

# Civil Service Athletic Association

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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### 1 CSAA Aims and Objectives

The CSAA aims to encourage active participation in athletics amongst all 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, the Police and the Fire Service. As part of its wider involvement in Civil Service athletics the Committee maintains links where possible with Regional and Departmental Organisers in an attempt to ensure that events are run to a high standard and that participation records are maintained to illustrate the numbers taking part. Based on these figures decisions can be taken as to how future events might be organised and advertised in an effort to increase participation.

The main principles for CSAA remain constant but how these are met are always under review in light of the changes taking place within Government and the wider community and the ways in which sport is evolving. This has seen an increased emphasis on participation for health grounds and whilst this undoubtedly has long term benefits for the general population, CSAA is still very much committed to providing competition across the whole spectrum of abilities and encourages everyone to participate for the enjoyment of sport. CSAA also recognises that our best athletes require a good level of competition, especially if they are to progress and at the same time continue to support the traditional events, because they appreciate the opportunity to compete against athletes from different parts of the country in a well organised race.

### 2 The CSAA Committee

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, anyone who is prepared to assist at any of the Championship Meetings without the responsibility of becoming a Committee Member is equally welcome. If anyone wishes to discover more about what is involved or offer their services for a particular event please contact the Secretary. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the sport and CSAA will welcome anyone who lives locally and wishes to assist at events. For example help with timekeeping, number recording, course marshalling, officiating etc would assist the Committee in so many ways and assist in maintaining the high quality that athletes currently enjoy when participating.

#### Committee Members for 2015

**President** Marian Holmes OBE

**Chairman:** Gerry Trainer

**Secretary:** Nick Hume

**Treasurer:** Paula Booth

**Life Vice Presidents:** Ken Best, Bill Berry, Brian Craig,

Dave Evans, John Hall, Neil Hornsby, Bill Kingston,

Alan Mason, Roger Smith, Ted Wingrove, Nick Hume

**Committee:** Bob Brimage, Gaye Clarke, Michaela Dempsey, Grete Howarth, Steve Marklew

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Steve Norris, Ian Statter, Ros Townsend-Hope, Steve Uttley

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Ken Best during 2015. Ken had been a CSAA stalwart for many years and the Committee thank Ian who represented CSAA at his funeral.

Within the Committee there is a wide range of knowledge and experience that covers all aspects of the athletics spectrum. A number of members also serve in volunteer capacities from national to local level for Clubs, Counties and National Associations and/or are qualified Coaches, and/or Officials thus bringing increased expertise to the organisation of CSAA events.

### 3 The Queenborough Championship Events

There are six CSAA Championship Events which together form the Queenborough Championships for the best Department/Sports Association with the Braben-Whiffen Trophy for the most improved Department.

As part of the on-going review of its activities CSAA revised the calendar of event dates in 2015 and brought the Road Relays forward from October to March and the Cross Country to October. The 10k went back to its more traditional Spring date and the athletes did not suffer from the heat of previous years.

The following Tables highlight the top 3 athletes and Departments in each of the Queenborough events during 2015 (except T&F) and it is always pleasing to see some of the smaller Government Departments taking some of the honours, though the large Departments still continue to dominate most of the events.

<b>Event - Individuals</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Dept</b>
Road Relay – Fastest Men	G Pennington	HMRC	D Speck	DEFRA	A Norton	DEFRA
Road Relay – Fastest Women	V Carter	Minerva	K Pullin	HMRC	B Tull	DSRA
10k – Men	M Eccles	JURA	G Pennington	HMRC	J Mitchell	DSRA
10k – Women	K Pullin	HMRC	J Palmer	HASSRA	L Metcalf	OS
Race Walk – Men	J Hall	DEFRA	S Uttley	Justice Dept	D Butterley	PO
Race Walk - Women	L Bradley	HMRC	M Noel	DEFRA	P Evans	HMRC
Cross Country – Men	T Frith	DSRA	M Cummings	DfT	D Steel	HMT
Cross Country - Women	E Antcliffe	HASSRA	L Barry	GCSLA	V Carter	Minerva
Half Marathon – Men	G Pennington	HMRC	P West	HMRC	P Duffell	HMRC
Half Marathon - Women	B Wright	NHS PA	K Dunford	HASSRA	M Moran	HMRC

