

Isle of Man Athletics Association - Island Games Report

Team Management & Administration

In December 2009 I was appointed the Manager for the Island Games Athletics Team, taking over from Andy Fox who had been Manager for the last two Games. I immediately persuaded Di Shimell to continue as Assistant Manager as I felt I required someone with experience on the team. Di has indicated this will be her last Games as a member of management. Andy Watson was also immediately approached to ensure continued support in his role as Team Masseur, which I felt was important given the intimate nature of his skills and the comfort he provides to all the athletes.

In February 2010 a presentation night was held at the Claremont to launch the team preparation and to get athletes to buy into the plan as early as possible. The Selection Criteria and Guidelines were also launched and thus provided the athletes with the targets they needed to achieve.

In September adverts were placed through the IOMAA website for interested parties for the remaining assistant manager roles. Danaa Callow and Richard Sille both approached me for information and were subsequently appointed as Assistant Managers in October. Danaa, along with Di will primarily look after the sprinters and girls and Richard the Middle Distance athletes and the boys.

There is a requirement for a further person to look after the field athletes however at this stage nobody has shown any interest and thus the position remains open. I will ensure everyone gets the appropriate support they require.

The current management structure provides the right blend of experience and skills to take the team forward to beyond the 2013 Games.

Since appointment I have attended all of the IGAM meetings as the athletics representative and have completed and forwarded to IGAM our Development Plan and Targets for the Games. Such reports are completed for each games and our Team funding relies on it. It is my understanding that the athletics report was one of the better ones received. I have also received over 200 emails which have all been responded to!

Selection and Team Make up

It is my intention that we will be taking a team of 30, made up of 5 managers (including Andy Watson) and 25 athletes. Final names will have to be provided in April 2011 at a date yet to be confirmed.

Team selection will therefore take place early April 2011, again the date has yet to be decided. It will be left as late as practical to allow athletes to show fitness during very early season meetings.

At this point we have 34 full guideline times/distances along with a further 7 development guidelines across 23 athletes which is excellent given the lack of facilities this season.

Fund Raising

We have taken a two Games approach to fund raising as we look towards Bermuda 2013 as an expensive challenge and at this very early stage I have indicated to IGAM that athletics will be fully supporting the Bermuda Games.

The following events have been organised by the committee

- Oompah Band (July)
- IOMAA Dinner (September – but cancelled)

- Bag Packing (December)
- Individual donations
- Raffles etc

Unfortunately the events put on for the athletes have not been well supported and we require new faces on the fundraising committee.

Sponsorship

Early in 2010 I approached Appleby with regard to sponsorship of athletics and initially their response looked promising however after they changed marketing managers they lost interest. This highlighted our need to “package” our sponsorship opportunities and to be able to move quickly to secure deals when they present themselves. I continue to look for suitable sponsorship partners.

Training and Preparation

In co-ordination with Gianni Epifani, the IOMAA Head of Performance and Trevor Christian, the Athletics Development Officer potential Island Games athletes have had access to the Elite athletes programme and have fully supported all that has been put on for them. These include:

- Strength and Conditioning – weekly sessions which included a free screening to highlight areas of weakness. These have been very well attended by approx 24 athletes over two, one hour weekly sessions.
- Elite Training Day – KWC – a full day of activity for all senior athletes.

In addition to the training provided the Elite Athlete Education Programme was also well supported and included:

- Drugs Presentation
- Nutrition Talk
- Planning / Preparation

I will continue to look for opportunities for the athletes to advance themselves over the coming months to ensure that all of them have every opportunity for success at Island Games. I am pleased with the support I have received from the athletes and coaches in this my first year and I look forward to the Games next year with real optimism. The squad’s team spirit is second to none.

Anthony Brand
Island Games Team Manager