

Proudly Sponsored by
Bellway
Kent Division

Medway & Maidstone Athletic Club

Membership Welcome Pack

Welcome

I am delighted you have chosen to join the club and wish to extend a warm welcome to you.

The club has a long and rich history of providing opportunities for adults and children from all backgrounds to train and compete in a range of athletic disciplines. I hope you are looking forward to getting fitter, making new friends and competing in the club's vest.

Whether you are new to the sport or have a lot of experience, there's lots to learn about your new club. I hope this Welcome Pack will go some way to helping you get off on the right foot. It is distributed to all new athletes, coaches, volunteers and officials within the club.

It is imperative that you read and abide by all appropriate Codes of Conduct. If you feel in any way that others within the club are not following these codes, I ask that you contact me in the first instance or a member of the club committee as soon as possible.

By joining as a member you are signing up to these codes of conduct.

There is a lot more to learn than we can possibly include in this Welcome Pack and the best place to find out more, and to stay in touch with the latest club news, is via our website www.mandmac.org .

I look forward to seeing you at training or a competition soon.

Stay fit and healthy...

Sarah Kenyon
Chairperson

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Training

As a member of the club you are welcome to join one of our organised coaching groups. These cover road running and cross country, track (both sprints and middle distance, field events and multi-events). Some groups are established for specific events and age groups, but we hope there is a suitable group for everyone. For those who train on their own, there is always the opportunity to link up informally with other members to benefit from training with somebody.

There is no limit on training groups, so if you think there's a gap in what is offered and you want to start an additional group, talk to a member of the committee. We also support people who wish to make a move into coaching or leading training groups by supporting attendance on official coaching courses. You can find out more about training groups and courses on the website.

Competing

Whilst training brings many benefits for athletes, the main reason to train is to prepare for competition and this is a key focus of why the club exists. We expect those who train to want to compete and this is reflected in the way we structure our membership fees – with competing membership cheaper than non-competing. Whilst the idea of competing may seem daunting for some, it is important to remember that there are different levels of competition so everyone can compete at their level. However, athletics is one of the most inclusive sports around and the very best athletes can in the same events as those new to the sport. You can easily set your own personal goals for each event. As a member it is important you make contact with the relevant team manager and keep in touch with them; team manager details are on the website.

Getting Involved

Athletics clubs rely entirely on volunteers. There are no paid staff, no paid managers. Without the time given by coaches, managers, officials and committee members, this, and every other club in the country, would cease to exist very quickly. Every member, friend, partner, parent or family member is urged to consider what they can offer to the club. It might be helping at competitions with marshalling or raking the sand pit for the long jump. It may mean learning to be a time keeper or helping manage your son or daughter's team. Most of the roles associated with the club can be learned and there are a lot of people around with great experience who will help you to learn. Athletics is quite different to many other sports. For example, managing a team doesn't involve actually coaching the athletes – instead you need to be organised and communicate with athletes and their coaches – you don't need

30 years of experience in the sport for that, just the right attitude and a passion for the sport.

Talk to the Club Secretary or Chairman if you feel you have something to offer and would like to become involved.

Sponsorship

We are very grateful to our current sponsor Bellway Homes (Kent Division). The club is run on a very tight budget with membership fees and a handful of small grants supporting the club. Any sponsorship can go a long way towards making it more successful. If you, your business or the company you work for feel there is an opportunity to support the club through sponsorship, we would love to hear from you. Talk to the Chairman or Secretary about your ideas.

Celebrating Success

It is vital that, as a club, we celebrate the success of every athlete that competes. Of course medals, trophies titles and races are won throughout the year, but twice a year we stop to reward those within the club that have excelled. We do this at the end of the summer season with a presentation evening and again at the end of the winter season with the presentation evening and AGM. Everyone is encouraged to attend both events to celebrate the success of their team mates.

Annual General Meeting

The club's AGM is normally held in April and is an important opportunity to understand what is happening within your club and to have your say in how it is run. As well as reports from committee members on the status of the club and its finances, members of the committee are elected to serve for the year ahead. It is important you have the chance to influence and elect your committee members, so please do attend. Notification of the date, time and venue will be made at least a month before.

The Club Constitution is the document that sets out how the Club is governed.

