



Directors Annual Report – Colts and Juniors

The Colts section regularly have between 60 and 80 children training on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Given that a number of children choose to do “one or the other” then the actual numbers of colts training at least once a week is nearer 100.

The junior section continues to thrive with a large number of youngsters enjoying training within various training groups. This structure would appear to be working well and has recently received over 30 new athletes as the latest batch of year six athletes have moved up to the junior ranks.

A full series of **cross country** races has been held over the winter and will conclude with the Intertrust Easter Festival, where once again we will provide races for a wide range of ages up to and including under 15’s.

Quad Kids events remained the main focus for the colts section over the summer season. This focus remains in line with most clubs in the UK. We held six quad kids events over the summer months with each meeting attracting between 80-100 young athletes – including some non- club members.

It was also pleasing to see the, I think, natural extension of the Quad kids program into the junior ranks with the introduction of the three Quadrathlon style events held for the u13’s over the course of last summer. These three events were well received and well attended by the young athletes.

As mentioned in both Tom and Lee’s reports we have continued to work with **primary schools** and over the course of last summer the club hosted a primary schools inter-insular, a Saturday morning athletics meeting, the Wednesday evening XMA meeting and three “four schools” meetings. This was on top of the work done in the various primary schools and we finished the year by holding the really successful and well attended Zedra primary schools cross country event.

These events were held in addition to all the good work Tom and Lee have been doing in engaging with the various Secondary schools.

Looking ahead we will again play our full part in the Specsavers youth games where we showcase athletics to approx. 40 of the islands year 5 and 6 children who have elected to “try out” athletics as their chosen sport.

The five **holiday camps** were, again, a big success over the course of 2018 with record numbers of children attending – on one of the days early last year we had 65 children in attendance, with an average of about 40 attending most days. Accommodating this number is only made possible by the willingness of the clubs junior athletes to give up their time in a coaching capacity in order to help run these camps, so, once again, a big thank you must go to those athletes.

Waiting list and potential solution

Whilst I believe the colts (and juniors) section to be in good health the main issue which does cause me concern is the size of the waiting list (yr3 and below). This is something I am working with Tom on resolving and our current thinking is that from April we look to deliver a weekly Sunday morning athletics session for the younger age groups (year two and three).

Given that this new session would not be a week-day, and so pressures of work for most will not be an issue, we would like to think/encourage a number of parents of the children within that group to assist in delivering the sessions – with the idea being that a number remain in a coaching capacity as their children move through the age groups. Any publicity for this new group will be worded in such a way that those on the waiting list whose parent/guardian is willing to assist on the Sunday would get priority when we take on the initial batch of children.

Nick Marley

Guernsey Athletics Director – Colts and Juniors