

Civil Service Athletic Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

1 INTRODUCTION: WHO ARE WE?

The CSAA aims to encourage active participation in athletics amongst all Civil Servants, men and women, who are members of the Civil Service Sports Council. The Association's Committee acts on this remit by organising an annual series of national championship events, and also entering representative teams in matches against the RAF and Middlesex.

THE CSAA is an elected body and the Committee meets three or four times a year to discuss matters relating to the forthcoming events. The AGM is held in January to which all members are welcome to attend. There are places on the Committee for anyone who is genuinely interested in contributing to the CSAA. However, if you are prepared to assist at any of our Championship Meetings without the responsibility of becoming a Committee Member we would welcome that as well. If you wish to discover more about what is involved please contact the Secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (for 2006)

Chairman: Gerry Trainer

Secretary: Nick Hume

Treasurer: Bill Berry

Vice Presidents: Ken Best, John Hall, Neil Hornsby, Alan Mason, Ted Wingrove

Committee: Paula Booth, Bob Brimage, Gaye Clarke, Brian Craig, Dave Evans, Bill Kingston, Steve Norris, Roger Smith, Ian Statter, Colette Wilson

President Sir Anthony Battishill

2. OVERVIEW

2006 was another successful year for the Civil Service Athletic Association. The usual full and comprehensive programme of Championship events was staged at various venues around the country.

The CSAA Committee met three times during the year and was pleased to welcome Ian Burnham along as the CSSC Representative. This has enabled CSAA and CSSC to work closely together and is a partnership that will be developed further during 2007. It was a pleasure to welcome new members to the Committee and we are grateful to the contribution they have made during 2006.

In order to address some of the issues of communication between CSAA, Departmental Contacts, Team Manager and athletes, a CSAA web site is now under construction. This will enable all athletes, existing and potential, to keep up to date with planned events, see results, have key contact details and provide a forum for communication, as well as photos and links to other related sites.

3. QUEENBOROUGH EVENTS REVIEW 2006

3.1 10k Battersea Park

Once again the CSAA's 10k Championship was held in conjunction with the CSSC's Corporate Challenge which included a 1 Mile Walk and 3k Fun Run.

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The 10k saw 180 athletes competing and yet again both main titles went to Veteran athletes in Phil Parry and Angela Allen.

The 1 Mile Walk with 12 walkers and the 3k Fun Run with 19 runners continues to provide opportunities to compete for those who prefer something more leisurely than the 10k. However, numbers were lower than 2005 but the feedback received showed that the day was a success, with CSAA and CSSC working together to promote a wide variety of athletic events for athletes of all abilities to participate in.

Thanks must go to the CSSC Events Team for their pre- and on-the-day support.

Results: Women

1	A Allen	36.57	HASSRA
2	S Robson	37.14	DTI
3	H Smethurst	39.03	DEFRA

Vets

1	A Allen (F35)	36.57	HASSRA
2	H Smethurst (F40)	39.03	DEFRA
3	B Davies (F35)	40.39	MOD

Teams: Open

1	HASSRA
2	DEFRA
3	HMRC

Vets

HASSRA
HMRC
OS

Men

1	P Parry	32.53	MOD
2	M Eadie	33.53	HMRC
3	D Merckel	33.58	DEFRA

Vets

1	P Parry (M40)	32.53	MOD
2	S Marklew (M40)	34.49	HMRC
3	K Donkin (M40)	34.55	MOD

Teams: Open

1	MOD
2	HASSRA
3	HMRC

Vets

MOD
HMRC
HASSRA

3.2 TRACK & FIELD Blackpool

The 131st CSAA Championships were held at Stanley Park, Blackpool, the home track of the meeting organiser, Brian Craig. As this was Brian's last time as organiser a special presentation was made to acknowledge his service to CSAA athletics.

For one reason or another the turnout was the lowest ever but this did not detract from the competition, though a few more athletes would have been nice in some of the finals. Once again the Veteran athletes really supported this event and there were quite a few who had medalled at the European Championships a few weeks earlier, including Tone Noel and CSAA Vice President, John Hall.

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It was a pleasure to welcome the CSAA President Sir Anthony Battishill to the event and indeed to other events throughout the year.

The athletic officials were of a very high standard and at times almost seemed to outnumber the athletes and without them this event could not take place.

The Queenborough Trophy for 2005/06 was won by HMRC, the combined might of Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise proving too much on the day for HASSRA. The Braben-Whiffen Trophy was won by CCLRC (Daresbury Laboratories) based on the new formula related to improvement on the previous year by a small Department.

3.3 VETS TRACK & FIELD Battersea

Once again there was another excellent turnout in this event and with the introduction of the new M35 category records were there to be set by the winners.

New organiser Gaye Clarke ably backed-up by John Hall did an excellent job given the 5 year age categories proving competitive opportunities from ages 35 – 80+. Thanks go to David White for continuing to compile the Records List.

