

Chairman's Report 2007/8

It was David Metherill's year as Chairman that made me feel that I lacked sufficient gravitas to do this job. I remember attending committee meetings where his ability to quell frivolous chatter by means of a withering look of disdain made me feel like a naughty child.

However, through the course of this year, I've come to regard chairing these meetings as much the same as dealing with my Year 10 English class; a sharp suit (and occasionally a sharp tongue) seem to do the trick, even with the most periphrastic of committee members. You know who you are!

To say I've enjoyed the time in the chair is a total understatement. Having been involved with the Association for twenty two years, it has been a tremendous privilege to be consulted on all the decision-making; the day-to-day business and the trickier stuff too.

I must pay tribute, on behalf of all of us, to the fantastic work undertaken by the officers - Les as a peerless treasurer, Pat as the David Bailey of Somerset athletics - that wretched camera of hers was the reason I joined the gym in July! As for Dick, I already had a pretty good idea of what he gets up to, just not perhaps how long it takes!

And then we come to Brian. I've had such fun working with this man - he is calm, measured, good humoured and totally unflappable, and his skills should never be underestimated by any of us. I will miss the emails and phone calls, chewing over pithy problems and delicate details.

I've delighted in our continued success in cross country, been impressed by our determination to punch above our weight at track and field, and marveled at the incredible ability of our combined-eventers.

Every single one of you in this room this evening, together with a significant number who can't be here tonight; it's down to you that this Association is so successful, and, to me, so special. I thank you most sincerely for all the hard work and dedication and I am immensely grateful that you afforded me the honour of being your chairman-absolutely wonderful, thank you!

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