



**OUR SECOND NEWS LETTER**

**McCain Northumberland Athletics Network (MNAN) Year One Highlights**



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# McCain Northumberland

## Athletics Network News Letter

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### Northumberland Network's Year One Highlights

Since August 2010 when the Northumberland Athletics Network was first established one year has elapsed. The network came together with formulated delivery plan to improve the quality and quantity of opportunities for the people of Northumberland in sport of Athletics.

In our first year MNAN have laid the foundation to facilitate sharing of best practices, ideas between the four member clubs' coaches, officials and athletes. The vision of network is to improve every club, which will be achieved by sharing & networking. We have a new website to promote our aims and ambitions. It has been valuable in reaching out to the community.

The Run England programme is an excellent programme at providing participants their first step into (or back into) the sport and into clubs. The network has helped train five Run England group leaders who

will now try and consolidate new running groups. This will make a lasting contribution to the health and fitness to groups from local workplaces, council, education establishments or local community in Northumberland.

We have looked at coaching needs of network clubs and provided access to master classes, seminar, workshops & Local Coach Development Programme for individuals. In addition we have provided bursaries for coach education. We ran our first Coach & Athletes development day. The feedback received from Parents, Coaches & Athletes were very positive requesting further such events in future.

The network has for the first time delivered STARTRACK athletics camps within Morpeth & Bedlington area with further events planned in Cramlington during this summer holidays and beyond if successful. To date we have build strong rela-

tionships with our key partners BVAL, NS, TBSF and SSP who have helped us deliver taster sessions, Sportshall / Quadkids to schools and community groups in Northumberland. Our aim is to build on this partnerships and find other suitable partners to engage with us for long term sustainability & success beyond 2012 Olympics!

We have aspiration for future in providing quality coaching locally, developing the local clubs, infrastructure— more numbers, quality of volunteers, club structures to ensure they grow and sustain / increase participation.

Finally year one has been a major learning curve, but with help and determination of all involved we aim to grow strong with desire to develop the sport of Athletics at local level well beyond 2012!!! To help us we have also secured funding for the Year-2 from McCain & England Athletics.

### Morpeth Harriers clinch sponsorship deal with Car dealers Benfield VW & Renault of Morpeth

Morpeth Harriers are pleased to report that car dealership Benfield VW & Renault, Morpeth have renewed their sponsorship of the club for 2011/12. Benfield will again be sponsoring the club's two major road race promotions (the 10K on 2 August and the '11K' on 1 January), as well as supporting the young athletes' Athlete of the Month awards.

To celebrate the renewal of the sponsorship, dealership manager Anthony Lee presented prizes to

the three young athletes judged the Athletes of the Year out of the winners during the previous 12 months.



Top prize went to 400 meters runner Joe Robertshaw, who recently set a new personal best of 51.21 seconds in the heats of the English Schools Intermediate Boys Championships. Runner-up Phil Winkler also notched a personal best of 2-06.32 in the Junior Boys 800 meters heats at the English Schools, whilst third placed Ryan Green was a recent winner of the 800 meters in the Northumberland Schools Year 8 championships.

Northumberland Athletics Network delivers taster sessions in Schools with help of "Vic the Voltage" and CE Electric grant.

## CE Electrics Grant helps Northumberland Athletics Network deliver Athletics taster sessions to Schools in the County

Following successful application for funding provided by CE Electric / England Athletics; Northumberland Athletics Network were able to arrange and has now successfully delivered one hour taster



**'Vic the Voltage' with pupils**

sessions to eight primary & middle schools in the county during June 2011.

The children were introduced to the FUNdamental skills of run-

ning, jumping and throwing skills in all athletic disciplines, in a fun and enjoyable setting. All abilities were catered for and the children had a chance to try some new activities for the first time.

The generous funding also allowed NAN to purchase some much needed new athletics equipment, which will be used further during ongoing delivery of the athletics sessions in further schools in the future.

The sessions also included very important message to all children highlighting the danger of electrics and need to play safe around schools and home setting involving electrical appliances and power sockets etc.

The children were introduced to "Vic the Voltage" mascot of CE Electric and had fun being involved in this important project.

A big Thank you to CE Electric and England Athletics for help funding NAN to able to introduce athletics in to some schools providing children with most enjoyable first experience in athletics.



