

RUNNING BRIEFS

Team Solent

April 2004

Merger Talks

The time is fast approaching when a decision will need to be made as to whether or not to merge with Southampton City AC.

A representative group from your Committee has now met with a similar group from Southampton City on three occasions to discuss the various issues involved in any potential merger. It is clear from those discussions that there are many areas of agreement on the future structure and aims of a combined club. We have, at all times, acted in what we believe to be in the best interests of both our members and our sport. We are determined that any merger must see benefits for both of these. It is also clear that any problems we have from the dwindling number of young athletes coming into our sport, the high costs of training, travel and competitive facilities and the lack of members wanting to help at committee, coaching and management level or simply to turn out and compete are relatively minor when compared with the difficulties currently faced by our colleagues at Southampton City.

This should not, however be a cause for celebration. Any past "rivalry" should be put aside and replaced by understanding and a determination to work together for the good of athletics and each individual member, whatever their standard or ambitions. At a time when it has become common place for "junior" clubs to be set up, at the drop of a hat and with no apparent thought given to progressive coaching or competition or indeed to the future athletic careers of their members, we should look seriously at each and every opportunity we get to improve on the already high standards we have set in competition, coaching and administration. We simply cannot afford to stand still.

A merger with Southampton City may well be the best way to achieve this at this time and give us the strength to overcome future challenges. I am sure that you have questions you would like answered on any possible merger and we have attempted to address these in this Newsletter.

Nothing is final yet, we have not already agreed to a merger – any decision can and will only be taken by our membership when our discussions with Southampton City are complete.

In the meantime it is vital that you – our members – tell us what you think about any prospective merger. This is the time for you to speak up and let us know what you feel about the proposals to date. Please take the time to talk to, write or e-mail any of the Club Officers or Committee. The Team Solent E-mail address is teamsolent@hotmail.com

Team Solent Officers

Mike Smith (Chairman) Vic Novell (Vice Chairman) Alan Frederick (Treasurer) Janet Smith Secretary)

Committee

Carol Dawkins Peter Dean Rod Lock John MacInnes Paul Ridgley Coral Rogers Matt Smith

Terese Swain Bill Tindell Sandra White

Potential Merger - Your questions answered

Q: Why are the discussions with Southampton City taking so long, why could we not have merged before the start of the new Track and Field Season?

A: Quite simply the original delays resulted from internal disagreements at the Southampton City end. These were finally resolved but it was not until early in the New Year that any meaningful discussions could be held. With complex matters about finance, the constitution and competition to be dealt with there was never a realistic hope of merging before this autumn. Rushing matters would have caused problems at a later date.

Q: What will the name of any merged Club be?

A: The suggested name is Team Southampton.

Q: Will we lose our nationally recognised vests of Red & White stripes?

A: The colours will remain the same – red and white stripes.

Q: Will my subscription cost more?

A: There will be no change in the current subscription at the moment – our current rates and subscription structure is almost identical to that for Southampton City

Q: If we have an even bigger Club, with more members, will I still get competition?

A: A carefully planned programme will ensure that everyone gets sufficient competition. With more members it should be possible to turn out full teams without having to ask athletes to continually double up.

Q: What Leagues will we enter? Will we be in lower Divisions than now?

A: We will enter all the leagues which we currently compete in and the divisions will be those which we have qualified for at the end of the 2004 season. In addition we will probably re enter the Wessex Young Athletes League.

Q: How and when will a decision be made?

A: Any decision regarding a merger will be put to our members at either the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting. That will not happen until the Committee is happy that any merger has been fully explored and discussed, please check our website for progress. It is not anticipated that any merger will take place before the autumn.

Calling all Parents and Friends

Do you spend your summer supporting a member of Team Solent – perhaps your son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, husband, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend etc etc?

Do you spend long afternoons at athletic meetings or (even longer!) evenings waiting for a training session at the Sports Centre to finish?

If so then perhaps you would like to “liven up” your afternoon/evening by offering to help out at matches or on Club nights. No experience is necessary and any offers of help, for even just one evening or match, would be appreciated. From raking a jumps pit to helping man our portacabin on Club nights we can find you a job to help out. Most of our present volunteers have started by helping out in a small but valuable way – some have even outlasted the athlete they were supporting!

Please let any Club Official or Team Manager know if you can help t or come in to the Club Portacabin to chat about how you can help.

**The Club Portacabin will be open Tuesday & Thursday evenings
(subject to sufficient staffing) from 20 April onwards.
It is your Club room – please use it.**

Track News

Championship Entries

Hampshire Championships

This years Track and Field Championships will take place at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May. There are events for ages Under 13 to Senior. Entry forms are available online from The Hampshire AA website at www.hants.org.uk/athletics or via the Team Solent website at www.teamsolent.co.uk. Paper copies are also available in the Club Portacabin on Club nights as from 13 April 2004. **Entries close on Tuesday 27 April 2004**

The Hampshire AA Multi Event Championships takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 3 May 2004, at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth. Entry forms are available as for the Track and Field Championships above. There is no closing date for entries but prompt entry is advised.

