



UQ ATHLETICS CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 / 2024

I am pleased to be able to report on the activities of the UQ Athletic Club for the 2023 / 2024 season as well as highlighting accomplishments in the months since March of 2024. The activities of 2023 / 2024 season revolved around training and competition. Many club athletes train at the UQ Athletics Centre, but others train at facilities around Brisbane. The Club conducted three winter All Comer Meets in 2023, and QLD Athletics conducted a full summer season of club and championship events – the State Relays Championships for cross country and track and field and the State individual Championships for both cross country and track and field. This report will highlight the activities of the Club for the year.

UQAC ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023 / 2024

Strategic Plan: After our treasurer, Larry Hude, took us through the process of formulating a Strategic Plan in 2022 developing strategies and objectives for programs and activities that the committee could undertake, it was unfortunate the committee didn't take the next step of developing business plans to achieve many of these strategies and objectives. Larry's idea was that the Plan would be a rolling Plan, so the framework is in place for future committees to roll out Plans for objectives and strategies identified. Once again, the Club acknowledges the effort that Larry put in to developing the Strategic Plan for the Club.

Membership: Membership numbers were very positive at the end of the QA 2023 / 24 summer season. The Club had a membership of 236 members. This membership was made up of 26 UQ students, UQ Alumni, 1 UQ staff, 120 Junior members, 85 general public and 1 volunteer. By the time of our Annual General meeting our membership was up to 282 members. The Winter All Comers Meet Series seems to be the catalyst for membership through the winter.

A point to highlight for the following year is that QA requires committee members to register as volunteers with QA. This should be highlighted with the new committee..



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Competitions: The main reason most members join the club is so that they can compete at the inter club competitions (Shield meets) and state and national championships. Queensland Athletics no longer conduct the club challenge with the Shield meets but judging by the number of athletes in the Club uniform, I would suggest the club was well represented at the Shield meets.

The Club again paid the registration fee for relay teams' entry into the State Relay Championships. A points tally was not calculated for the State Relay Championships, but the club entered 32 events, up from 12 in 2022. The Club scored 13 gold, 8 silver and 4 bronze from the relays entered.

The Club also paid the registration for team entry into the State Cross Country Relay Championships. Jayden Russ agreed to be the point of contact for teams and individuals wanting to be part of a team. Thank you to Jayden for this service. The Club entered seven teams and took out 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 3 bronze from the teams entered.

Again, this year the Club had very good representation at the State championships, with many outstanding performances, and many going on to represent the state at both the junior and senior national championships in Adelaide.

Australian University Games: The UNISport National Championships were again conducted at the end of the athletic season (April) rather than in September with the other sports. Once again, these championships were staged after the AA Nationals, and were conducted at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast, so this made it easier for UQ students to attend the championships. The Team Manager Taige Hooper did a great job of encouraging participation and had a team of over 40 athletes in attendance – the team was even larger than 2023 when we said the largest team in many years. UQ placed 3rd in the Women's Division and placed 2nd, by one point to University of Sydney, in the Men's Division.

The following were noteworthy performances:

- Ryan Neale gold in Men's 110m H
- Toby Stolberg gold in Women's High Jump
- Edward Rogan gold in Men's Javelin
- Rory Easton silver in Men's 100m
- Haneefa Rane silver in Women's Pole Vault
- Taige Hooper silver in men's 400m
- Hannah Edwards silver in Women's Discus
- Claudia Chapman silver in Women's 400m H



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- Silver in 4 x 400m Mixed Relay
- Alexander Arbuthnot bronze in men's Pole Vault
- William Gilmore bronze in Men's Hammer Throw
- Hannah Edwards bronze in Women's Hammer Throw
- Rory Easton bronze in Men's 200m
- William Gilmore bronze in Men's Discus
- Claudia Legge bronze in Women's javelin
- Bronze in Men's 4 x 100m R
- Bronze in Women's 4 x 100m R

International Representation: After the National Cross Country Championships in February, the following Club athletes were selected to represent Australia in the U20 Men's 8km race in the 'World Athletics' Cross Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia – Jack Coomber, Charlie Moore and Seth Mahony. The Club provided \$500 in financial assistance to Jack and Seth.

After the National Championships Eloise Grigg and Isabelle Palmer were selected to represent Australia at the U18 Oceania Championships in Fiji. The Club provided \$400 in financial assistance to each of these athletes.

The Club is proud to report that two of its members – Cara Feain-Ryan in the 3,000m Steeplechase and Tori West in the Heptathlon were selected to represent Australia at the Paris Olympics.

Awards: The UQ Sport Blues Award dinner took place at Customs House in November of 2023. The Club is pleased to report that Jeremy Hunt was awarded a Full Blue and Monique Hanlon and Lachlan Kenedy were awarded Half Blues.

The 2004 Annual Sports Awards took place in early April at the Boat Shed at the Regatta. The Club was unsuccessful in winning any awards at this event.

Club Member's Funding: The Club continued from the past two years the following funding for club members:

- Open athletes who showed evidence of wearing the Club uniform at the nationals were given a grant of \$100.
- As mentioned earlier the athletes to the World Junior Cross Country and Oceania Championships received funding to these events.



