

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY ATHLETICS NETWORK**

**Annual Report November 2016 to**

**Hertfordshire County AA AGM**

The Hertfordshire County Athletics Network (“HCAN”) has been self funded since April 2012. HCAN had income of £17329 in 2014-15 and £21,567 for April 2015 – October 2016. The Network no longer receives EA Funding and is reverting to the HCAAA financial year A huge thanks must go to those in the Network who continue to source funds from external sources and those organisations who give the Network support both financial and in kind by offering free facilities, coaching support or sponsorship.

At the beginning of 2016 the Network was delighted that the County Association, the Track and Field Clubs and some of the Road Running clubs agreed to provide financial support for the Network annually which will ensure an annual income of at least £2500 which will underpin coach and assistant course support and schools development activites.

This funding has enabled HCAN to continue athletics development work across the county. In the past year the Network has organised 19 events. These events have been both generic and event specific, aimed at developing new and inexperienced coaches, officials, volunteers, leaders and athletes as well as providing additional knowledge for the more experienced.

HCAN has continued to utilise the pool of growing talent including the new young coaches and assistant coaches within the County to lead these events wherever possible, accessing additional support from outside as necessary. In this way we strive to keep our coaching delivery costs down.

The Network has continued to support the clubs with subsidies for coaching courses plus specialised workshops for nutrition and injury prevention and has provided the Network clubs with membership of Pro Action which allows all Hertfordshire Clubs to access Safeguarding, Equity and First Aid courses at reduced cost.

The Year 5 Hertfordshire Young Leaders Academy was launched in January 2015. Fifteen club members applied and were accepted. 13 completed a Leadership in Athletics course in February along with 4 disabled athletes from SNHAC and 12 completed a Coaching Assistant course in November along with 4 other Volunteers from Hertfordshire Clubs. 7 completed Officials courses. Year 5 Academy YL’s went onto organise and run the Minithon in April and the U13 Team building event held at Hemel Hempstead prior to the U13 Inter-county match in July. £10500 has been obtained towards the Year 5 Academy and associated courses for 2016/17

The HCAN web site [www.hcan.co.uk](http://www.hcan.co.uk) is established but had access problems during 2016. These have now been resolved and the site should be updated for 2017. We have general Network coverage and event news, events diary, newsletters, club links and links to other key athletics sites. We are prepared to accept appropriate web site advertisements from local businesses, thereby generating income; subject to Network vetting etc. The Network are also looking for sponsors for vests, championships and events from Hertfordshire businesses and have obtained sponsorship for the fourth year from Car4leasing for Sportshall T. Shirts for the forthcoming regional championships,

The Network has been chaired by Bob McCall from D+T with Amanda Brooks as vice chair in 2016. Amanda will take over as Chair for 2017 and Steve Feely from SNHAC taking over as Vice Chair.

The Network Coach Mentor, Cathy Walker, has continued to work with all the Track and Field clubs on coach and athlete development and liaised with the Road Running representative to plan and organise workshops requested by these clubs. The Network though Cathy’s hard work, have started a series of School Development Events aimed at those schools not currently pro-actively engaged in athletics The three events run in 2016 saw 170 pupils and 10 teachers take part, 2 more are planned for 2017 These events have also been used to develop young and inexperienced coaches.

Tony Osborne continued as the Networks Road Running Representative organising a number of successful workshops. It is with great regret the Network accepted Tony’s resignation from the post in September and would like to record the thanks of the Network and the County for his work during recent years.

The Network continues to develop its capacity both with venues and coaches to deliver Disability Athletics. A successful training day for the regional and national championships was held in April and has seen more young people supported in joining their local club. Hertfordshire again provided over 50% of the very successful East Region team at the National Finals.

Tony Shaw has continued to volunteer as the Network Administrator and provide minutes from all meetings, support the Network at many of the development events and take the lead in ensuring that the twice yearly Official’s courses and the Health and Safety course organised during 2016 have run smoothly.

It was gratifying to see Paul Pickard (SNHAC) become England Athletics Volunteer of the year in October.

The challenge for the Network in 2017 is how to continue to meet the development needs of all members of the HCAAA by gaining funding from both within the athletic fraternity and other funding bodies and ensure all clubs and as many schools as possible are engaged in the development opportunities provided.