Hi Clubs! Well...it’s been a while! By now all ‘winter’ clubs are in full swing, while the ‘summer only’ clubs are having a well-earned break before they kick back into action over the next couple of months. Since the last newsletter lots has been happening at Athletics NZ with the big change being the CEO. In February Scott Newman left Athletics NZ after 7 years and last Monday we welcomed the new CEO Linda Hamersley to the office. In case you missed the article on her in last week’s Athletics in Action check it out here.

The community sport team have been working hard over the last couple of months on developing strategies for growing Athletics at grassroots. A meeting was held last month with centre representatives from around New Zealand on alignment and regional priorities. Athletics NZ will be working with each centre to create a regional community sport plan based on each centres priorities.

It’s been awesome to see over the last couple of months the mass participation athletics events happening throughout NZ. Last month Wellington held an Active Post Get Set Go event for 600 5-6 year olds which worked as a great way to promote the programme in the region. In May Athletics NZ had record numbers competing at the Lion Foundation 50th Rotorua Marathon and in this issue read about how regions around NZ got involved and celebrated World Athletics Day. Thanks to all those involved in organising these events and promoting Athletics to their local communities.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to sneak in a wee reminder about two key events coming up. Read about the Athletics NZ Club Connect Conference and the Athletics NZ Levy Road Show in this issue. They are both great opportunities for clubs to hear from Athletics NZ and have their say about the future. We would love to see you all there!

Cat O’Sullivan

Athletics NZ Levy Road Show

In late 2013 a working group was formed to review the Association Levy. The Working Group purpose was to assess the current model, identify other options and agree preferred options. The Working Group was made up of Athletics NZ members, staff and board.

We will be presenting the proposed model at presentations in late July. The purpose of these presentations is to hear member’s feedback on the proposal. An overview of the feedback will be presented at the Club Connect Conference along with next steps.

Below is the list of scheduled dates for each Centre.

We encourage all member clubs to attend these presentations – your feedback is critical to the review process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 July</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
<td>John Walker Lounge, Mt Smart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 July</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Taranaki</td>
<td>TET Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Otago</td>
<td>Caledonian Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Manawatu Wanganui</td>
<td>Colin Gemmell Room, Massey Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 July</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Hawkes Bay Gisborne</td>
<td>Napier Harriers Clubrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 July</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Waikato Bay of Plenty</td>
<td>Cambridge Clubrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Wellington</td>
<td>Olympic Harriers Clubrooms,</td>
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<td>30 July</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Southland</td>
<td>St Pauls Clubrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>Port Hills Clubrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 – 10 August</td>
<td>Club Connect Conference (including Athletics NZ AGM) - Christchurch</td>
<td>Addington Race Course, Christchurch</td>
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July 2014
NZ Celebrates World Athletics Day

World Athletics Day is celebrated in New Zealand and 123 other countries around the world during the month of May. Its main purpose is to promote Athletics participation through clubs and schools. The IAAF World Athletics Day is the sport’s annual worldwide festival of youth and is one of the busiest programmes of competitions in the Athletics calendar. When it began in 1996, it was exclusively planned for youngsters who were members of clubs affiliated to IAAF Member Federations but in recent years the scope of the project has broadened to include the participation of school children in team competitions. This year New Zealand had 4 regions get amongst World Athletics Day celebrations.

Christchurch
The Children’s Forest Relays, hosted by Christchurch Avon club, are one of the early cross country events on the calendar and was used to promote World Athletics Day 2014. In addition, a Kids Athletics exhibition including 5 different IAAF Kids Athletics activities was set up for participating athletes and supporting siblings to have a go at either before or after their leg in their teams relay. World Athletics Championship athlete Angie Smit was invited along to distribute the prizes and sign t-shirts and posters. Angie is always popular with the athletes and was very happy to be involved.

Wellington
The World Athletics Day promotion was linked to the first event in Wellington’s Kids Cross Country Series. 375 children aged 5 to 13 competing on the day at Karori Park in Wellington. The event was hosted by the Karori Amateur Athletic Club in partnership with Athletics Wellington.

Auckland
Sixty kids from two local schools participated in an IAAF Kids Athletics team’s competition that included 5 different Running, Jumping and Throwing activities and included a Nestle Nutrition Zone. At this station the kids were given healthy snacks of Bananas, Oranges and water, while Nestle reps presented nutritional information to the kids to take home with them. The aim of the event was to link a local Auckland Club with its feeder schools by providing the opportunities for the kids to come to the club and participate in an IAAF Kids Athletics Team competition. We had volunteers from the Bays Athletics Club with Athletics Auckland delivering the event. All the kids enjoyed themselves and both schools expressed interest in using the programme in their school this coming summer.

Dunedin
A massive 310 Kids turned out to participate in a IAAF Kids Athletics Competition at the Forsyth Barr Stadium. Like the Auckland event the kids also enjoyed a snack and drink at the Nestle Zone, while receiving information about healthy food habits. Several local children’s athletics clubs provided volunteers on the day. This was a perfect opportunity for the clubs to promote themselves to primary school children. In addition to this, 35 secondary school students from two local secondary schools assisted during the day. Thanks to Athletics Otago and the staff at Sport Otago for organising such a great event.
New Member Club Registration Process

As you are probably aware Athletics New Zealand has introduced a new Member Club Registration process this year. We’ve gone online!! The purpose of the online registration form is to gather up-to-date contact details for each club to improve our communication with all clubs. The form takes around 10 minutes to fill out and requires clubs to enter key club contacts (E.g. President name and email address). The new process also gives clubs the option of paying their Member Club Fee online using a credit card or alternatively receiving an invoice with payment instructions once the form is filled out.

By now all clubs will also have received a log on for their club portal. This allows any club to update their primary contact details and manage club membership at any time. If you need more information on this please contact your centre registrar.

To be eligible to be vote at the Athletics NZ AGM on 9 August in Christchurch, you will need to have filled in the online registration form and paid the Member Club Fee by 10 June 2014. A list of these clubs can be found on the Athletics NZ Website.

If you haven’t registered your club yet...not to worry! Your club can still attend the Athletics NZ Club Connect 2014 Conference – A great opportunity to hear from Athletics NZ and what we can offer your club. Thanks to the 105 Clubs that have already gone through the process, we understand it’s a new/different process, so thanks for your cooperation.

Club Connect Conference

August 8 – 10, 2014. Addington Race Course – Lincoln Road, Christchurch

Partnerships, collaboration and the sharing of ideas, we believe, are the key to unlocking success at grass roots. So we’ve created an opportunity for all clubs to get together and share! This year’s Athletics NZ Club Connect Conference aims to provide insight and direction for clubs and regional associations so together we can grow Athletics and make it AWESOME for everyone involved!

We have an exciting and interactive programme planned that will take clubs through a pathway to success and get them thinking about the role they play in their community.

Are we all on the same page? We will take a look at the participant...the key reason we do what we do! Why do THEY do athletics?