

Armada Club and Coach Co-ordinators report 2010/11

It has now been two years since I took up the post as the Co-ordinator for the Armada Network. The time has gone incredibly quickly but I hope everyone will agree that we have made real progress in a number of key areas.

We have been granted our funding for year 3 and the feedback from England Athletics has been very positive. I have been very grateful for the support that every club has given the network and myself during the past year. I feel that we are now in the strongest position we have ever been in with everyone pulling in the same direction. We have continued to work well with Schools organisations, local authorities, competition providers, universities, and also private organisations. We have also begun to generate income from other sources to complement our road races.

There have been a number of successes this year as well as some things that could have gone better. I have listed both below in bullet form.

Successes

- Continued the excellent working relationship with Sports Development team at Plymouth City Council. This has helped gain funding from DRC to deliver athletics in the Devonport area
- Year 3 funding granted following panel interview by EA officers
- Continued to organise a monthly event in Central park and Saltram over 3K and 5K distances for the second year running. Over 1200 runners have taken part in the series and feedback is excellent. This has acted as a development event for juniors and beginner runners as well as improving club runners performance.
- The strength and conditioning facility has been instrumental in developing local athletes to achieve national and international success. We now need to ensure this is available to a wider audience.
- Funding gained from Sport England to deliver Disability Athletics in the Plymouth Area
- Supported Devon Ability Games held at Plymouth – delivered athletic sessions to disabled athletes with help of club coaches. Excellent feedback from parents, athletes and teachers
- Also supported other events for disabled athletes including Playground to Podium event, CADAAC day and DSE Championships. Supported Doaa Shayea with coaching and competition to help her achieve national rankings.
- Workshops put on for Endurance runners, hurdlers, and steeplechasers plus a workshop on biomechanics.
- A 100% increase in the number of children given opportunity to take part in QuadKids events across Network. This has been delivered with within schools, clubs and also as part of Devon Open events
- Another successful year for all five of the junior clubs who take part in the Devon Sportshall league with Plymstock RR overall champions for another year.
- 3:2:1 courses in Saltram and Tavistock have been marked but need to relaunched under the Run England banner.
- Continuation of the excellent partnership formed with Sir John Hunt SSP (Lance Chatfield) has meant Armada support for schools competition in Sportshall, Cross Country, Quad Kids and also Track and Field. This has involved assisting in organisation and planning. All events have provided participants with exit routes to clubs through either special sessions or providing details of club sessions. This will now be continued with the newly created Plymouth partnership.

Continued work with Ivybridge partnership before it was dissolved. Link established with relevant schools in both Ivybridge, Tavistock and Okehampton.

- Continued training of leaders to officiate at events from Ivybridge, Tavistock, Lipson, Sir John Hunt and also City College.
- Re-established links with the revamped Run England and we have begun to recruit new members and leaders. Additional funding granted to Network to co-ordinate this process.
- More coaches from Armada clubs have attended the new EA coaching courses in the past year. This includes the new Running coach course held in Truro and Athletics leader and coach course. Feedback has been very good.
- Link with Plymouth University via COPAC sessions has continued to be successful and we are also supporting the delivery of allocated funding from Active Universities. Assisting Marjon to set up as an athletic club.
- Utilised Marjon Sports science lab to test athletes in conjunction with final year student's project. This has proved very beneficial to all partners.
- There were a number of nominees made for Regional EA awards. Winners not yet announced
- Coaching sub groups have been working well during this summer with Saturday sessions a real bonus to this. Clear evidence of coach mentoring.
- Increase in new members and coaches.
- Coach network set up with regular communications via e-mail.
- Volunteer meetings held with launch of EA toolkit and new ideas generated. Link in with EA campaign to be ready for 2012.
- Facilities greatly improved at Brickfields with new long jump/pole vault and second javelin run up. Facility transferred to SLM management.

Issues to be addressed

- Some clubs still not have gained Clubmark accreditation. This must be a priority for all of us
- Tavistock track still has no equipment but we were successful in getting £10K of funding from Sport England
- Still lack of new officials
- Poor support for Track and Field competitions has lead to under achievement for teams in all leagues. Need to encourage athletes to compete
- Ensure clubs register all competing athletes to demonstrate growth.
- Website has not been kept updated.
- Still some issues with Brickfields e.g Stand.

Overall it has gone very well and our performance against the plan has been at least 90% successful.

We have begun to address the situation of sustainability, through meetings and discussions. The likely outcome is for the Network to continue as a Social Enterprise, now seeking agreement from all clubs. Every opportunity to generate income is being looked at and this will continue.

Thanks again to everyone for their continued support.

Keith Reed