

Civil Service Athletic Association

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1 Introduction to the Civil Service Athletic Association

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. Working closely with CSSC the CSAA are seeking to encourage participation within the grass roots of the sport by providing entry fee subsidies for a series of local races, with an initial pilot in 2008 of 4 races.

THE CSAA is an elected body and the Committee meets three 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 2007)

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, Dave Evans, Bill Kingston, Steve Marklew, Steve Norris, Colette Roach, Roger Smith, Ian Statter,

President Sir Anthony Battishill

2. Overview

2007 was another successful year for the Civil Service Athletic Association, with the staging of a full and comprehensive programme of Championship events at various venues around the country.

The CSAA Committee met three times during the year and was pleased to welcome Matt Taylor along as the CSSC Representative. This has strengthened the relationship between CSAA and CSSC as the two bodies continued to work closely together in a partnership that is mutually beneficial. The members of the Committee have all worked hard throughout the year and we are grateful for the contribution they have made, as each brings their own particular skills and abilities to the table.

The CSAA web site was launched in early 2007 and has had some very good feedback. It is now the main form of communication for all those interested in athletics within the Civil Service, encompassing both National and Regional events. It has certainly achieved its objectives of promoting events, providing results, having key contact details for officials and provides a forum for communication, as well as photos and links to other related sites. Thanks must go to Tony Croft for all his hard work in developing and maintaining the site.

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3. Queenborough Events Review 2007

3.1 Cross Campus Challenge Loughborough

The Cross Campus Challenge replaced the traditional 10k when the Loughborough Campus roads could not be closed for the duration of the race. With a mix of track, road and fields this 6m race provided a testing course for the athletes who ran but unfortunately numbers were down on previous years. Whether this was because it was part of the CSSC Games or away from the traditional London venue was difficult to gauge. However, the London Marathon 3 days later did take away anywhere between 15 – 20 of the usual athletes. The feedback from competitors was good and it was pleasing to see new Departments, such as Land Registry, enjoying the event and some success.

Results: Women

1	A Allen	(F35)	35.39	HASSRA
2	D Kennedy		38.43	DTI
3	M Dempsey	(F40)	40.40	HMRC

Vets

1	A Allen	(F35)	35.39	HASSRA
2	M Dempsey	(F40)	40.40	HMRC
3	K Else	(F40)	42.32	HMRC

Teams: Open

1	HMRC
2	LR

Vets

HMRC
LR

Men

1	J Bradley		31.15	GCHQ
2	A Tindall	(M45)	32.26	DCLG
3	P Ashley		33.04	OS

Vets

1	A Tindall	(M45)	32.26	DCLG
2	A Goodair	(M35)	33.05	HASSRA
3	D Randall	(M45)	33.30	GCHQ

Teams: Open

1	GCHQ
2	DEFRA
3	HASSRA

Vets

GCHQ
HASSRA
HMRC

Thanks to Gerry Trainer for organising.

3.2 Track & Field Bedford

The 132nd CSAA Championships were held at Bedford and were a well-organised and efficient event. Thanks go to Bob Brimage and Neil Hornsby for taking on the organisation and to Brain Craig for obtaining an excellent set of Track and Field Officials. Numbers were once again lower than expected and for the first time that anyone could remember there were no heats in any event, which meant some gaps in the timetable. The athletes appreciated the organisation and are very supportive of

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the Committee as are the Master's athletes who turn out in large numbers for this Championship.

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

The Queenborough Trophy for 2006/07 was once again won by RCSL with the Braben-Whiffen Trophy being awarded to GCHQ based on a formula related to improvement on the previous year by a small Department.

3.3 Masters Track & Field Battersea

Once again Gaye Clarke and John Hall organised another successful event which included the M35 Age-Group for the first time. The turnout was high, the competition keen and one or two event records were set.

3.4 Race Walk Birmingham

With 16 Men and 7 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. Maureen Noel won for the third year in a row whilst Dwayne Butterley prevented Dave Turner completing his hat trick. New walkers are always welcome at this event with novice awards being presented and help is always on hand for anyone genuinely interested in learning more about the skills of race walking.

