

I have enjoyed my first year as president of Hampshire Athletics. Our season opened with the Multi Events including Quad kids followed by the main track and field championships in May at Portsmouth. As someone looking at these events for the first time from the inside so to speak I was really impressed with all the behind the scenes work so essential for the smooth running of these events. So many congratulations to everyone involved including of course the many officials. The Sportshall league continues to thrive and a big thankyou to the officials who have supported this league.

The cross country championships were again held at Fairthorne Manor in excellent weather and I had the pleasure of handing out the medals to some fine athletes in particular the many young athletes perhaps competing in a championship events for the first time. Cross Country is the bed rock of endurance running and long may it continue to be so.

I know from personal experience with Southampton that the shortage of officials is becoming more and more an issue. We are all getting older including myself and new blood is required.

Eileen and Terry have decided to take more of a back seat this coming season and their huge contribution to Hampshire Athletics cannot be over estimated. I feel sure we shall continue to see them around.

It has been an honour to be your president this year

Richie Pearson