

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 – 2007

For those involved with the Club administration the past year has indeed been a busy one. The onus of running Club teams has fallen on a few shoulders and they must be congratulated, as must the athletes on the successes achieved throughout the year.

This past summer we were enthralled with the World Track & Field Championships held in Osaka, Japan and our congratulations go to Natasha Danvers-Smith (400 Hurdles), Lee McConnell (400m), Marilyn Okoro (800m) who were selected to represent Great Britain and to Trecia Smith (Jamaica) and Yamile Aldama (Sudan) both were in the triple jump.

Competing in the European Indoor Championships held in Birmingham we had Marilyn Okoro (800m), Allen Scott (60m Hurdles) and Lee McConnell (4 x 400 relay) representing Great Britain. Kirsty Law (Discus) also represented Great Britain in the European Winter Throwing Cup. At the European junior championships Perri Shakes-Drayton who competes for us on the track as a higher competition athlete won a silver medal in the 400m hurdles.

ROAD RUNNING

Our top team in the Southern Road Relays 2006 was the under 17 boys of Billy Collins, Tommy Bryant, Sagie Benaim and Dominic Easter (3rd fastest leg of the day) who were convincing champions. The senior men were 27th and the under 15 boys 20th while the senior women were 13th, the under 17 women 14th, the under 15 girls 5th and the under 13 girls 33rd. Sophie Connor ran the second fastest leg of the day in the under 15 girls relay.

In the 2006 National 6 stage road relay our men were 23rd a good improvement on their Southern place while the senior women were 14th in their 4 leg relay. Star of the young athletes relays was Sophie Connor who was second fastest in the under 15 girls relay faster than the existing course record and brought home the Shaftesbury team of Katherine Deal, Victoria Bryant and Sophie in first place. The under 17 women were 15th and the under 13 girls 44th. Our under 17 boys were 6th and the under 15 boys 18th.

The Southern men's 12 stage and women's 6-stage road relays at Milton Keynes saw outstanding performances from both the men and women's teams. The men were first having featured from the start when Kojo Kyereme brought us home in the lead, from then on the team of Andrew Murphy, Neil Addison, Daniel Lewis, Richard Williams, Matt Grant, James Trapmore, Tony Jackson, Ronan Breen, Orlando Edwards and Andrew Renfree were always to the fore. The women then took bronze medals in their relay with Gemma Turtle, Emily Ferenczi, Jo Anker, Rachel Felton, Victoria Bowles and Victoria Webster.

In the National 12 stage championships the men could not repeat their Southern success and finished 12th and due to injuries the women failed to finish a team although Vicky Webster came in second on the first leg with the 6th fastest time of the day.

We have to split our teams in the County Championships and in the 2007 road relays we won the Hertfordshire Under 15 and under 13 girls relays and the Middlesex championships the under 17 women were 2nd as were the under 15 girls. The boys won the Middlesex under 13 relay, 2nd in the under 15 boys and under 17 men. In the Hertfordshire boys relays we were first in both the under 15 and under 17 relays.

In the London Marathon we again played our part in organising the start of the London Mini Marathon, however in the marathon our leading men were Anton Van Zyle was 51st in 2:33:30, Tony Jackson 98th in 2:37:41 while our leading women were Sharon Murphy 80th in 3:06.0 and Caroline Walsh in 3:07:10.