Results: Women

1	M Noel	30.33	DEFRA
2	C Sacks	34.07	RCSL
3	J Hodge	35.23	RCSL

Novice Award to G Clarke HASSRA

Teams:

1 RCSL

Men

1	D Butterley	49.26	Post Office
2	D Turner	50.23	Post Office
3	G Blythman	51.37	HASSRA

Teams:

1 DEFRA
2 RCSL
3 HASSRA

Novice Award to S Norris MoD.

Thanks to John Hall for organising.

3.5 Road Relays Finsbury Park

There were a few more teams at Finsbury Park than in 2006 but unfortunately the Women's winning time was one of the slowest on record. However, this did not detract from a thrilling race with 9 seconds separating the first three teams and the

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width of a vest 2nd and 3rd place. In the Men's race SPARTA were unable to hold on to their title as RCSL led on all but one of the 5 stages.

Results:

Men:

1	RCSL	75.48
2	MoD	76.32
3	GCHQ	77.11

Fastest Legs:

1	J Bradley	13.45	GCHQ
2	P Parry	14.00	MoD
3	S Bruton	14.49	RCSL

Women:

1	RCSL	57.00
2	DEFRA	57.09
3	HASSRA	57.09

Fastest leg:

1	A Ridley	17.52	DEFRA
2	A Smith	18.09	HASSRA
3	M Dempsey	18.35	RCSL

Thanks to Gerry Trainer and Roger Smith for the organisation and results recording on the day.

3.6 Cross Country Elmdon

This was probably the last time that the CSAA Championships will be held at the CSSC Club at Elmdon. This is partly due to the planned extensions to Birmingham Airport and a local landowner withdrawing permission to run over his land. On a slightly shorter course than usual the standard remained high, as did the numbers competing. Jeremy Bradley added the XC title to that of the Cross Campus Challenge and fastest lap at the Road Relays whilst Liz Such was a clear winner in the Women's Race. Yet again feedback from athletes and Team Managers praised the CSAA Organisation and this is very welcome, as of course are any constructive comments on how these events can be improved.

Results: Men

1	J Bradley	29.50	GCHQ
2	L Hobbs	29.52	Sparta
3	M Hobbs	30.29	Sparta

Vets:

1	M Sherriff	(M35)	31.03	PS
2	S Robinson	(M50)	31.16	GCHQ
3	K Donkin	(M50)	31.36	MoD

Teams: Open

1.	GCHQ
2.	RCSL
3.	MoD

Vets

RCSL
GCHQ
HASSRA

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Women:

1	L Such	23.14	HASSRA
2	D Kennedy	24.24	BERR
3	S Rudge	25.11	HASSRA

Vets:

1	A Smith	(F35)	26.04	HASSRA
2	C Horne	(F50)	26.21	HASSRA
3	M Dempsey	(F40)	27.01	RCSL

Teams: Open

1.	HASSRA
2.	RCSL
3.	LR

Vets

HASSRA
RCSL
LR

Thanks to Gerry Trainer for organising this event and all who assisted on the day.

3.7 Marathon 2007

This year's event was held within the Nottingham City Marathon. Matt Clapp retained his title from 6 months earlier in Belfast, whilst Steve Shanks improved from 3rd to 2nd. However, the support for this event was low and the CSAA Committee has agreed to drop this event from their calendar and hold an inaugural (non-Queenborough) Half Marathon instead.

Results

1	M Clapp	2.48.56	RCSL
2	S Shanks	3.02.59	RCSL
3	D Speck	3.06.50	DEFRA

Vets

1	S Stennett	3.09.19	HASSRA
2	P Gillespie	3.14.48	RCSL
3	M Henshaw	4.49.52	LR

Team

1	HMRC
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Women

1	L Yearly	4.22.25	PS
2	L Sirel	4.49.52	LR

Thanks go to Roger Smith for all his co-ordination work with the races organisers to ensure that our entries and results are clearly identified.

