

Athletics in Stockport – The Future

The Stockport Harriers & AC Club Committee are delighted to announce that following initial discussions between the Club and Dash Athletics Club we have agreed to progress a proposed merger of the two Clubs. This is an exciting development for the Clubs and athletics in Stockport and will be carried out with the best interests of Club members and the development of the sport in the Borough foremost. We feel it is important to inform members at this stage as we move towards putting a framework and timescale in place for this proposed merger.

Under the current two-club system there is significant duplication of effort and parallel activity running within a relatively small geographic area. It is also clear that the strengths of both Clubs complement each other. As well as creating formidable competitive teams, a single Club would also allow the development of a more sustainable, structured, inclusive and holistic organisation in the long-term. The increased and improved offer to members would help to both attract newcomers and reduce any loss of athletes to other local Clubs. Organisationally, one Club would create a single focus for the sport in the area, centred upon an improved facility at Woodbank Park and would become a beacon for Athletics in the region.

For Volunteers too, a single Club would have many benefits, helping to spread the workload and reduce the demands on Coaches, Team Managers, Officials, Committee Members and other volunteers who give their time freely to support their Club. A greater pool of volunteers would also help to make volunteer roles less onerous and more attractive to potential newcomers.

We hope that you will support this project and trust in the Club Committee to keep you informed of progress and consult where necessary as we press ahead with plans. The final commitment to merge the Clubs will be subject to approval at each Clubs AGM or EGM.

In many ways Athletes and Coaches from both Stockport Harriers & AC and DASH AC already work together. It seems logical that developing these emerging links and pushing forwards with a merger of the two clubs is a logical step. With your support in the establishment of a single Athletics Club for Stockport, we can look forward to a healthy, vibrant, sustainable and successful future for the sport with great excitement.

Stockport Harriers & AC Club Committee
August 2013.