President's Report - 16th March 2012

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my term as President of Hampshire Athletic Association in this being the run up to the Olympic Games in the U.K.

It is a good feeling if only for a short time to be an Ambassador for athletics in Hampshire.

My first official engagement was to present the medals at the Sportshall Championships at the Mountbatten Centre. I enjoyed seeing the happiness in the faces of the medallists and thinking that just maybe I had presented a medal to a future World or Olympic Champion.

The highlight of my term in office was the Track and Field and Multi Events Championships at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth.

My job was to invite and entertain our Guests of Honour - this included The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Paula Riches and Consort Alec Smith who were both keen to get involved with the presentations. We were also honoured to have the Leader of Portsmouth City Council Gerald Vernon-Jackson attend and he also was keen to present medals and interview the young athletes.

The Past Presidents of Hampshire AA also attended as our guests and after taking refreshments with our guests of honour continued to be of great assistance during the event.

One of our oldest serving members Past President Mrs Doreen Old was presented at the end of the meeting with a large bouquet of flowers by Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

On the 16th of September I was invited to speak at the SEAA long service awards at the Mayor's Residence, Abbey House, Winchester, in honour of John Miller, Tony Bateman and Ernie Chambers - between them giving 120 years of service to athletics.

My final engagement was to present the medals at the Hampshire County Championships at Dibden Inclosure. This turned out to be one of the best championships with a large turn out with many excellent performances.

I would like to thank my mentors Alan Cropp and John Lofts who gave me tremendous help and advice during my term. Not to forget Christine Weeks who never failed to answer my endless questions.

Also I would like to thank our Championship Organisers and Team Managers who have made 2011/12 so successful.

Graeme Lowndes, President Hampshire Athletic Association 2011/12