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- **‘John Howes’ Fund:** Just to recap the ‘John Howes’ Fund was set up by an anonymous club alumnus who offered to donate an initial \$1000, plus a minimum of \$200 every year for the next twenty years to establish a fund that will make small awards to disadvantaged members of the UQ Athletics Club who are deemed to deserve it. During 2003 /2004 the Club provided funding to Club members Holly Story (\$220 towards coaching fees), Lillian Fraser (\$300 towards equipment), Acacia and Minaya Wohlsen (\$290 towards training fees).

NOTE: At each Annual General Meeting three people should be appointed to administer the Fund – the club president, the club captain and a club coach. This committee should meet twice a year to consider whether any small grants should be made. Any grants that are made in any calendar year should be recorded in the minutes of the Annual General meeting.

Coaching: The Club is really well staffed across all events with coaches who have agreed to put their name forward as coaches aligned with the club. I do want to acknowledge the following coaches who have provided that coaching service to the Club – Eric Brown, Luke Donatini, Rajeev Balakrishnan, Kerry Schreiber, Andre Sinclair, Trish Boyle, Paul Circosta, Alyssa Kapranov, and Noel McBride.

Communication: I believe communication continues to improve through social media platforms. I want to commend Natalie Ottway for her work on promoting the club through social media. Tori West continues to be engaged on the web site maintenance and continues to improve the presentation of the web site..

The Club engaged the services of Shaun Moon from Shaun Moon Photography to take photos of athletes at the State Championships in March. Shaun’s task was made easier as more athletes were wearing uniform – most in the new purple uniform. The club was presented with quite an array of photos that were presented through social media.

This exercise of engaging Shaun Moon is quite expensive. The committee has suggested that the new committee investigate whether the club can engage one of the many photographers that take photos at the various QA events to allow the club access to their photos, and have them get photos of club members in uniform

Uniform: The take up of the new Club uniform continues. The online uniform shop is opened three times a year. For members who have their order delivered to the track, they are advised when their order arrives, and they are able to pick it up through UQ Sport staff during training hours.



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Finances: The Club continues to be in a strong financial position, even with a major expenditure highlighted below. Larry Hude continued the financial control that all the previous treasurers adopted. He has also set up reporting systems that give a current picture and 'report into future forecasts'. Larry has decided that family commitments will not allow him to continue in the treasurer's position and so will be standing down. I want to thank him for his service to the club.

Most of the Club's income does come from club membership. However, the Club had the opportunity to host three Winter Series All Comers Meet in August and September and delivered the 1500m Classic in October. The income generated from these Meets is equivalent to what the Club generates in membership registrations.

- **Infield Clock** – With a strong financial position the Club decided to purchase an infield clock / scoreboard from the Brook Group that interfaces with the Lynx photofinish system. This was an expenditure of almost \$15,000, but it will be a great benefit to meets conducted at the track. UQ Sport agreed to assist with the project by purchasing a stand for the clock.

Sports and Recreation Grant Money: The Club had a small Grant of \$2000 for education, coaching or equipment. These funds were expended conducting three Come and Try sessions for students at the Brisbane South State Secondary College and the remaining went towards the purchase of the infield clock / scoreboard.

Relationship With UQ Sport: As indicated above UQ Sport has funded the stand for the infield clock / scoreboard. UQ Sport Marketing funded a sign that appears prominently in the grandstand indicating that the UQ Athletic Centre is the home of the UQ Athletics Club. After meeting with UQ Sport a couple years ago, the Club is still waiting for the upgrade of the Meeting Room to provide a trophy cabinet for the club's trophies, bring honour boards up to date and provide a screen for live streaming opportunities.

CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING YEAR

The challenges highlighted in 2023 for 2024 continue to be the challenges highlighted in 2024 for 2025:

- Roll over the Strategic Plan to address the strategies and objectives not yet achieved.
- Continue develop Business Plans under the 3 – Year Rolling Strategic Plan, and then deliver these plans for the betterment of the Club
- Continue to improve communication through emails to club members, other social media platform updates and maintaining the web site.



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- Continue to explore ways of improving the culture of the club so it is not only a conduit to compete at QA events.
- Explore ways of involving membership in the operation of the club - this could be in such areas as coaching, officiating, or helping out with fund raising.
- Continue to apply for Grants or engage with UQ Sport to improve the facility that is home to the Club.
- Explore ways of investing finances generated through membership and other means back into the Club and its members.

Acknowledgement: In conclusion, I want to offer the following acknowledgments:

- I would like to thank the 2023 / 2024 committee represented by Caitlin Sargent-Jones (secretary), Larry Hude (treasurer), Callum Davies and Taige Hooper (Student Reps/Captains), Andre Sinclair (Vice Chair / Coaches Rep), Natalie Otway (Social Media Rep), Taige Hooper – (Club Captain / UNI Nationals Team Manager), Eric Brown and Callum Davies - Committee Members for their contribution to the club this past year. I would like to acknowledge and thank Larry Hude and Natalie Otway, who are standing down, for their service to the club. The Club owes a great debt of thanks to Caitlin Sargent Jones who stood down earlier in the year, for her long service to the Club as an athlete, coach, official and especially administrator. For her service I recommend Caitlin be given Life Membership. For those who continue on the committee, if I return to the Chairman position, I look forward to working with you for another year. However, I must indicate if I am returned this will be my last year in the Chairman's position, and the new committee must engage in a process of finding new members to take up positions to run the Club.
- Finally, an acknowledgement to Tori West for the work she does for us with the web site and other marketing material. The club is fortunate to have her services and I recommend we engage her again for 2024/25.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Brandt
President UQAC



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