

Athletics

2012 was a phenomenal year for the Sydney University Athletics Club (SUAC). Wins at both summer and winter club competitions; the most dominant display by the club at Australian Uni Games (AUG) in the event's history; a clean sweep by the women's team at State Relays on the track; and a string of success overseas in international competition makes for arguably the most successful year in the club's history.

In early January SUAC fielded its strongest ever lineup of athletes at the 2011/12 Summer Club Premiership and were rewarded with a comprehensive victory in the NSW Open Pennant Championship, the club's first win in this event. SUAC recorded 3810 points, with rivals UTS Norths finishing second with 3346.5.

At the NSW Club Championships the club finished second to UTS Norths in both the men's and women's competition.

The NSW State Track and Field Championships saw SUAC take home 12 medals over the weekend. Jack Colreavy and Milly Clarke won the men's and women's 3000m steeplechase respectively. Angela Ballard continued to show her class as she won the 200m, 400m, and 800m wheelchair treble. Joshua Ralph took silver in the men's 400m. SUAC also collected a swag of bronze medals over the weekend with Andrew Giltrap taking home two (shotput and javelin), Alix Kennedy and Ben Cranney in the discus, Jo Dawson in the 400m hurdles, Jacqui Fry 100m hurdles and James Nipperess in the 1500m.

At the NSW Masters Championships SUAC's Larissa Stanley won the 800m and 1500m in the 35-39 age group, Piyush Kumar won the 30-34 years 100m, Mark Heiss took home silver in the 800m, and Andrew Heil secured silver in both the 400m and 1500m in the 30-34 age groups.

SUAC's Milly Clark won her first national title at the National Championships as she won the women's 3000m steeplechase, with James Nipperess finishing second in the men's event. Angela Ballard won the 400m and 800m wheelchair races and took home silver in the 100m and 200m. Anneliese Rubie (third in 400m) and Alix Kennedy (fourth in discus) were also strong performers. Kennedy's result earned her selection in her first Australian team – she finished fourth in a development meet.

The highlight in international competition was Lara Tamsett's 14th place at the World Half Marathon Championships. Tamsett also won the City2Surf for the second time. Nick Hough ran second at the World Junior Athletic Championships, and fifth in the 4x100m. Club Captain Lachlan Renshaw recorded six Olympic B-qualifiers, which sadly meant that he narrowly missed Olympic selection. Renshaw went on to finish third behind (now) Olympic Champion David Rudisha at the Paris Diamond.

At the NSW Winter Premiership, SUAC's men successfully defended their Winter Premiership. The club had wins in the Adidas Ten, NSW X-country Relays, NSW Half Marathon Championships, NSW Cross Country Championships and NSW Short Walks, and finished second in the NSW Road Relays and NSW Short Course Championships. There were a number of notable performances; including Hugh Williams who gained selection in the Australian team for the Ekiden Relays in Japan.

At the 2012 AUG SUAC's 60 athletes produced the most dominant performance in the events history – winning the men's, women's and overall competition, with both the men's and the women's teams scores alone being good enough to win the overall competition. The men's and women's medley teams and the women's 4x400m teams broke the AUG record.

SUAC had its best ever weekend at the NSW State Relay Championships. On the women's side of the program (excluding the walks) SUAC won every track race and finished third in the 4x javelin. On the men's side of the program (excluding the walks) the club finished first or second in every track race and third in the 4x discus and second in the 4x javelin.

The club also boosted member numbers and held its inaugural interstate track meet with the University of Queensland, which SUAC also won.

SUAC would like to very much thank its hard working committee for their efforts over the past twelve months and the ongoing support the club receives from SUSF which is greatly appreciated.

Dean Gleeson
DIRECTOR

