and Barnet Council regarding the management of Barnet Copthall Stadium, unfortunately Hendon FC is unable to make any progress until the sale of their ground is completed. In the meantime we have taken over the management of Barnet Copthall Stadium through Copthall Management Services a company wholly owned by Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers.

We had been hoping that the Stadium track would have been re-surfaced but fresh costing have shown that the grant made by Sport England together with the Barnet Council grant will not cover the costs. Barnet Council is looking to finding further funding but if this does not materialise it is planned to carry out what resurfacing we can fund starting mid July 2006.

Last year Joyce announced that she would be standing down as Hon. Secretary of the Club having served for the past 12 years. At the time of writing this report no successor has come forward and it should be noted that the entire amount of work in administering the Club is done by just a handful of Club Officers. This problem is not just a Shaftesbury Barnet one, many clubs suffer from a lack of officers, but for a club of our size in the region of 600 members it is surprising we cannot find more that dozen or so members to run the Club. The Club does thank Joyce for her years as Club Secretary, she does intend at the moment to carry on team managing the girls young athletes teams.

We do thank those parent and members who have assisted at our track & field matches in the past year without them there would be no competition for our athletes.

By necessity this annual report has to be limited to highlights of the Club year, there have many excellent performances from the various team members that are not listed in this report. To all these members who have recorded personal best in various events or gained excellent positions in championships whether that be in Schools events, County and Territorial championships or club matches we give our congratulations and look forward to seeing their names as highlights in future annual reports.

It is with regret that we announce the death of two stalwart Shaftesbury members, Dave Carey and Don Lee both had served the Club in various capacities and only last year were amongst the seven members who had celebrated over 50 years membership with the Club.