Find out more about the Club at www.mandmac.org

Code of Conduct for “The Club”

1. Code of Conduct for Athletics Clubs

As a responsible Athletic Club we will:

- Adopt national welfare policies and procedures, adhere to the codes of conduct and respond to any suspected breaches in accordance with the Welfare Procedures
- Appoint a welfare officer and ensure that they are provided with appropriate training to act as a first point of contact for concerns about welfare issues
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers operating within the club environment hold the appropriate qualifications and have undertaken the appropriate checks
- Ensure that coaches, technical officials and club officers attend recommended training in welfare and safeguarding and protecting children as appropriate.
- Liaise appropriately with parents/persons with parental responsibility, officials, coaches, sports scientists, national governing bodies and other relevant people/organisations to ensure that good practice is maintained
- Ensure that information is available at the club and to all club officers, team managers, coaches and officials regarding contact details for local social services, the police and the NSPCC
- Ensure that club officers and volunteers always act responsibly and set an example to others including younger members
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every club member and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally.
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Place the welfare and safety of the athlete above other considerations including the development of performance
- Report any suspected misconduct by club officials, coaches, technical officials or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA welfare officer as soon as possible

2. Code of Conduct for Coaches

As a responsible Athletics Coach you will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- Place the welfare and safety of the athlete above the development of performance
- Be appropriately qualified including obtaining DBS clearance, update your licence and education as and when required by UKA and adhere to the terms of the coaching licence
- Ensure that activities you direct or guide are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete

- At the outset clarify with athletes (and where appropriate, with parents or carers) exactly what is that is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from you
- Never try to recruit, either overtly or covertly, athletes who are already receiving coaching. If approached by an athlete receiving coaching refer immediately to the coach currently providing coaching support
- Try to observe a recommended maximum ratio of 1 coach to 12 athletes at a training session or work in partnership with another coach/coaching assistant
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as technical officials, team managers, other coaches, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
- Develop appropriate working relationships with athletes based on mutual trust and respect, especially with those athletes under 18 years or vulnerable adults
- Do not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- A coach **MUST** strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and do not conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes. Relationship with athletes can cause significant problems for other team members, raising concerns of favouritism and/or victimisation should the relationship later end
- In particular, you **MUST NOT** allow an intimate personal relationship to develop between yourself and any athlete aged under **18 years**. Any violation of this could result in a coach licence being withdrawn. It may also be a criminal offence to conduct a relationship with an athlete aged under 16 years. It may also be a violation of your coaching licence to form an intimate personal relationship with a vulnerable adult coached by you
- It is **strongly recommended** that you do not allow intimate relationships to develop between yourself and athletes coached by you aged over 18 years

As a responsible coach, when participating in or attending any athletics activities, including training/coaching sessions and competition events you will:

- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Be aware that your attitude and behaviour directly affects the behaviour of athletes under your supervision
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them
- Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances
- Avoid carrying any items that could be dangerous to yourself or others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of your athletics activity

In addition, coaches should follow these guidelines on best coaching practice, in particular with young athletes or with vulnerable adults

- Avoid critical language or actions, such as sarcasm which could undermine an athlete's self esteem
- Avoid spending time alone with young athletes unless clearly in the view of others to protect both yourself and the young athlete. In special circumstances, for example, when coaching elite young athletes, one to one coaching sessions may form part of the required training schedule. In this circumstance, parental/guardian consent must be sought and obtained prior to sessions taking place. The coach must inform the parent/guardian of the venue for training and an emergency contact number should be provided by both the coach and parent/guardian
- Avoid taking young athletes alone in your car
- Never invite a young athlete alone into your home
- Never share a bedroom with a child
- Always explain why and ask for consent before touching an athlete
- Ensure that parents/carers know and have given consent before taking a young athlete away from the usual training venue
- Work in same-sex pairs if supervising changing areas
- Respect the right of young athletes to an independent life outside of athletics
- Report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to the parents/carers and club welfare officer as soon as possible.
- Report any suspected misconduct by other coaches or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA welfare officer as soon as possible

3. Code of Conduct for Technical Officials

As a responsible technical official, you will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally.
- Place the welfare and safety of the athlete above the development of performance
- Be appropriately qualified including obtaining DBS clearance, update your licence and education as and when required by UKA and adhere to the terms of the technical officials licence
- Keep up to date with any changes in the relevant competition rules and seek the advice of others if necessary
- Ensure that activities you direct or guide are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete
- At the outset clarify with athletes (and where appropriate, with parents or carers) exactly what is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from you
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as other technical officials, competition providers/organisers, team managers, coaches, and representatives of the governing body in the provision of fair and equitable conditions for the conduct of athletics events under the relevant rules of competition.

