



News Sheet June 2009

- **Barrie Strange**

The world of Oxfordshire athletics has been stunned by the death of Oxfordshire AA President. Barrie Strange. Barrie who, at 74 years of age, lost his fight with cancer on 9th June at the Churchill Hospital. He will be greatly missed.

Alan Vincent, Oxfordshire AA Chair paid the following tribute:

“Barrie has made an outstanding contribution to Oxfordshire County athletics over the past five decades. He was elected to the County Committee in 1960. He was Track and Field Championships Secretary 1965-1974, has been involved in this area of work ever since and had picked up the co-ordinating role again in recent years. He has been County Cross-Country Secretary for the past 36 years and has also been a team manager for cross-country and many track and field meetings for over 30 years. He was elected County Chairman for three years in the early 1980s and had served in that capacity again in recent years. He has been County President since 1997. All these jobs have always been done with the utmost efficiency and care. He achieved results without fuss or discord, and his support for younger members of his clubs and the whole of the County athletics community was always greatly appreciated.

As an athlete, Barrie competed in the 1948 Oxfordshire Schools Championships in the 220 yards. He joined Oxford City AC in 1953. Initially he competed as a high-jumper, but by the late 1950s and early 1960s was specialising in the 880, where he ran sub-2 minutes and represented the County. After that period Barrie represented the club in all heavy throws (as well as most other events) in Southern League, British League and various veterans' competitions. He was Club Captain 1957-63, Chairman 1963-65 and was elected Life Vice-President in 1990.

When there was interest in 1981 in forming a club in the Wantage area, where Barrie then lived, he helped form White Horse Harriers. He stayed loyal to Oxford City AC as his first-claim club, but also continued to support the new club first as its Chairman then as its President. He officiated at every one of the White Horse Half Marathons from its instigation in 1982 up until last year, when he had to withdraw through ill health.

He was a senior official, first qualified in 1956 as a Field and Track Judge, eventually rising to Level 4 Field and Level 3 Track. Until very recently, he officiated regularly at schools, club, county and university fixtures. He was also a Level 5 Endurance official, officiating at road and cross country races, usually as Referee. For many years Barrie was also Co-ordinator of the regional division of the Southern Veterans League.

Our condolences and thoughts go to Barrie's widow, Margaret (also a senior technical official) and his family at this sad time”.

The funeral took place at St Andrews Church, East Hagbourne on Friday 19th June. Donations may be sent to The Prostate Cancer Charity, First Floor, Cambridge House, 100, Cambridge Grove, London W6 0LE.

- **Oxfordshire Athletics Network**

Oxfordshire Club and Coach Support Officer Scott Grace presided over an Open Evening at the Oxford City AC club room at Horspath on 17th June, at which he explained exactly what an Athletics Network is. He put forward ideas for an Oxfordshire Network application and answered questions from the floor. Clubs, schools, sponsors, facility owners, volunteers and sports partnerships were invited to attend.

At the end of the meeting it was decided to reconvene as soon as possible after representatives had been able to obtain feedback from their respective organisations. The provisional date for this meeting is Monday 6th July, with the venue yet to be confirmed.

- **The Great Outdoors**

The UK Athletics 2009 Outdoor Season starts on Friday 10th July with the Aviva World Trials & UK Championships at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium. The event goes through until Sunday 12th July with tickets at £5.00 on Friday and £10.00 on the other two days.

On Friday 24th and Saturday 25th July it's the Aviva London Grand Prix at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Tickets from £15.00. Then on Bank Holiday Monday 31st August Gateshead International Stadium hosts the Aviva British Grand Prix where tickets are available from £10.00. More Information at: <http://www.uka.org.uk/uka-major-events/2009/>

- **County Track & Field Championships**

This year's Championships at Horspath produced some great performances one of the highlights being a magnificent throw by Radley's Emma O'Hara in the Under-15 Women's Hammer event. Emma's effort of 39.15m broke the existing record by almost 10 metres although it was some 1.40 metres short of her season's best which gave her 2nd place in the national ranking lists.

Perris Wilkins throwing for Banbury lifted himself to 3rd in the South East area Discus rankings with an excellent throw of 50.19 shattering the previous Masters 35 record by almost 12 metres.

