

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007 – 2008

Olympic years are certain to bring some exciting athletics to our television screens and this year Club members had the enjoyment of watching 8 Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers competing in Beijing. Pride of place amongst our members went to Natasha Danvers who took the bronze medal in the 400 metres hurdles and then we had Larry Achike 7<sup>th</sup> in the triple jump final, Marilyn Okoro was a semi finalist in the 800 meters and was in the 4 x 400 relay team that finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the final. Trecia Smith made the final of the women's triple jump but Yamile Aldama didn't get through the qualifying rounds. Lee McConnell made the semi finals of the 400m, Alan Scott made it through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the 110 metres Hurdles, and Greg Rutherford who competes for us as a Higher Performance Athlete made the final of the long jump. In all Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers had more 2008 Olympians than any other club in the country.

### ROAD RUNNING

The first championship in the Club's year are the Southern Road Relays our senior men finished 7<sup>th</sup> with the senior women 13<sup>th</sup>. In the Southern Young Athletes Relays the under 17 men were 6<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 boys 10<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 boys also 10<sup>th</sup>. The under 17 women were 7<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 girls 23<sup>rd</sup> and the under 13 girls 6<sup>th</sup> with Karis Mimms running the fastest lap of the day. At the National 6 stage road relay the men were 10<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Southern team) while the women in their 4 stage relay were 33<sup>rd</sup>. The under 17 men were 6<sup>th</sup> in the National road relays, the under 15 boys 17<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 boys 16<sup>th</sup>, the under 17 women were 14<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 girls 37<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 girls 12<sup>th</sup>. The London Marathon is a major event in the Shaftesbury Barnet calendar Orlando Edwards had a good debut finishing 36<sup>th</sup> in 2hrs 26min 48sec and Dominic Bannister was second in the Master 40 classification. In the mini marathon Jake Shelley won the Boroughs 15 – 17 category with Richard Goodman second, overall Barnet finished 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the all the London Boroughs. There was a mixture of weather in the men's 12 stage and women's 6 stage road relays at Aldershot, starting in snow and finishing on sunshine. The women's team of Amanda Bailey, Jo Ankier, Philippa Auckett, Gemma Turtle, Sarah Waldron and Victoria Webster were clear winners over 3½ minutes clear of the second team. The men failed to complete their relay because of travel problems due to the snow. In the National 12/6 stage road relays it was the women who were unable for various reason to turn out a team but the men finished 20<sup>th</sup>.

### CROSS COUNTRY

The National cross country relays follow quite closely behind the National road relays and senior men were 13<sup>th</sup>, the junior men 17<sup>th</sup>, the under 17 men 9<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 boys 20<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 boys team of Daniel Jones, Chandi Unduwala and Matthew McLaughlin 2<sup>nd</sup>. The under 20 women were 9<sup>th</sup>, the under 17's 21<sup>st</sup>, the under 15 girls 12<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 girls 17<sup>th</sup>. At the County Championships the Club is divided between neighbouring counties James Trapmore was 6<sup>th</sup> in the Middlesex senior men's championship, Richard Goodman won the under 15 boys and Chandi Unduwala won the under 13 boys. In the Hertfordshire championships Vicky Webster won the senior women's race, Sophie Proffitt was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the under 17 as was the team,

Sophie Connor 3<sup>rd</sup> in the under 15 leading the under 15 team to victory and Karis Mimms won the under 13 championship with the team second. The senior men were third in the Hertfordshire championship with Orlando Edwards 4<sup>th</sup> and Jack Parslow 6<sup>th</sup>. Dominic Easter and Billy Collins won the under 20 and under 17 respectively but running for St.Aslbans School. The under 13 boys were second team in the County led home by Matthew McLaughlin in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the Southern Championships the senior women were 3<sup>rd</sup> with Rachel Felton taking the individual bronze medal, the under 17 women 6<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 Girls 13<sup>th</sup>. The senior men were 7<sup>th</sup> team with Orlando Edwards in 13<sup>th</sup> place, the under 17 men were 9<sup>th</sup> and the under 15 boys 6<sup>th</sup>. The National cross country championships were held at Alton Towers the senior women were 6<sup>th</sup>, the junior women 7<sup>th</sup>, Under 15 girls 10<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 girls 7<sup>th</sup>. The senior men were 15<sup>th</sup>, the under 17 men 8<sup>th</sup>, the under 15 boys 5<sup>th</sup> and the under 13 boys 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

A list of our Olympians are at the beginning of this report, it should have been more but Jo Ankier missed out at the whim of the selectors even though she finished third in the trials and had gained the UKA grade A selection standard. The world indoor trials and National championships were held in Sheffield Nadia Williams won the triple jump, Jo Ankier was 4<sup>th</sup> in the 3000m and Marilyn Okoro was second in the 800m and represented GB at the world championships in Spain. Alan Scott won the 60m Hurdles and went on to place 6<sup>th</sup> in the world championships. Also at the World Indoor Championships was Yamile Aldama competing for Sudan in the triple jump. It was good to see Gemma Nicol running for Scotland at the Glasgow International indoor meeting. At a indoor jumps international at Lee Valley in February Ellie Spain in the pole vault and Nony Mordi in the triple represented Great Britain. In the England indoor championships for under 20 Nonso Okolo was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the long jump and second in the triple jump. Charles Gunning was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the under 17 800m and Robert Gayler won the under 15 long jump. At the European Cup Marilyn Okoro, Nony Mordi, Emma Ania and Natasha Danvers competed for Great Britain while in a match England against Croatia Jade Nichols represented England. On the domestic front the Senior men finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the British Athletic League premier division maintaining the longest ever run by a club in the top division. The senior women also finished fifth in division one of the National Women's track & field league. In the Junior League we again made the National final and our joint male and female team placed 5<sup>th</sup>. The young athletes team were fifth in the Southern Premier League and went through to the National Auxiliary final in Manchester and finished third. Shaftesbury Barnet Harrier members have continued to perform well in the various championships held throughout the summer and a number of Club records have been broken this year. It would make for a very long report to name all out standing performers and it is obvious that we could not have maintained such a high level of competition in the various leagues without superb performances from our competitors.

## **BARNET COPTHALL STADIUM**

We continue to manage the Stadium for the London Borough of Barnet, this year there have been a few changes, Angus McKenzie has now come in to

manage the Stadium, Angus is a Shaftesbury Barnet member an ex-international decathlete, the first British athlete to high jump 7 feet and also a member of the GB bobsleigh team. Geoff Williams continues his work at the Stadium with athletic development his main objective.

### **GENERAL**

The Club has continued to be at the forefront of UK Athletics and has been put forward as a beacon club for other to follow. However we must be thankful to the small group of Club officers who give up so much time to ensure funds are raised, teams got out, and administration covered. Help is much needed in this area and next year we make it a priority to find more volunteers.