<b>Event - Teams</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Team</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Team</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Team</b>
Road Relays - Men	HMRC	DEFRA	OS
Road Relays - Women	HMRC	Minerva	DSRA
10k – Men	HMRC	MoD	HASSRA
10k – Women	DEFRA	HMRC	HASSRA
Race Walk – Men	HMRC	HASSRA	DEFRA
Race Walk - Women	HMRC	DEFRA	
Cross Country – Men	HMRC	DEFRA	DRSA

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Cross Country - Women	DRSA	HMRC	HASSRA
Half Marathon	HMRC	HASSRA	
Open T&F	HASSRA/HMRC	-	DEFRA
Masters T&F	HASSRA	HMRC	DEFRA

Event	Venue	Organiser(s)
10k	Battersea Park, London	N Hume, J Yarrow, G Trainer
Race Walk	Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham	S Uttley
Cross Country	Parliament Hill, London	G Trainer
Half Marathon	Freckleton	N Hume
Open / Masters Track & Field	Loughborough	G Clarke

#### Event Summary

As 2015 drew to a close it was time to reflect upon the events of the past year and to consider whether in light of the changing approach to Special Leave for Sporting Activity within the Civil Service if CSAA should continue to provide a full programme of events in 2015. This was a difficult decision but it was agreed that the events would be advertised and each one treated on its own merits depending upon the number of entries received.

Discussions with athletes revealed that many took part in their own time, either utilising Annual Leave or Flexi Leave, just because they enjoyed these events and that it was part of their competition year and the friendly atmosphere. Hopefully the support for the 2016 events will remain constant with the attraction of the Capital Challenge in the grounds of the Olympic Park attracting a good field for the 10k and supporting events.

The first event of the year was the Road Relays which had moved from their traditional October date to March and also saw a reduction from 5 to 4 athletes in the Men's event, in an attempt to try and attract more teams. Whilst this did not see an increase in numbers the competition was as keen as ever, even though many of the athletes thought the approach to the finish was getting steeper, but that was probably due to increasing age!

The 2015 10k Road Race, 3 Mile Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk in Battersea Park, London once again proved popular, though numbers in the Walk and Fun Run were lower than usual. CSAA and CSSC worked well together to provide an excellent event on an ideal day when the event reverted to its traditional place in the Spring. This flagship event for CSAA and CSSC will hopefully see bigger fields in 2016 at the iconic Olympic Park.

The Half Marathon Championships were once again incorporated within the Freckleton Half Marathon Race near Preston. Gary Pennington won the Men's title for the fifth consecutive year on what is practically his home course. The Women's title went to Bev Wright from the local NHS Pensions Agency. Due to its 14.00 start, good organisation and friendly atmosphere the Championship will return there once again in 2016.

The Open Track & Field Championships and the The Master's Track and Field were combined for the third time and the lessons learned from the previous two years and the fact that it was held within the CSSC Games ensured a more spaced out programme. However being split over two days brought its own challenges and some athletes were not entirely content with the logistics outside the control of CSAA. However within the arena events were well contested and the field athletes in particular had

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Thanks must go to Gerry Trainer, Roger Smith, Gaye Clarke, Bob Brimage, John Hall, Steve Uttley and Nick Hume who all played major roles in the successful organisation of the events and to all the other Committee Members who play their part in promoting athletics within the Civil Service.

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Appendix A now lists the Queenborough Trophy Winners from 1927 to the present day and is an interesting commentary on the changes that have taken place within the Civil Service over that time.

#### **5 Final Round-Up**

CSAA continues to communicate with its athletes via the excellently maintained CSAA website at [www.csaa.org.uk](http://www.csaa.org.uk) which provides information on all Queenborough events and Regional Championships where known plus results within a day or two of the event. The CSSC website provides a link to the CSAA website thus increasing the opportunity for new participants to become involved in one of the events. These channels are obviously successful as can be seen from the uptake of the CSSC Half Marathon and 10k Subsidy Schemes.