3.4 RACE WALK Enfield

With 16 Men and 5 Women this was another good turnout for the CSAA Race Walk. The Men covered a distance of 10k whilst the Women's Race was 5k. More walkers are always welcome and help is on hand for anyone interested. Maureen Noel and Dave Turner retained their titles from 2005.

Results: Women

1	M Noel (W40)	30.41	DEFRA
2	P Evans (W55)	32.35	IR
3	T Sweet (W35)	35.47	HMRC

Teams:

- 1 HMRC

Men

1	D Turner (M45)	51.42	Post Office NE
2	D Butterley (M40)	52.41	Post Office - Notts
3	J Hall (M55)	54.32	DEFRA

Teams:

- 1 HMRC
- 2 MOD

Novice Award to C Brolly

3.5 ROAD RELAYS Finsbury Park

The number of Team was slightly down this year but the enthusiasm of those present remains high. A youthful SPARTA Team retained the title they won last year but in even more convincing style. HASSRA, once again won the Women's event, which only had 3 complete teams.

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Results:

Men:

1	SPARTA	72.37
2	HMRC	75.11
3	GCHQ	76.26

Fastest Legs:

1.	Marc Hobbs (SPARTA)	13.41
2.	Lewis Hobbs (SPARTA)	14.08.
3.	Jeremy Bradley (GCHQ)	14.16

Women:

1	HASSRA	53.34
2	DEFRA	56.37
3	HASSRA B	58.40

Fastest leg:

1	Angela Allen (HASSRA)	16.40
2	Helen Smethurst (DEFRA)	17.53
3	Andrea Smith (HASSRA)	18.10

3.6 CROSS COUNTRY Richmond

The CSAA XC Championships took place on an overcast but mainly dry course at Richmond Park, London. The race returned here for the first time since 2003 and also welcomed the return of a contingent of Dutch Civil Servants who last competed in these Championships in 1998. Indeed some were making their 4th appearance having also competed in 1994 and 1996.

The combined field of Men and Women totalled 121 athletes. These Championships which are open to any CSSC member cover a wide range of abilities and this is something that is unique to running. Indeed, there were 2 Men and 2 Women who had been selected to represent their Countries in the forthcoming Home International XC Championships – Angela Allen (F35), Sue Cariss (F55), Phil Parry (M40) and Mike Weedall (M50), proving that age is no barrier to performance.

The course, marked by Roger Smith, consists of two laps for Men (10k) and two slightly shorter ones for Women (7k). In the Women's race Angela Allen (HASSRA) quickly established a lead and continued to pull clear from her rivals to win the title she last held in 2001 and 1999. Interestingly all were won at Richmond Park. In second place was Belinda Tull (nee Davies) (MOD) making a rare appearance in the XC race. Third was Anne Ridley (DEFRA) on her debut in these Championships.

In the Men's race the Hobbs brothers (SPARTA) were in complete control with Marc just leading Lewis home to regain his title from 2005. In third place was Phil Parry (MOD) who had finished 2nd in 2005. It was sometime before the first Dutch runner appeared as the course was contained more uphill than they were used to at home. However, they all enjoyed their run in the park and are keen to return next year. In fact they offered the hand of friendship even further by extending an invitation to come and compete in Holland which is something the CSAA Committee are keen to support with Belinda Tull taking the lead on their behalf.

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The presentation was held at the magnificent Bank of England Sportsground and Sir Anthony Battishill (CSAA President) awarded the medals to the Open and Vets winners with special medals presented to the Dutch Team as a memento of their participation. For the records HASSRA won the Women's Open and Vets Titles with HMRC taking the Men's title and HASSRA the Male Vets.

Thanks to everyone who helped to organise the race, especially Roger Smith and Gerry Trainer and to everyone who stayed for the presentation, as it must have been one of the best attended ever.

Results: Men

1	M Hobbs (Sparta)	33.15
2	L Hobbs (Sparta)	33.19
2	P Parry (MoD)	34.15

Vets:

1	P Parry (MoD)	34.15	V40
2	M Weedall (RM)	36.25	V50
3	S Webb (R&C)	37.40	V05

Teams: Open

1.	R&C
2.	MoD
3.	SPARTA

Vets

HASSRA
R&C
MoD

Women:

1	A Allen (HASSRA)	28.10
2	B Tull (MoD)	29.10
3	A Ridley (DEFRA)	29.26

Vets:

1	A Allen (HASSRA)	28.10	F35
2	B Tull (MoD)	29.10	F35
3	A Ridley (DEFRA)	29.26	F40

Teams: Open

1.	HASSRA
2.	DEFRA
3.	R&C

Vets

HASSRA
R&C
OS

3.7 MARATHON 2005/06

This was held in Belfast following an invitation by the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Council to stage a Championship across the water. From all accounts it was an excellent race and it was a shame that more people did not take the opportunity to sample the atmosphere and the hospitality.