- Act in a decisive, objective but friendly manner in your interaction with other officials, athletes, coaches and spectators and carry out your duties in an efficient and non-abrasive manner.
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Never smoke whilst officiating or consume alcoholic beverages to a degree that it affects your ability or competence to undertake your officiating duties.
- Be fully prepared for the officiating task that is assigned to you
- Dress appropriately, to the standard and nature of the competition as outlined by the relevant officials committee
- Arrive in good time for the competition and report to the official in charge
- Conduct the event in accordance with the rules and with due respect to the welfare of the athlete
- Work in a spirit of cooperation with other officials and do not interfere with their responsibilities
- Offer guidance and support to less experienced officials whenever appropriate
- Encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
- Develop appropriate working relationships with athletes based on mutual trust and respect, especially with those athletes under 18 years or with vulnerable adults
- Do not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- A Technical Official **MUST** strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and do not conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes. Relationship with athletes can cause significant problems for other athletes, coaches and team members, raising concerns of favouritism and/or victimisation should the relationship later end.
- In particular, you **MUST NOT** allow an intimate personal relationship to develop between yourself and any athlete aged under **18 years**. Any violation of this could result in a technical official's licence being withdrawn. It may also be a criminal offence to conduct a relationship with an athlete aged under 16 years. It may also be a violation of your technical officials licence to form an intimate personal relationship with a vulnerable adult judged/officiated by you
- It is also **strongly recommended** that you do not allow intimate relationships to develop between yourself and athletes judged by you aged over 18 years.

As a responsible Technical Official, when participating in or attending any athletics activities, including training/coaching sessions and competition events you will:

- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them • Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.

- Avoid carrying any items that could be dangerous to yourself or others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of your athletics activity

In addition, technical officials should follow these guidelines on best practice, in particular with young athletes or vulnerable adults

- Avoid critical language or actions, such as sarcasm which could undermine an athlete's self esteem.
- Avoid spending time alone with young athletes unless clearly in the view of others
- Avoid taking young athletes alone in your car
- Never invite a young athlete alone into your home
- Never share a bedroom with a child
- Always explain why and ask for consent before touching an athlete
- Ensure that parents/carers know and have given consent before taking a young athlete away from the usual training venue
- Work in same-sex pairs if supervising changing areas
- Respect the right of young athletes to an independent life outside of athletics
- Report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to the parents/carers and Club/Regional/National or UKA Welfare Officer as soon as possible.
- Report any suspected misconduct by other technical officials, coaches or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA Welfare Officer as soon as possible

4. Code of Conduct for Athletes

As a responsible athlete you will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally.
- Uphold the same values of sportsmanship off the field as you do when engaged in athletics
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the yourself and other athletes
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Anticipate and be responsible for your own needs including being organised, having the appropriate equipment and being on time
- Inform your coach of any other coaching that you are seeking or receiving
- Always thank the coaches and officials who enable you to participate in athletics

As a responsible Athlete, when participating in or attending any athletics activities, including training/coaching sessions and competition events you will:

- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse

- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them • Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.
- Avoid carrying any items that could be dangerous to yourself or others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of your athletics activity
- Not use mobile phones, mp3 players etc

In addition, athletes, especially young athletes and vulnerable adults, should follow these guidelines on safe participation in athletics

- Notify a responsible adult if you have to go somewhere (why, where and when you will return)
- Do not respond if someone seeks private information unrelated to athletics such as personal information, home life information
- Strictly maintain boundaries between friendship and intimacy with a coach or technical official
- Never accept lifts in cars or invitations into homes on your own without the prior knowledge and consent of your parent/carer
- Use safe transport or travel arrangements
- Report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to your parents/carers and club Welfare officer as soon as possible.
Report any suspected misconduct by coaches or other people involved in athletics to the club welfare officer as soon as possible

