

Introduction:

Due to Covid restrictions throughout most of the 2021-2022 season, we had another challenging year. The CMA AGM was delayed from August until the 12th September 2021. A small group gathered the St Luke's Union Church Hall in Halswell, with the venue being organised by Lois Anderson. The future of CMA was discussed as the on-going trend seems to be fewer members joining CMA and fewer Canterbury club masters competing at the track & field meetings. While there were suggestions about promoting ourselves better, offering 'have a go day', it required a coordinated approach and a group willing to take on the role.

The Opening Day of the fourth track & field season at Ngā Puna Wai occurred on 16th October 2021. There were 113 competitors, eight of whom were masters. This attendance was down on previous seasons, but being the last weekend of the school holidays, this would have impacted on attendance of our younger athletes.

This season we had one event of significance.

South Island Track & Field Championships:

This year, the meeting was again held in Dunedin. This time Otago Masters were able to run with the generic programme, with a few minor changes. Therefore, track events occurred on the Friday night. There were about 70 competitors, with a few coming down from the North Island, due to their event being cancelled due to Covid. Next season the event will be held in Canterbury, but late in January due to the change of date for the 2023 NZMA Championships, now being held in early December 2022.

NZMA Track & Field Championships:

Due to Covid gathering restriction of 100 per group, introduced in early February 2022, the NZMA Track & Field Championships due to be held in mid-March 2022 were cancelled. While this decision was disappointing, it was the most pragmatic decision at the time, given there was no way of knowing what the infection rate would have been in mid March. The rescheduled time for the 2022 event is now 2-4 December 2022, still in Wellington. There will be no event in March 2023. The reasons behind this decision were outlined in a Special NZMA AGM held on Sunday 22nd May 2022.

NZMA Board Up-date:

Currently I am still on the Board as President. Given NZMA is only responsible for organising their own track & field championships, it has been a relatively quiet year due to the Covid restrictions impacting on which events could go ahead. Both the Indoor and North Island events were cancelled.

However, work continues in the background to ensure the future of Masters' athletics within the New Zealand summer season, which is becoming very congested during the months of February / March. Following a survey to 670 members (139 replies), the NZMA Board received a clear mandate as to the direction the organisation should go, that is to work more closely with Athletics NZ. Consequently, the NZMA Board has been in discussions with Athletics NZ, reviewing the MOU created in 2016. The main reason behind this initiative is to ensure that our championship events have a greater presence and by using Athletic NZ to promote our events, this is more likely to happen. More information about the outcome of the talks will be made available ASAP.

Athletics Canterbury & Nga Puna Wai Sports Hub:

This season my role was to promote & organise the online entries for interclub and create the seeded timed programme prior to the competition day. The system works well and assists the Centre. Based on the number of entries, they are able to co-ordinate the available officials to manage the events that are on.

During the season, Anne & Rick Davison continued to 'look after' our maturing group of throwers, by organising events either prior to the interclub meetings or on a Wednesday or Sunday. I know this was

greatly appreciated by this group. It also relieved some of the pressure off the senior interclub throwing events. It also provided an opportunity for athletes from Otago to join in and I know some of our throwers headed south to compete there too.

Athletics Canterbury is always looking for new officials. It would be great if more CMA members would come forward to help, and not just leave it up the 'regular' few who already undertake this role.

CMA 2021 / 2022 Membership Details:

The previous membership figures are as follows: 160 (2010), 131 (2011), 110 (2012), 97 (2013), 82 (2014), 70 (2014/2015), 90 (2015/2016). All of these figures include members of clubs & NZMA.

Since the MOU in 2016, we have two separate groups. CMA members who only join NZMA have been as follows: 32 (2016/2017), 13 (2017/2018), 22 (2018/2019), 22 (2019/2020), 11 (2020/2021) & **14 (2021/2022)**.

Once again a majority of masters (**200+ within clubs**) do not come near Nga Puna Wai? When these non-stadia runners are asked why they do not compete, the common answer seems to be that they do not like running around in circles. It would be good to investigate alternative events that could be held at Nga Puna Wai, such as mixed relays on a different day of the week, to see that is of interest. The events could start and finish on the track, and involve running around the surrounding area. I am happy to hear other people's ideas.

The success of our sport relies on us encouraging ANZ masters to attend our events and working together as one group.

CMA 2021 - 2022 Championship Review:

The major CMA Championship events were again held within the Athletics Canterbury Track & Field Championships (Friday night / Saturday afternoon). Given NPW has numerous throwing circles, we were able to timetable masters only events. We did self-manage some events, but also had some assistance from Centre officials. Thank you once again to Anne & Rick Davison for coordinating the master's throwing events.

CMA Records:

This season, Janis Russell collated the CMA records. While Janis does look through meeting results for records, I remind athletes that it is your responsibility to notify an official if you break a record and ensure that all the correct paperwork has been completed. This includes making sure any implement used in the breaking record is checked accordingly. I am happy to pass on the paperwork to Janis or you can give it directly to her.

A full list of records broken during the 2021 / 2022 season is on the CMA website. Contact Janis if you think a record has been missed.

Finances:

The CMA account has very few transactions to deal with unless we are hosting the South Island Championship. Thank you to Anna Lynch for managing our finances and preparing the final accounts. The completed accounts will be available in August.

Annual CMA & NZMA Awards Dinner

The CMA Awards dinner did not occur this season, therefore we combined the annual awards with the AGM held in September. Many of the trophies are event or age specific, consequently they are not awarded. It would be a good idea to review the awards process and see if an alternative method could be adapted. It is also time to add a masters award to the annual Athletics Canterbury Awards dinner.

CMA Committee:

During the past season, the committee has not met. However, we often see each other at interclub meetings. Following the NZMA Special AGM in May 2022, it would appear that most Master's Centre are struggle to attract committee members. I believe working more closely with the Athletics NZ Centre is a better way forward. Within the non-stadia part of the season all groups work together. Perhaps a more effective way for us to operate is for the CMA Committee to become part of the Athletics Canterbury's Track & Field Committee. Who is prepared to step up to the challenge?

Currently Oceania Masters Athletics are looking for a New Zealand Centre to host the 2023 event. As yet, no Centre has put their hand up to organise this event. In December 2023, Athletics Canterbury will host the National Secondary School Championship, hence we are not really in a position to host the OMA event in 2023 as well.

While CMA / NZMA membership numbers continue to decline, I remind ALL members that any athlete who is over 30 and a member of a club is also by default a member NZMA / CMA. Our challenge is to work out how we engage more of this group to be involved and not let it feel like it's 'them' & 'us'.

If you have any bright ideas and are willing to step up to help ... please let me know.