**'Vic the Voltage' on FUN run with pupils**

## STARTRACK ATHLETICS Holiday CAMPS

at

**Morpeth Chantry Middle & Bedlington High School Tuesday 31st May to 2nd June 2011**

## Northumberland Network held their first Athletics (Run, Jump N' Throws) Camps at Morpeth & Bedlington Schools

The NA Network promoted their first athletics holiday camps in two schools in Bedlington & Morpeth during the May Spring half-term Holiday. Both camps were delivered by the Network Clubs Coaches from the four members clubs Alwick Harriers, Blyth Running Club, Morpeth Harriers, Tynedale Harriers, and support from its various key partners Blyth Valley Arts and Leisure and the County Schools Sports Partnerships. The camps were able to provide children with an excellent opportunity to try out and learn various athletics events for the first time and hopefully have encouraged them to become more active in athletics in future. The



camps were open to children between the ages of 8 years and 16 years old; who all received a T-shirt and goody bag and a certificate curtesy of our main sponsors AVIVA Star: Track.



The aim of these camps were to introduce the children to the FUNdamental skills of running, jumping and throwing and help them hone their skills in all athletic disciplines, in a fun and enjoyable setting. All abilities were catered for and the children had chance to try out some new activities for the first time. The events held at both venues during the hot sunny days in June attracted some 20 plus youngsters from various schools in the area and in One child's words was "a

screaming and enjoyable fun event, when is the next one!!"



These camps also provided number of club coaches to work together and learn new ideas and approaches in delivering sessions to young athletes in a structured format over a period of 3 days. Some of the more experienced coaches were also able to provide an excellent opportunity for development to assistant coaches / volunteers in a relaxed and fun environment.



Photos show Athletes & Network Coaches in action at Camps at Morpeth & Bedlington

## Athletes' dream project - Morpeth Athletics Track Progress update

Work on the long-awaited track at KEVI School in Morpeth is due to start in late July, with the project scheduled for completion at the end of November. However, that won't quite be the end of the story, as some funding will still be required to ensure that the necessary equipment will be in place to hold the full range of athletic events.

Items like pole vault landing areas don't come cheap and Morpeth Harriers are working with Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure (BVAL) to seek grants and sponsorship to purchase all the equipment required.

Any leads on sponsorship etc. would be appreciated - contact [mike.bateman@btconnect.com](mailto:mike.bateman@btconnect.com).

Morpeth Harriers will be linking up with the Northumberland Athletics Network and the other member clubs to use the new track for the benefit of the sport in the area, so watch out for news of 'try-it' days, coaching days etc.

Given the timescale for completion of the track and provision of equipment, it's very unlikely that the new facility will be able to host any League meetings in 2012 but consideration is being given to holding some sort of competitive events next summer.

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### OLYMPICS HISTORICAL FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW!!!

You may have noticed that a new track in East London will also be hosting an athletics event in 2012 but in fact the

Crowds of several thousands were attracted to the Morpeth Olympics which was part of the once-thriving 'professional' athletics circuit in the North East. Post-war races were held on the Grange House Field - where the present Morpeth Harriers clubhouse is located.

Plans are afoot to bring Dr. Martin Polley, an expert in the forerunners of the modern Olympic Games, to Morpeth in 2012. Dr. Polley, author of 'The British Olympics' (due out in September), is being invited to give a lecture on the Morpeth Olympics - either as part of the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering or in conjunction with the Morpeth Fair Day. So watch this space for further news!

If you have any exciting stories relating to our Community in Northumberland and Olympics we like to hear so contact our Network Officer at [hemant.desai@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:hemant.desai@northumberland.gov.uk)

## OLYMPIC 2012 - Officials from Blyth, Northumberland Appointed

Bill and Christine Courtney from Blyth don't have to worry about tickets for the event as they have both been selected to be Officials at the 2012 Olympics. The two Blyth Harriers join a select band of people who have been selected to work in the "Call Room" where they will basically "Find them, check them, move them out", i.e. they will ensure that that six foot five inch runner really is Usain Bolt.. This is a tremendous honour for Christine and Bill who are well known on the athletics scene throughout the country. Before then though they are jetting off to Sacramento, California where they are acting as a starter and marksman at the World Masters Championships.

Other officials from the North East who have been selected for the Olympics are Ian and Linda Schofield and Peter Terry – Well done to all of them.

If you know of any other stories relating to Olympics 2012, involving Northumberland Community we would like to know!

