

President's Report 2010

When we selected the third Wednesday of February as the date for the club AGM it was partly chosen as mid-February is one of the quieter parts of the athletics calendar and we might have the opportunity to take some time out to reflect on the direction of the athletics club. Well, it is indicative of the thriving success of the club that this week has been yet another busy period when the club has been in the thick of a range of exciting activities:

- Dale Garland and Tom Druce were battling out the National 400m race at Birmingham - congrats to Dale for securing a place in the GB team for the world indoor championships
- Lee Merrien was training with international athletes in Loughborough in preparation for his assault on the London Marathon in two months time
- Louise Perrio, Steve Dawes and Martine Scholes were hoping to compete in a nationally ranked 10k in Manchester until the weather got in the way. Now a team will be off to the Hyde Park 5k on Friday to see if Louise can get the Commonwealth Games 5k standard
- Helen Hadjam, Kylie Robilliard and Nathan Stevens will be popping back to the island to attend a Commonwealth Games training day to support the nine athletes and team manager Alan Rowe who are hoping to represent Guernsey in Delhi
- We had a 5 mile race with a turn-out of 46 runners including quite a number from the ladies group, We expect a similar turn-out at the cross-country champs next weekend
- Over 50 juniors and seniors were training at the track on Tuesday night including some who had re-emerged from winter hibernation
- We held the Smokebuster Crosscountry championships for 50+ pupils aged 7-11 years
- A session of the Schools indoor athletics super 6 championships were held for La Mare year 8 pupils

This random selection of GIAAC events which took place over a seven day period is evidence of why we should be proud of our club. The breadth of activities reflect that we are a club that is inclusive, where everyone can find a place but we can also be a platform for those who want to go as far as their talents and aspirations allow. It would be easy for me to dwell on the achievements of the club's great and good and certainly one of the pleasures of being part of a club with the likes of Dale, Lee and Tom Druce is that they are modest in their success and very quick to acknowledge the support from club members. But for me the successes of the club lie as much with the efforts of all club members.

For example, following this week's exploits step aside Dale and Lee and take centre stage youngsters like 10 year olds Karys Chamberlain, Rebecca Toll and Sarah Marley who ran so well splashing through the Smokebusters crosscountry championships at Pembroke or what about Rebecca's mum Sarah turning in a much improved 5 mile race. Our club is theirs as much as anyone's and we continue to do everything we can to make sure that we meet every member's needs.

In recent media coverage we have made much of the opportunities that lie in wait for the club over the next five years and if the past year is any indicator of the club's potential it should be a time for celebration but we should not be complacent. One of my favourite running quotes is from Juma Ikangaa who won the 1989 New York Marathon: **'The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare'** - actually my favourite running quote is by Emil Zatopek when he talks about marathon runners – **'We are different, in essence, from other men. If you want to win something, run 100 meters. If you want to experience something, run a marathon.'** That should wind our sprinters up

But going back to Ikangaa's quote, if we are to achieve our goals for the next few years the level of preparation from administrators, coaches, parents and athletes themselves will be huge. Over the next few weeks we will outline some of the support that we need but for tonight can I just thank everyone who has contributed to the GIAAC over the past twelve months and as we are in the mood for motivational athletics quotes I will finish with a quote from an unlikely source, Oprah Winfrey!

'Running is the greatest metaphor for life, because you get out of it what you put into it.'

At GIAAC we put loads in so the chances of getting loads out of athletics look pretty good

Yours in sport, Alun Williams, President

