

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 48

"56ers Torchbearers Club Inc"

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



Greetings fellow torchbearers and partners,

I trust you are all in good spirits and preparing for the festive season. I am happy to report the AGM was well attended and followed by lunch and a social gathering. All executive positions remain unchanged for the following year.

Montanna McAvoy, the young lady our club assisted recently has forged ahead with her running career, winning a number of titles on her way to State success and was chosen to represent Queensland at the Institute of Sport's Training Clinic in Canberra. In our last newsletter, I spoke of our Editor's unselfish commitment to newsletter and it would remiss of me not mention the contribution Bill Cummings, his wife Janet and son Andrew make to our club. All club meetings from day one have been held at Bill's office and he being a much sought after and well respected economist in the Far North makes him a very busy man. The club would not function without the Cummings family commitment.

There were a number of interesting suggestions brought forward at the AGM that will give the Committee something to ponder over, two off the top of my head were the forthcoming 60th Anniversary of the Torch Relay which will fall in 2016

and another being the direction the Club will take into the future as our members make their inevitable way to the long paddock.

On a lighter note I would like to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a vigorous and Happy New Year.

Regards

Jim Vallely

President.

The President has requested that the letter of appreciation from Montanna McAvoy be reproduced in the newsletter.

Dear Mr Vallely,

I am writing to thank you and your committee for your very kind donation of \$500 to help with travel costs when I go down to Brisbane for the QLD Secondary Schools Track and Field Championships. It was a very kind donation and it is very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank you for your kind words about my performance at the NQ games in your newsletter and your attendance at the Peninsula Schools Region Championships where you saw me run my 1500m. For the committees information I wish to advise that I broke both the 800m and 1500m record and ran under record time in the 400m to claim silver. The 1500m record was 12 years old and I took 18 secs off it to run a pb of 4:43 and a pb in the 800m of 2:19 as well as a pb in the 400m of 1:03.

I also wish to advise the committee that I have been chosen to represent QLD at the **National Athletics Training Camp** to be conducted at the **Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra** from the 29th September till the 2nd October. I have been selected by Athletics Australia for middle distance athletics

and will have the amazing opportunity to train under the guidance of Richard Huggins and Ian Hatfield both of whom have just been to the Commonwealth Games in charge of our representative middle distance athletes. I am so excited and will be training daily with them for around two and a half hours. Around 140 athletes from across all states in Australia will be attending this camp.

My family and I very much appreciate your support and I look forward to continue to promote the 56'ers at the NQ Games to be conducted in Cairns in 2 years' time. It was a really great honor to win that race at the NQ Games and something I trained hard to do in recognition of my granddad.

Please pass on my sincere appreciation to the committee and I promise I'll continue to train hard to achieve the best possible results I can in Brisbane.

Thank you,
Montanna Mc Avoy.

FORMER OLYMPIC GAMES

Mexico City 1968

Apparently politics, sex, commercialism and sport dominated the XIXth Olympiad held in Mexico City. As the city is some 7,347 feet above sea level in rarefied air and it takes something like a month for a person to become accustomed to living there. This decision was made by the IOC in Baden Baden and it excited no special interest until the Swedish coach of Abebe Bikila said 'There will be those who will die'. But the games went ahead.

In addition to the altitude problem the World of power politics entered the scene when the armies of the Warsaw Pact entered Czechoslovakia to suppress the liberal Dubcek regime. The IOC was concerned at the increasing commercialization of the Olympic movement. There appeared markings on the shoes of some athletes. But there was nothing the IOC could do about it. Internal matters in Mexican politics arose with violent riots breaking out that were ruthlessly repressed. In spite of all this, the games commenced on the 12th October 1968 with troops arranged outside the stadium. The Mexican president opened the Games and the first

woman - Enriquetta Basilio-lit the Olympic Flame. The lady also ran for Mexico in the 400m event.

The 10,000m even was held as usual on the last day of the games and the altitude fear expressed before the games materialized as the time of the event was 1 minute 48 seconds slower than Ron Clarke's world record. The race was won by Temu Naftali from Kenya. Ron Clarke collapsed after finishing 6th and was given oxygen.

There was only one Australian male to win a gold medal and that was Ralph Doubell. Doubell defied the reality of the Mexican atmosphere and won in 1:44.3. Ralph's story and life was reproduced in newsletter 46.

Peter Norman was placed second in the 200m behind Tommy Smith of the USA. Another American Carlos won bronze and the victory ceremony was spoilt by an unsavoury incident with the two Americans raising their gloved hands in the black power salute-the Americans were sent home. Norman's story was included in newsletter 38.

Maureen Caird won gold in the women's 80m hurdles. Maureen was only 17 years old and beat her more experienced team mate Pam Kilborn to become the youngest Olympic athletics champion ever.

Al Oerter -discus-won his fourth gold medal in successive games for his performance to be the most acclaimed feat. Al tossed the discus 212ft 6.5 inches that was the best throw of three previous Olympic Games in which he won gold medals.

