

# RUNNING BRIEFS

Team Solent

September 2004

Merger Agreed

**The Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Club** overwhelmingly agreed that Southampton City AC shall merge with Team Solent. Whilst many of those who attended regretted the necessary change of name – Team Southampton – virtually all recognised the athletic sense of combining our membership.

After final discussions with Southampton City, during which some of the points raised by our members were addressed, the merger has been given the go ahead as from **1 October 2004**.

Here are the key points about the merger:

**Membership** – All Team Solent members will automatically be transferred to membership of Team Southampton. All will be eligible to compete for the merged Club as from 1/10/2004. Any current fully paid up member of Team Solent who does not want to be a member of Team Southampton has 28 days (as from 1 October 2004) to write to the Membership Secretary (or other Officer) stating that they do not wish to be a member of the merged Club. Membership will then be treated as having ceased on 1/10/2005. Any member taking this option must still apply to the South of England Eligibility Committee for permission to compete for a new Club.

**Officers and Committee** – Team Southampton will be administered by an interim Committee until the date of the first AGM (in October 2004). Details of the Officers are set out overleaf. The composition of the committee will reflect the proportion of members of each Club at the date of merger.

**Subscriptions** – Annual subscriptions will continue to be due and payable at 1 January each year – you will need therefore to make payment on 1/1/2005. The rates payable will be the same as currently payable with Team Solent – Senior £25, Junior/Concession £15 we will also bring in a Family Membership rate of £45.

**Competition** – For winter 2004-05 Team Southampton will take part in the Hants Cross Country League, the Wessex Cross Country League, the Hants Road Race League, the Cross Country 6 League, the Hampshire Sportshall League as well as County, Regional and National Championships. The Track & Field League programme will be confirmed in due course – we will provide team competition for members of all ages and abilities.

**Kit** – The Team Southampton Club colours will be Red & White stripes as currently worn by Team Solent. The recommended shorts colour is black. Vests are available for purchase from the Membership Secretary (Carol Dawkins 023 80860743) and are presently priced at £12.

**Website & E Mail** – the current Team Solent website is being updated to reflect the merged Club. Eventually it will be accessible under [www.teamsouthampton.co.uk](http://www.teamsouthampton.co.uk); the Club can be e-mailed under [teamsouthampton@hotmail.com](mailto:teamsouthampton@hotmail.com).

**Vice Presidents & Life Members** – All current Vice Presidents and Life Members will automatically be transferred to Team Southampton. They will be given the option to give up this status with Team Southampton if they wish.

**Training/Coaching** – With a much greater pool of coaches to call upon we have already many more training and coaching options available to our members this winter. Details of these can be obtained from the Membership Secretary.

**These are the broad details. Full merger with the resultant increased opportunities and development will take us some time to complete – please be patient, you can keep up to date with our progress through the Club website.**

# News Round Up

## Winter 2003-04 Award Winners

Senior Man	<b>Colin Dixon</b>	Senior Woman	<b>Heather Buckingham</b>
Junior Man	<b>Russell North</b>	Junior Woman	<b>Emma Renouf</b>
Road Running Man	<b>Mike White</b>	Road Running Woman	<b>Lara Roberts</b>

The final Women's Southern League fixture on 11 September saw the Club complete a dismal hatrick – after the Southern Men's League Division 1 and UK NYAL they became they became the third team to be relegated this summer. Yet when you see the high standard of performance achieved by many of our members, young & old, you have to ask why this has come about? Where have we gone wrong?

In truth there is probably no one reason. Certainly the absurd fixture clashes and steadfast failure to organise the leagues in a way that benefits and encourages the athletes who take part hasn't helped. But we would be wrong to lay all the blame elsewhere; we have to recognise our own failings as well.

The fact is we had sufficient athletes "on our books" to have enabled us to escape relegation in every case. Where we have failed is in getting those athletes to move from the comfort of training to the challenge of competing. From the elite to the also rans, from the young to the mature our Team Managers were let down, time and time again.

Do not be fooled into thinking that the merger with SCAC will automatically put this right – unless we all (coaches, athletes, parents & team managers) instil a culture of "I train to **compete**" we will continue to struggle.

Athletics is an individual sport but for the vast majority it is through the Club that they get their competition. Unless we get this right the few will always have to try and cover for the many and see their performances affected accordingly. Their disappointment will be with colleagues who failed them – that is not a **TEAM** whatever the Club name may say

## Track & Field League Round-Up

BAL League (Men) Div 4	-	3rd
UK Women's League Div 2	-	4th
Southern Men's League Div 1	-	22nd
Southern Men's League Div 4	-	8th
Southern Women's League	-	22nd
National YA League Div 1 (SW)	-	14th

## Club Records Set in 2004

Women's 1500m  
**Ceri Mitchell**  
**4.30. 0 mins**

Women's Javelin  
**Katy Watts**  
**49.83 metres**

Women's 4x400m Relay  
**Ruth Brereton, Emma Duck,**  
**Sian Scott, Melanie Purkiss**  
**3.43.4 mins**

## Team Southampton

**President** – Mr Alan Pascoe  
**President Emeritus** – Mrs Doreen Old

**Chairman** - Mr Mike Smith  
**Vice Chairmen** - Mrs Christine Benning & Mr Vic Novell

**General Secretary** – Miss Janet Smith (023 80463384)

**Treasurer** – Mrs Margaret Tizzard

**Membership Secretary** – Miss Carol Dawkins (023 80860743)