South of England Track and Field Championships

Under 20, Under 17 and Under 15 Championships. These are to be staged at Woodside Stadium, Watford on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May 2004. **Entries close 13 May 2004.**

Senior Championships. These will also be held at the Woodside Stadium, Watford, this time on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June. **Entries close 7 June 2004.**

Entry forms for both of these Championships are available from the SEAA website, from the SEAA offices at 4th Floor, Marathon House, 115 Southwark St, London SE1 0JF (please enclose a SAE) or from the Team Solent Portacabin.

Please note that these are *individual* championships. Team Solent is not responsible for submitting an entry for you.

Club Kit

Need new kit for the coming track season, or just replacing mud spattered vests et seq from the Road and Country?

The Club has an extensive stock of Club vests, Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Water Bottles and Bags available.

Some items are on offer at a discounted price (limited period only) so make sure you look in at the Club portacabin for all the bargains. Any money raised from kit sales is put back into Club funds.

Alternatively please contact Carol Dawkins on 023 80860743 who will be pleased to accept your order.

Don't forget to visit the

TEAM SOLENT

Website at

www.teamsolent.co.uk

For up to date, news, results, information and ranking lists

Track Team Managers 2004

British League	-	Terese Swain Tel 023 80738873
		Adam Richardson (Tel 07941 309717)
UK Women's League	-	Coral Rogers (Tel 023 80610622)
Southern Men's League	-	Adam Richardson (1) (Tel 07941 309717)
		Matt Smith (4W) (023 80420271)
		Johm MacInnes (4W) (Tel 023 80768031)
Southern Women's League	-	Coral Rogers (Tel 023 80610622)
National Y A League	-	Terese Swain (Boys) (023 80738873)
		Girls TBA

We urgently need your help in providing assistance to our Team Managers, particularly our Young Athlete Teams. If either you or a friend or relative are prepared to help out, even just on the day of competition, please let any of the Team Managers above know. All offers of help will be gratefully accepted and guidance given.

Road & Cross Country News

Road Runners 10 - 2004

The 2004 Road Runners 10 series will see the introduction of two new courses – The Rose Bowl on 26 May and Farley Mount of 21 July. The addition of The Rose Bowl, the home of Hampshire County Cricket Club, is particularly exciting. Not only is it a highly prestigious venue but it is also the fixture that we, Team Solent, are hosting together with the Running Sisters. All races in this series are free, around four to five miles long and set in the main on wide, level courses.

Race	Date	Venue	Club	Time
1	21st April	Royal Victoria CP, Netley	Southampton RC	7.00 p.m.
2	5th May	Nature Quest, Ashurst	Totton RC	7.15 p.m.
3	19th May	Wilverley Enclosure	New Forest Runners	7.30 p.m.
4	26th May	Rose Bowl, Hampshire Cricket Club, West End	Team Solent & So'ton Running Sisters	7.30 p.m.
5	9th June	Itchen Valley CP	Winchester AC & So'ton City AC	7.30 p.m.
6	23rd June	Manor Farm CP	Eastleigh RC	7.30 p.m.
7	7th July	Fawley Enclosure	Hardley Runners	7.30 p.m.
8	21st July	Farley Mount	Wessex RR & Romsey RR	7.30 p.m.
9	4th August	Stoke Park Woods	Lordshill RC	7.30 p.m.
10	18th August	IBM Hursley Park	IBM Runners	7.15 p.m.

Hampshire Cross Country League – This has proved to be one of our best ever seasons over the Country with some fine individual and team performances. Our Senior Men dominated Division 2 and were overwhelming winners, Colin Dixon led the way finishing 2nd overall. The success of the Senior Men was matched by that of our young athletes where Chris Dennis (2nd), Scott Legg (5th) and Jamie Knapp (7th) crowned a first class season by finishing runners up in the Under 13 Boys team competition as did our Under 17 Men, led by Alex Wall-Clarke. Not to be outdone Russell North confirmed his promise by taking 2nd place in the Under 15 Boys.

Hampshire Road Relays - Unfortunately we were unable to turn out many of our better athletes even at what could be considered to be a “home fixture” at the Southampton Common. Even so those who took part battled hard and the efforts of Heather Buckingham in particular led to our Senior Women finishing a creditable 5th. The hardest working athlete of the day was undoubtedly Lara Roberts who turned out for both our women’s teams!

Hampshire Road Race League – The remaining fixtures are: May 9 Alton 10 miles, June 20 Brading 10km.

Your 2004 Club Subscription was due on 1 January 2004
If you haven't yet paid please now do so without further delay.
Sending reminders cost Team Solent valuable funds.

Payments to “Team Solent” – The Membership Secretary, 11 Blackwater Mews, Calmore, Southampton SO40 2GL