Results

1	M Clapp	2.46.21	HMRC
2	K Shiels	2.49.11	NICS
3	S Shanks	2.49.47	HMRC

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Vets

1	K Shiels	2.49.11	NICS
2	D Breen	2.55.41	HASSRA
3	P Targett	2.56.29	HASSRA

Team

1	HMRC
2	HASSRA

3.8 MARATHON 2006/07

With two Marathon races in the same calendar year it was uncertain how many competitors would toe the line at Luton in early December. Although numbers were slightly down the standard remained high at the top end with HMRC again taking the team title. Matthew Clapp completed what must be a unique double with two CSAA Marathon Titles within six months.

Results

1	M Clapp	2.45.27	HMRC
2	S Shanks	2.50.48	HMRC
3	D Breen	2.55.37	HASSRA

Vets

1	D Breen (M40)	2.55.37	HASSRA
2	J Duffy (M40)	2.57.22	HMRC
3	R Burton (M50)	3.10.48	

4. MATCHES

4.1 SIR SEFTON BRANCKER & SEAX Trophy Matches: CS v RAF v MIDDLESEX 2006

4.1.1 Cross Country RAF Halton

The Senior team were represented by, P Parry, S Snow, S Owen, A Goodair, G McCourt, D Rowlands, S Norris, S Hartley, S Davies, T Mellor & M Hobbs.

The Vets team were represented by P Crockford, S Marklew, N Hume & N Witham.

Team Positions: RAF, Middlesex, Civil Service

Vets Positions: RAF, Civil Service

The CSAA Team had a clean sweep in the Women's Race with L Chisholm (1st), A Allen (2nd), and A Guthrie (3rd). Backing these three up were M Statham, C Stokes and M Noel.

Team Positions: Civil Service, Middlesex, RAF

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4.1.2 Track & Field

The following athletes represented the Men's Team in this fixture: T Noel, B King, P Parry, A Wray, S Norris: D Butterley, S Uttley, D Long, F Harford, N Winchcombe, M Fenton

1st RAF, 2nd Middlesex, 3rd CS

The following athletes represented the Women's Team in this fixture: K Reynolds, G Clarke, M Noel, N Rogers, E Adams, C Sacks, N Brunning, J Clark, R Alexander, K Addis and helped the Civil Service to win the SEAX Trophy.

1st Civil Service, 2nd Middlesex, 3rd RAF

Including the 2006 Cross Country Results these were the final positions for 2006

Men: RAF, Middlesex, CS

Women: CS, Middlesex, RAF

The CSAA Team Managers (Ian Statter & Steve Norris (Men) and John Hall (Women)) continue to work very hard trying to organise teams for these events. More athletes are still required as it is usually a struggle to field full teams due to injury, illness and work commitments. Therefore it would be appreciated if Departmental Team Managers/Sports Organisers could inform the Team Managers or the General Secretary of suitable athletes so that a full list of interested athletes can be maintained.

4.2 Ryan Cup (Race Walking) CS v Police

The Civil Service Team lost the Ryan Cup by the close margin of 4 points to the Police, who had combined the match with their own Police Championships. CSAA are now looking to the feasibility of holding the CSAA Championships within this race.

The CSAA were represented by D Butterly (1st), S Uttley (3rd), T Bell, J Lovatt & B Corbett.

5 Other Athletic Achievements

The CSAA has a number of very talented athletes who have achieved international honours and are highly placed in the National Rankings for their events at both Open and Veterans levels. This is a credit to the Civil Service and special mention must go to HMRC athlete Tony Noel who was the CSSC Sportsman of the Year for 2005 and was also awarded an OBE in 2006.

Whilst the honours always go to the best performers, the CSAA also likes to acknowledge the achievements of all our athletes and that includes those who run for fitness and fun. Without these people the sport could not continue and the Committee are looking at ways to increase the opportunities for these athletes to take part in Civil Service events at both Local and National level.

WSP Developments links with CSSC

A CSAA Whole Sport Plan will be presented at the AGM which seeks to widen our remit within CSSC and encourage increased participation amongst CSSC members. Whilst maintaining the traditional Championship Events, other areas will be explored in co-operation with CSSC Sports & Leisure. By linking this WSP to financial planning increased funding from CSSC might become available to assist in realising the Plans targets.

7 Thanks

Thanks must go to all those who took on the task of organising a Championship event. We are grateful to all the Departmental Team Managers and Sports Association officials who chase and coerce athletes to participate, as without them we would not have any events. Finally I must pay tribute to the CSAA Committee who are a very professional and hard working body dedicated to the sport of athletics and promoting it within the Civil Service.

We are also grateful for the help and assistance provided by CSSC staff during the year and look forward to working in an even closer partnership with them during 2007.

Nick Hume

**General Secretary
January 2007**