Al Oerter attended the 50th anniversary of the Melbourne Olympics.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD COE.

Contributed by Mark Rowell

Sebastian Coe was born on the 29th September 1956 at the Queen Charlotte Hospital Hammersmith London and is a British politician and former track and field athlete of high regard.

Coe won four Olympic medals including the 1500m gold at the Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984 Olympics. He also won silver medals in both these

Olympic events. He won four medals varying from bronze in 1978 to gold in 1986 in the European Athletics Championships.



He set eight outdoor and three distance track events. This included setting three World records in 41 days in 1979. His world record set in the 800m in 1981 was not broken until 1997. Coe had significant rivals in fellow Britain's Steve Ovett and Steve Cram.

Coe first caught the attention of the public in March 1977 when he competed in the European Indoor Championships front running the whole race and winning in 1:46.54. He ran in the Emsley Carr mile in August 1977 out sprinting Filbert Bayi of Tanzania in the home straight and winning in 3:57.7.

The full story of Lord Coe will continue in newsletter 49 in 2015.

The original Athens Olympics 1896

It is rare to have photographs of the original Olympics in Athens in 1896 but thanks to Tony Stevens (9 miles South of Newcastle) the editor has received a photo of some of the marathon runners in those Olympics. It is understood the runners are Greek.



WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM

TAMSYN MANOU (nee LEWIS.)

Tamsyn was born and raised in Melbourne and attended the Methodist Ladies College and Caulfield Grammar School. Both her mother and father were champion athletes with mother (Carolyn Wright) a six times national high jump champion. Father Greg reached the semi-finals in the 200m at the Mexico City Games. Tamsyn who was a middle distance athlete won a total of 17 Australian Championships at 400m, 800m and 400m hurdles.

She has been an Australian international representative since 1994. She entered the World Indoor Championships in March 2008 in the 800m event. She qualified for the final in a time of 2:01.85. In a tactical final she broke away from perennial champion Maria de Lurdes Mutola to win the gold medal in a major upset.

Tamsyn has been assisted by a number of well-known coaches including Peter Fortune (Kathy Freemans coach), Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson. Lewis married Australian cricketer Graham Manou in 2011.

Lewis began her career in 1994 winning several events at the Australian championships-the under 16 100m and 200m double and the under 20 400m. After those brilliant performances she was chosen age 14 to represent Australia in the 1994 Commonwealth Games as a 4x400m relay runner although she did not compete in the event.



Tamsyn in full flight in a 400m event in Australian colours.

Light a candle for a clear festive season.



JOKERS CORNER

The cat that went to Heaven.

God met her cat the Pearly Gates and said, 'you have been a good at all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking'.

The cat thought for a minute and then said 'all my life I have lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on.'

God said, 'say no more.'

Instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.'

A few days' later six mice were killed in an accident and they all went to Heaven together.

God met the mice at the Pearly Gates with the same offer that he made to the cat.

The mice said, 'Well we have had to run from cats, dogs and even people with brooms. If we could just have some little skate boards, we would not have to run again.

God answered, 'It is done.'

All the mice had beautiful skate boards.

About a week later God decided to check the cat. He found it sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, 'is everything okay? Are you happy?'

The cat replied, 'oh it is wonderful. I have never been so happy in my life'.

'The pillow is so fluffy, and those little meals on wheels you have been sending me are delicious'

Stopped at Customs.

A Britisher fresh off the plane at Sydney airport, is trying to negotiate Australian customs. Finally when it is his turn to get his passport stamped, the customs officer starts rattling off the usual questions.

CO: How long do you intend to stay?

Britisher: One week.

CO: What is the nature of your trip?

Britisher: Business

CO: Do you have any past criminal convictions?

Britisher: I didn't think we still needed to.

The editor joins with the president and management committee in wishing fellow 56'ers a Holy and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Kind Regards.

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IMPORTANT – ENTERING THE ELECTRONIC AGE

Most 56ers come from an era when computers and the internet would have been a “figment of imagination”. Today it is with us, opening up new opportunities for communication at low cost.

The Club has set up its own email address admin@56ers.net.au and is looking into setting up a website www.56ers.org.au.

If you have an email address, could you please either send an email giving that address to our new email address at admin@56ers.org.au (or) advise your email address when you post in subscription below.

If you don't have an email address, don't worry, the Torchbearer and notice will continue to be posted out to you.

For those with internet banking facilities, please note that subscriptions can now be sent by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer), see subscription notice below for details.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The membership fee is now due. This was unchanged at the AGM so still stands at \$10 per annum.

EFT - Bank details for electronic funds transfer –

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633-108

Account: 117343277

Account Name: 56's Olympic Torchbearers Club Inc

(or) POST - (tear off remittance below for cheque / money order / cash)

Secretary/Treasurer

The 56ers Olympic Torchbearers Club Inc

PO Box 2148

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Attached please find annual subscription of \$10

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Tel No. _____