## COACHS' & OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All network clubs have reported shortage of Coaches, Officials & Volunteers. The Northumberland Athletics Network is keen to provide opportunity for all interested people from the Community in Northumberland to help fill that shortage in order for the Clubs and athletics in the our County to

flourish. We want to make sure that all our Clubs within the network are ready to handle the anticipated increased demand for athletics. We will provide help including some costs towards gaining recognized Coaching & Officials qualification to any individuals who is keen. In return all we ask is for you to help plug the gaps currently exists

in our Athletics Clubs for Coaches, Officials & Volunteers without whom the sport will significantly be poor and will not be able to provide opportunities for our future athletes and may be Olympians!! Contact : Hemant Desai:- [hemant.desai@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:hemant.desai@northumberland.gov.uk) or ring 07540412089 or 01670 511071

## Forthcomming Events Dates for the Diary

- The Northumberland Athletics Network have arranged two 3 hour Athletics Summer Camp to take place at Cramlington Sport- ing Club on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011. For free entry visit [www.uka.org.uk/academy](http://www.uka.org.uk/academy)
- Officials Level-2 Courses at GIS on 6th Nov 2011 contact Hemant Desai on [hemant.desai@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:hemant.desai@northumberland.gov.uk) or ring 07540412089 / 01670 511071
- Northumberland Sportsability Festival 2011 on St 1st & Sun 2nd October, at Sport Central, Northumbria University, Newcastle, to express interest & for further information please visit [www.northumberlandsport.co.uk](http://www.northumberlandsport.co.uk)
- Athletic Coach course NC0251 at GIS on 10th & 11 Sept 2011 to apply visit [www.Englandathletics.org/courses](http://www.Englandathletics.org/courses)



## McCain Northumberland Athletics Network

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**Working together to promote & drive forward athletics in the Northumberland.**



### McCain Northumberland Athletics Network (MNAN) .

**Clubs & Coaches who care.** The aim of the NAN is to promote athletics as a core skill, that underpins other sports, and to provide improved training & competition in athletics, to the Northumberland Community, by pooling clubs' resources and thereby increasing effectiveness. An intrinsic part of the Network will be to encourage greater involvement of adults & young people in the county in fitness through athletics. Working in partnership to promote & drive forward athletics in the Northumberland County.

#### Clubs include:-



**Alnwick Harriers** [www.alnwickharriers.co.uk](http://www.alnwickharriers.co.uk)



**Blyth Running Club**



**Morpeth Harriers & Athletics Club**



**Tynedale Harriers & Athletics Club**

**Why not Join Us! We always need volunteers for admin, finance, track & field, coaches, parent helpers (training provided). Contact the Network Coordinator- Hemant Desai email or telephone for more information.**

## Birch & Bell of Blyth Running Club to represent at UKA's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) camp



With the recent setup of UKA's Youth Advisory Group and the work towards setting up the UKA Recruitment and Retention Group, members of the UKA YAG had the opportunity to talk to delegates about their aspirations and intentions while working in partnership with UKA to ensure that the legacy of the volunteer remains at the top of the agenda for UKA when the curtain falls on London in the autumn of 2012. Most importantly, both the UKA YAG and UKA Recruitment and Retention Advisory Group are made up of volunteers from the sport and officiating peers.

As part of the UKA YAG, Craig Birch OF Blyth Running Club attended the 8th UKA Officials' Conference at Solihull with other 300 delegates. The group was brought together to try and give young people a more active input into how athletics is governed in the UK and share ideas on athlete retention, bringing people into the sport etc. He did a presentation with two other group members to the officials, firstly on who

and what they do, and secondly on how they think they can make a difference, targeting officials in particular. As Craig says, "We presented our thoughts on why young people might not want to get an officials qualification and how we would like to help to attract more young people into becoming an official".



He also attended some of the workshops and had an input into how UKA could help to bridge the gap in age between young people that officiate or want to officiate and the more senior officials at the top end of the scale.

The UKA YAG members also talked

about some of the initiatives that UKA had already implemented, such as the Young Leaders Camp, an annual residential camp bringing together 150 16-19 year olds from three sports (Gymnastic, Netball and Athletics) to learn new skills in officiating, coaching and leadership. The camp will run for four days, from Sunday 14 August to Wednesday 17 August 2011 at Bradfield College, Berkshire. Attendance is completely free of charge and those involved will focus on developing their leadership skills through a range of practical and theory-based sessions.

Craig will be acting as a Team Leader and Blyth Running Club member Samantha Bell has been selected to attend the camp. Well done to them both, Northumberland Athletics Network is proud of you both.