Dick Jegou and Dave Kuester representing White Horse Harriers and Bicester AC respectively showed that age is no bar to breaking records. Dick improved the Masters 60 Discus record to 35.13m from 31.74m and raised the Shot record to 11.13m from 10.94m. In the Masters 60 Hammer event Dave threw 34.03m beating the old mark of 32.65m.

On the track Seb Tulley-Middleton of Banbury broke championship records in both U20 Men's 100m & 200m with marvellous runs of 10.87 and 22.00 respectively. Performance of the day on the track, however, came from Radley's Christian van Eitzen who went to the top of the national rankings with a blistering 2:16.6 in the Under 13 Boys' 800m eclipsing the old record by almost 4 seconds.

Banbury Harrier Bruce Hendrie was unopposed in the new championship Masters60 sprint events taking all 4 titles. Club-mate Margaret Coombe also swept the board with victories in four Masters65 field events, Shot, Discus, Javelin and Pole Vault.

NEW CHAMPIONSHIP BESTS

Age	Discipline	Name & Club	Time/Distance	Old Record
TRACK				
Mast M50	100m	Alistair Duncan (Radley)	12.38	12.50
U20 Men	100m	Seb Tulley-Middleton (Banbury)	10.87	11.00
Mast W45	100m	Adeline Kam (Radley)	15.10	15.70
Mast M50	200m	Alistair Duncan (Radley)	25.0	25.3
U20 Men	200m	Seb Tulley-Middleton (Banbury)	22.0	22.1
U17 Men	400m Hurdles	Peter Barnshaw (Abingdon AAC)	58.0	58.1
U13 Boys	800m	Christian Van Eitzen (Radley)	2:16.6	2:20.5
U13 Boys	800m Hurdles	Jonah Sweeney (Bicester AC)	13.95	14.50
FIELD				
Mast M35	Shot	Janek Machejewski (u/a)	12.93m	11.20m
Mast W35	Shot	Natasha Mighty (u/a)	9.41m	8.98m
Mast M60	Shot	Dick Jegou (White Horse Harriers)	11.13m	10.94m
Mast M35	Discus	Perris Wilkins (Banbury)	50.19m	38.20m
Mast M60	Discus	Dick Jegou (White Jorse Harriers)	35.13m	31.74m
Mast W35	Discus	Jacqueline Cherry (Radley)	32.45m	27.67m
Mast M35	Hammer	Gary Jennings (Banbury)	44.46m	37.70m
Mast M50	Hammer	Ron Jones (Abingdon AAC)	33.33m	31.76m
Mast M60	Hammer	Dave Kuester (Bicester AC)	34.03m	32.67m
U15W	Hammer	Emma O'Hara (Radley)	39.15m	29.52m
Mast W45	Hammer	Adeline Kam (Radley)	29.74m	26.32m
MastW35	Javelin	Natasha Mighty (u/a)	28.17m	25.58m
MastM35	Javelin	Steve Pomeroy (Abingdon AAC)	46.70m	42.82m
U17W	Javelin	Danielle Anderson (OCAC)	41.15m	39.66m
U17M	Javelin	Jackson Curtis (Bicester AC)	52.56m	51.20m
U13 Boys	Javelin	Redford Curtis (Bicester AC)	38.87m	34.33m
Mast M50	High Jump	Duncan Talbot (Abingdon AAC)	1.53m	1.50m
U17M	Triple Jump	James Wright (Bicester AC)	14.26m	13.58m

- **Vets T & F League**

Oxford City AC are comfortably leading the table after 3 of the 4 events in the Masters Track & Field League competition. The final event will be held at Bracknell on Monday 13th July with the final set for Sunday 16th September at Ashford.

- **Hannah shines**

Oxford City's Hannah England clocked a world championship qualifying time of 4:05.8 finishing 7th in the 1500m at the FBK Games in Hengelo, Netherlands. Hannah was delighted to have achieved the qualifying mark so early in the season which earned her selection for Great Britain & Northern Ireland in the 1500m at the Spar European Team Championships in Portugal.

At this meeting in Leiria, Hannah really showed her class doubling up in the 800m and 1500m and earning very valuable points for the Great Britain & Ireland team. Running in the 800m first Hannah achieved a lifetime best of 1:59.94 for 4th place. She then tackled the 1500m, which turned out to be a tactical race, coming 4th in 4:09.25 gaining a total of 18 points for the team and contributing greatly towards their overall 3rd placing.

Hannah can now look forward with confidence to the 12th IAFF World Championships in Berlin in August this year.