5. Code of Conduct for parents/people with parental responsibility

As a responsible parent/person with parental responsibility or other supporter you will

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Never place undue pressure on children to perform, participate or compete
- Check out the qualifications and licences of people who are coaching or managing your child or offering a service connected to athletics such as physiotherapy, massage or nutritional advice.
- Take an active interest in your child's participation
- Attend training or competitions when ever possible
- Know exactly where your child will be and who they will be with at all times
- Never make assumptions about your child's safety
- Ensure that your child does not take any unnecessary valuable items to training or competition
- Inform your child's coach or team manager of any illness or disability that needs to be taken into consideration for athletic performance

- Provide any necessary medication that your child needs for the duration of trips
- Assume responsibility for safe transportation to and from training and competition
- Return any necessary written consent forms to the club/team manager or appropriate person, including next of kin details, health and medical requirements before your child goes to any away events or trips • Report any concerns you have about your child's or any other child's welfare to the Club Welfare Officer, Regional, National or UKA Welfare Officers. (This does not affect your right to contact your local social services or the police if you feel it is necessary)

As a responsible parent/person with parental responsibility or other supporters for a young athlete, when participating in or attending any athletics activities, including training/coaching sessions and competition events you will:

- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Be aware that your attitude and behaviour directly affects the behaviour of your child and other young athletes
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.
- Not carry any items that can be dangerous to yourself or to others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of your child's athletics activity

6. Code of Conduct for Team Managers

As a responsible Team Manager you will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.
- Not carry any items that can be dangerous to yourself or to others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of the athletics activity

In addition, Team Managers should follow these guidelines on best practice, in particular with young athletes and vulnerable adults

-
- Take reasonable care in all circumstances of any athlete under 18 years who is at an event without a parent or person with parental responsibility
- Provide the appropriate ratio of staff for the age and ability for athletes travelling away from home. The recommended ratio is one adult to ten children
- Provide staff of the same sex to undertake chaperoning duties
- Check that all volunteers have been through the appropriate recruitment and selection checks and have attended the appropriate training e.g. DBS and self declaration, safeguarding awareness training
- Notify all parents/people with parental responsibility/carers of athletes under 18 years of the times and venues of any competitions and the appropriate contact telephone numbers
- Ensure that written consent has been obtained from all persons with parental responsibility for athletes under 18 years prior to the competition
- Liaise with the parents/person with parental responsibility of an athlete under 18 years if the athlete becomes involved in an accident or serious breach of health and safety or discipline whilst under your care
- Comply with welfare policies and procedures and any local authority or school procedures or any other policies and procedures that might apply to a particular venue, group of athletes, or competition.
- Report any suspected misconduct by coaches, technical officials or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA welfare officer as soon as possible

7. Code of Conduct for Contractors, Employees, Volunteers or Track Managers

You will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.
- Not carry any items that can be dangerous to yourself or to others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of your athletic activity

- Ensure that any risk assessment or health and safety procedures are adhered to and the safety of the athlete or any other participant in athletics is put first.
- Report any suspected misconduct by coaches, technical officials, or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA welfare officer as soon as possible

8. Code of Conduct for medical officers, physiotherapists, masseurs

You will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Hold a relevant and up to date qualification
- Work within the ethical and professional guidelines of your governing/regulating/qualifying body
- Act within the best interests of your patient, including referral to other professionals if necessary and do not offer or provide any treatment for which you are not appropriately qualified or trained.
- Ensure you have parental consent before advising/assisting/treating athletes aged under 18 years
- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others • Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances.

Club Welfare Officers

The Welfare Officer is there to:

- Deal with confidential matters that may arise related to athletes and have an understanding and appropriate way to handle such matters
- Be responsible for the promotion of codes of conduct to members, parents and young people
- Receive, record and pass on to the national governing body Child Protection officer, any concerns relating to the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults
- Provide advice on the development of activities for young people within the club.

- Support the registration of all personnel involved in activities for young people with the club (CRB checks).
- Recognise the difference between poor practice in according to club rules and matters that would be seen as a welfare issue.

Club Welfare Officer Details

The club has two Welfare Officers

Welfare Officer (Medway Park):

Alison Williams

Email aiw@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Welfare Officer (Sutton Valence):

Kim Stringer

Email kim.stringer2@gmail.com