

# **HAMPSHIRE ATHLETICS**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020-21**

I was honoured and delighted to be elected President of Hampshire Athletics at the 2020 Annual General Meeting, particularly as it coincided with the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my first athletic competition, a school cross-country.

Little did we know that within weeks of the Annual General Meeting the coronavirus would take hold and the country would be in national lockdown, with further major disruption later in the year. Whilst there was respite in the summer/autumn, the timing was unfortunate for Hampshire Athletics as it resulted in cancellation of the county championships for both track and field and cross-country. It also affected representative county teams competing in regional and national competition.

During the period of respite, several Hampshire clubs took the initiative and organised events to give our athletes a degree of competition. This was greatly appreciated by the athletes, recognising the extent to which clubs had to go to meet the safety criteria set by England Athletics. I organised two track and field meetings and, with two opportunities to officiate, this was my limited contribution.

I am pleased that the Hampshire Athletics Executive continued to hold meetings throughout the year, albeit virtually, to keep abreast of a changing situation and to keep member clubs informed.

At the November 2020 Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that I should serve a further term, having been the most under-utilised President in the history of Hampshire Athletics due to the coronavirus. This is appreciated and I sincerely hope that the easing of restrictions announced by the government will result in a return to meaningful competition and that the normal duties of a President can resume.

I look forward to serving Hampshire Athletics as President for the coming year.

*Peter*

Peter Newton