Finally, and once again, I must pay tribute to the hard working and dedicated Committee who volunteer countless hours of their own time to ensuring that athletics events for Civil Servants are organised to the very highest standards with due consideration for the Health & Safety of all competitors. At these events Medical personnel are in attendance but fortunately are very rarely required to exercise their knowledge and skills. As volunteers much of the expertise within the Committee is also fed back into local athletic clubs, County and National Associations and/or by coaching or officiating at meetings up and down the country. Volunteers are and will always be the lifeblood of the Committee and without this dedication the CSAA would not be the vibrant Association that it continues to be. The assistance of the CSSC staff at events such as the 10k and Cross Country is always very welcome, whilst for other events local officials (England Athletics qualified) are only too happy to assist, as they know that CSAA events are well run and the offer of refreshments and travel expenses is always welcome!

In summary CSAA has maintained its long held traditions during 2015, whilst continuing to adopt a flexible approach to changing situations within the Civil Service. CSAA is always ready to welcome athletes of all abilities to its events and to encourage new volunteers to assist with running the events and taking on new roles within the Committee. If this Report has encouraged you to become involved please contact Nick Hume or any other Committee Member for further details.

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**Nick Hume**

**CSAA General Secretary**  
**January 2016**

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### Appendix A

#### Queenborough Trophy Winners 1927 - 2015

Year	Department		Year	Department		Year	Department	
1927	Air Ministry	1	1962	IR	4	1990	IR	8
1928	C&E	1	1963	Ministry of Aviation	4	1991	IR	9
1929	C&E	2	1964	IR	5	1992	IR	10
1930	C&E	3	1965	MOD Army Dept	1	1993	IR	11
1931	C&E	4	1966	Ministry of Pensions & NI	1	1994	IR	12
1932	C&E	5	1967	Ministry of Social Security	1	1995	IR	12
1933	IR	1	1968	Ministry of Technology	1	1996	IR	14
1934	C&E	6	1969	Ministry of Technology	2	1997	IR	15
1935	New Scotland Yard	1	1970	Ministry of Technology	3	1998	IR	16
1936	New Scotland Yard	2	1971	IR	6	1999	HASSRA	3
1937	New Scotland Yard	3	1972	Not Competed		2000	IR	17
1938	IR	2	1973	DHSS	1	2001	IR	18
1939	IR	3	1974	DHSS	2	2002	IR	19
1947	London Telecom	1	1975	DHSS	3	2003	IR	20
1948	London Telecom	2	1976	DHSS	4	2004	IR	21
1949	PO Savings Dept	1	1977	DHSS	5	2005	IR	22
1950	PO Savings Dept	2	1978	DHSS	6	2006	HMRC	1
1951	PO Savings Dept	3	1979	DHSS	7	2007	HMRC	2
1952	PO Savings Dept	4	1980	MOD (PE)	1	2008	HMRC	3
1953	PO Savings Dept	5	1981	IR	7	2009	HMRC	4
1954	PO Savings Dept	6	1982	DHSS	8	2010	HMRC	5
1955	C&E	4	1983	DHSS	9	2011	HMRC	6
1956	London Telecom	3	1984	DHSS	10	2012	HMRC	7
1957	Ministry of Supply	1	1985	DHSS	11	2013	HMRC	8
1958	Ministry of Supply	2	1986	DHSS	12	2014	HMRC	9
1959	Ministry of Supply	3	1987	DHSS	13	2015	HMRC	10
1960	Ministry of Aviation	2	1988	HASSRA	1			
1961	Ministry of Aviation	3	1989	HASSRA	2			

The Table above details the winners of the Queenborough Trophy and is also a historical commentary on how Government Departments have transformed during this time. However a clear theme running throughout this period is the strength of the HMRC and its predecessors of C&E and IR. The only viable challenger is DWP/HASSRA but even so it is 16 years since they last lifted the Trophy.



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#### Appendix B

#### Pictorial Highlights of 2015



The athletes line up before the start of this year's CSAA Race Walking championship event in Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park on Wednesday 23.09.15.



The victorious Civil Service Women's Representative Team at the 2015 event - (*l-r*) Megan Roberts (164), Natasha Sheel (166), Race Winner Katie Beecher (167), Jennifer Bradley (168), Sue Francis (165) and Stephanie Robson (169). Photo taken by Roger Smith.

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Gary Pennington (HMRC), the CSAA Half Marathon Champion, for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive time and fastest Men's Stage at the CSAA Road Relays.



DEFRA Track & Field Athletes at the Civil Service Games along with their Medals. Photo taken by Pamela Abbott