- **Erratum**

In the last issue I failed to report on Dave Kuester's silver medal in the M60 60m Hurdles in the British Masters Open Indoor Track & Field and Winter Throws Championships. Dave ran 12.78 seconds. Incidentally his Shot Putt was 10.25m not 10.71m as stated.

- **On the Road**

Oxfordshire Road Race Grand Prix

A resurgence in road race participation in the County is evidenced by a 28% increase in numbers at the White Horse Half Marathon, a record turn-out of 439 in the first Motivation Summer Series race at Charlton-on-Otmoor compared with 358 last year, a 20% increase at Charndon for the annual 5K race and an 8% growth in numbers at Thame 10K. Furthermore 324 runners in 75 teams took part in the County Road Relays at Hook Norton, a massive increase on the 2008 numbers.

It's nip and tuck in the men's team competition after 5 events with the best 3 scores to count. Oxford City AC lead Woodstock Harriers by 3 points with Abingdon Amblers a further 3 points adrift. In the smaller clubs competition Banbury Harriers lead from White Horse Harriers.

Headington Roadrunners are 6 clear of Alchester in the women's contest whilst Kidlington RAC lead in the battle of the smaller clubs. Events in the series over the next quarter are:

Hornton Classic 6 - 25th July

Hook Norton 6 - 2nd August

Headington 10K - 30th August

Cotswold Classic 10-Mile - 13th September – County Championships

Woodstock 12 - 19th September

Other Oxon Road Race fixtures

Non Grand Prix events this quarter are:

Mota-Vation Combe - 2nd July

Adderbury Half Marathon - 11th July

Didcot 5 - 12th July - County Championships

Mota-Vation Chipping Norton - 6th August

Mota-Vation Oxford - 3rd September

Finstock 10K - 27th September

Attendances increased this year compared with 2008 at Thames Run 10K (+66%), Bletchington Mota-Vation (+8%) and Banbury 5 Mile (+14%) but were lower at Oxford Town & Gown 10K (-0.2%), Chiltern Chase 10K (-29%) and Yarnton 5-Mile (-36%).

County Championship Races

There are 2 County Championship events this quarter the first being the Didcot 5-Mile on 12th July which is followed on 13th September by the Cotswold Classic 10-Mile.

National Road Relays

Congratulations to Oxford City AC for their sterling efforts in the British Masters National Road Relays held at Sutton Park, Birmingham. Once again this year, City showed just how special their veteran athletes are in taking golds in both the V50 and V60 men's competitions.

- **Chip Timing**

A meeting is scheduled to be held at 7:30 on Friday 3rd July 2009 at Exeter Hall, Kidlington where the outline of the chip timing system, first proposed at the last Oxon Road Race AGM held in November 2008, will be presented. This is now a matter of great urgency given the pressure on the limited number of officials available in the County to provide the necessary services at the growing number of races each year.

The system which the County Road Race officials are proposing to implement, will be outlined along with details of costs and benefits. After the meeting club representatives will be asked to raise the matter at their next committee meeting or as soon as conveniently possible. A decision about the level of club commitment to the system will be sought within 6 weeks of the meeting.

- **Cross Country**
Oxford Mail Cross-Country League

At the League AGM on 5th June some of the venues for the forthcoming season were fixed. The Race Diary so far looks like this:

Date	Venue	Host Club
1 st November 2009	Ascott-under-Wychwood	Witney Road Runners
6 th December 2009	TO BE CONFIRMED	
3 rd January 2010	TO BE CONFIRMED	
7 th February 2010	Cirencester Park	Cirencester AC
7 th March 2010	Shotover Park	Oxford City AC

The date for the County Cross-Country Championships is January 10th 2010, but the venue is yet to be arranged. Car parking fees this season will increase to £3 per vehicle to cover charges by landowners and provision of toilets. Full details of any other changes and a complete Race Diary will be given in the next issue of this News Sheet.

- **Committee Meeting**

The next Oxon AA Committee Meeting will be held at Exeter Hall, Kidlington on Friday 4th September starting at 7.30 pm.. All clubs are encouraged to send a representative to join in the discussions.

- **Next News Sheet**

The next issue will be at the end of September. Comments please to Mike Shipway, Oxon AA Press & Publicity Officer. mike.shipway@btinternet.com

6

OXFORDSHIRE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