CROSS COUNTRY

The first major cross-country event is the National cross-country relays held in Mansfield. We just missed out on the medals in two of the relays with the Senior women's team of Vicki Webster, Gemma Turtle and Jo Anker coming 4th as did the girls under 15 team of Sophie Connor, Victoria Bryan and Kathryn Deal with Sophie Connor running the second fastest time of the day. The senior men were 19th and the under 17 men a very creditable 6th. The County championships see our forces split. In the Hertfordshire championships Dominic Easter, won the under 17 race as did the Shaftesbury team, Nial Fleming the under 15 boys, Victoria Webster beat a good field to take the senior women's title and Sophie Connor won the under 15 girls individual championship. The under 17 women won the Herts Team race as did the under 20 women in the Middlesex championships with Lucy Goldsmith taking Middlesex individual honours and Hannah Shelley 2nd with Katie Alcock 3rd. Our under 17 men were Middlesex team championships led home by Sagie Benaim in 2nd place. The Southern Cross Country championships were held at Holkham Hall, Norfolk and we came away with our fair share of medals. The under 17 men won the team race with Dominic Easter 2nd, Sagie Benaim 14th, Billy Collins 33rd and Tom Bryant 45th. The senior men were 3rd led home by Dominic Bannister in 3rd place and in the senior women Victoria Webster finished 3rd also. For this year's National Cross Country Championships we had to travel to Sunderland, the senior men were 6th, second southern club led home by Dominic Bannister in 4th place, the under 17 men were 3rd with Dominic Easter 4th individual and the under 15 boys 15th. The senior women were 4th (second southern club) with Victoria Webster 8th individual and the under 15 girls 17th. In the National Inter Counties Dominic Bannister was 3rd in the senior men's race, Dominic Easter 2nd in the under 17 men and Victoria Webster 5th in the senior women championship. During the winter season the Club competes in the Metropolitan League, The Chiltern League and the North West London League for young athletes. The senior men's team won four of the five Metropolitan League fixtures but because of one poor set of results finished second in the league overall. In division 2 of the Chiltern League the under 15 girls were first, the under 17 2nd and the under 13 girls 3rd. The Club was second in the overall team competition of the North West London League with the under 15 boys winning their section and the under 13 boys finishing second.

TRACK & FIELD

Throughout the summer season the club has maintained a high profile in track and field at all levels. Our young athletes set the same high standards as in previous years and again made the Auxiliary Final of National Young Athletes where we finished second. The Junior League team also made the National final of their competition and finished third. The senior women were third in the Division one of the UK Women's track & field League while the senior men ended up fourth in the Premier division of the British Athletic League. While in the new BAL cup competition our senior men and women were second in the final.

At the UK Championships there was some outstanding performances from our members, Nick Neiland won the javelin, Alan Scott was second in the high hurdles and Darryl Stone was equal 6th in the high jump. In the women's events Marilyn Okoro was 2nd in the 800m, Victoria Webster 4th in the 5000m, Jo Anker 2nd in the 3000m steeplechase, Zoe Brown 4th in the pole vault, Natasha Danvers Smith 1st in 400m Hurdles, with Lee McConnell second,

Kirsty Law 7th in the discus, Louise Watton 6th in Javelin and Nadia Williams 1st in the triple jump. Nadia went on to be undefeated by a UK athlete all season. In the under 20 England Championships Nonso Okolo was 2nd in the long jump, Daniel Lewis 2rd in the triple jump, Chris Scott 2nd in the discus and Chris Bennett 5th in the hammer. Angus McInroy was 2nd in the Under 23 discus and Vicky Webster was 2nd in the under 23 women's 5000m and in the under 20 women's championship Sarah Waldron was 9th in the 3000m. At the under 17 & under 15 championships in Sheffield Nathan Fox won the under 17 triple jump, Tom Peacock was 3rd in the under 15 discus and Sophie Connor 2nd in the under 15 girls 1500m.

There were a number of Club members at the English Schools championships and Daniel Lewis won the senior triple jump, Nathan Fox 1st inter boys triple jump, Tom Peacock 1st junior boys shot and from these championships Tom Bryant (steeplechase) went on to represent England at the Schools home international.

Despite injury problems Katherine Deal has competed throughout the season for the club in the Junior and National Young athletes league but is also involved in paralympic events being on the UK world-class development programme.

BARNET COPTHALL STADIUM

This year the stadium has seen full usage since the resurfacing in 2006. Members will have noticed further improvements to the infield and floodlighting this has been achieved through negotiations with Kentish Town Football Club who is now using the Stadium for their home fixtures this winter. Geoff Williams who manages the stadium has continued to make improvements throughout the stadium that has enhanced the whole ambience of the facility. One of the additions has been the photo finish camera allows all races to be electronically recorded and our thanks to John Wright for his expertise in this area that has enabled us to provide a first class service.

GENERAL

Overall we can report another good year for the club. Our congratulations go to Sarah Hunter named as London's Performance coach for 2007 and the Club won the award for top 2007 partnership with Barnet Schools. We are one of the premier clubs in the country not only from the performance of our athletes but in athletic management, and general provision of athletics within North London via our management of Barnet Copthall Stadium. Athletics throughout the UK is seeing changes throughout the sport and we trust that the officers of Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers are able to see the club through these changes and maintain our position within the top echelons of athletics within the UK.