4. Representative Matches

4.1 Sir Sefton Brancker & Seax Trophy Matches: CS v RAF v Middlesex

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4.1.1 Cross Country RAF Halton

The Men's Senior team were represented by: D Merckell, A Wray, S Hallas, S Hartley, A Longthorpe, S Marklew & S Shanks

The Vets team were represented by: K Donkin, J O'Shea, N Witham & J Carnell

Team Positions: RAF, CSAA, Middlesex

Vets Positions: CSAA

The Women's team were represented by: N White, A Allen, A Guthrie, C Cutler, D Kennedy & M Noel.

Team Positions: CSAA, Middlesex, RAF

4.1.2 Track & Field

The following athletes represented the Men's Team in this fixture: P Ellershaw, T Noel, G Smith, D Elderfield, S Price, A Goodair, S Hallas, P Parry, S Norris, G Blythman, S Uttley, M Osunsami, N Barton, J Evans, K Newton, M Fenton & F Harford

Team Positions: RAF, Middlesex, CSAA

The following athletes represented the Women's Team in this fixture: K Reynolds, C Sacks, S Trusch, D Kennedy, H Smethurst, M Noel, G Clarke, N Brunning & L Dutta

Team Positions: Middlesex, CSAA, 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 always difficult to field full teams due to injury, illness and work commitments. Therefore it would be greatly appreciated if Departmental Team Managers/Sports Organisers could inform the Team Managers or the General Secretary of any suitable athletes, so that a full list of current athletes who are interested can be maintained.

4.2 Ryan Cup (Race Walking) CS v Police

The Civil Service Team regained the Ryan Cup by the overwhelming margin of 40 points against the Police. The match was incorporated within the CSAA Championships and the Police Championships, which meant more walkers and a higher standard all round. Feedback was for this to continue in the future.

5 Other Athletic Achievements

The CSAA has a number of very talented athletes who have achieved international honours and are highly placed in the 2007 National Rankings for their events at both Open and Masters levels. This is a credit to the athletic talent within the Civil Service but special mention must go to HASSRA athlete Hattie Dean who was 15th in the World Cross Country Championships, broke the British 3000m Steeplechase Record 3 times and won team gold in the European Cross Country Championships.

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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, and especially those who organise events within or outside the Civil Service. 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.

6 CSAA Whole Sport Plan

After a great deal of work the CSAA Whole Sport Plan was accepted and approved by the Sports and Leisure Committee. Whilst maintaining the traditional Championship Events, CSSC has also agreed to provide financial assistance with a planned trip to The Hague in March 2008 to compete with colleagues from the Dutch Civil Service. The other major step forward is the introduction of a Race Subsidy Scheme where CSSC Members who participate in any of the four nominated races will receive a refund of 50% on their entry fee. This scheme is aimed mainly at the local grassroots runner who would not normally take part in a Championship event. If this proves a success it could be expanded further in 2009.

7 Thanks and Recognitions

A special vote of thanks must go to all those who took on the task of organising a Championship event. We are always 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. It is particularly pleasing to see the small Departments supporting the Championships. For example, Land Registry have enjoyed the events throughout 2007 and appreciated the opportunity to compete with fellow athletes from across the country.

During the 2007 the following Committee Members have received recognition for their services to CSSC athletics. Dave Evans has been given a CSSC Merit Award in recognition of the tremendous amount of work he has done for CSAA, IRSA & RCSL. Dave also received the Trophy for Best Sport Section Organiser for his role as Team Manager of the RCSL Athletic Club. Bill Berry, who is retiring as Treasurer, after 20 years service, received a letter of commendation from CSSC, whilst Nick Hume was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his services to athletics by the North West CSSC.

The CSAA are always grateful for the help and assistance provided by CSSC staff during the year and we look forward to the new road subsidy scheme planned for 2008.

Finally as always 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.

Nick Hume

**General Secretary
January 2008**