

2022 BC Athletics AGM - Zone 6 Rep's Report

(Darren Willis, 2022-08-19)

Competition

Vancouver Island Athletic Association clubs have hosted six competitions in 2022 after a limited 2021 season. Events included:

- Spring Ice Breaker Meet (Courtenay)
- Bob Dailey Memorial (Port Alberni)
- Dogwood Meet (Victoria)
- Elwood Wylie/BC Summer Games Zone 6 Trials (Nanaimo)
- Garriock T&F Meet (Duncan)
- Solstice Meet & Island JD Championships (Courtenay)

Island clubs, and officials, were heavily involved in supporting high school events this spring as well and the season isn't over yet. The upcoming Masters: 55+ BC Games in Victoria will be a nice way to finish the competitive track season on Vancouver Island.

Key Retirements

Kim and Randy Longmuir (Mid-Island Distance) have stepped away from their heavy involvement with the sport after so many years supporting athletes at all levels and in both club and school divisions of our sport. Their contribution and friendship will be missed.

Tom and Florence Dingle have also decided to retire after being iconic figures in Vancouver Island Track and Field going back to before this writer was a young JD athlete. Their passion and dedication to the sport is truly inspiring and the cooperation of our Vancouver Island Clubs in helping each other host events on the Island can be largely traced to them.

Clubs

While most of our Zone 6 clubs were back in the full swing of things in 2022, that was not the case for Powell River. While the community was well represented in high school meets by Brooks Secondary, we did not see any activity or participation from the Powell River Track & Field Club. We don't currently know what the prospects for their return in 2023 are.

The Mid-Island Distance club will most likely be lost from our Island family in 2023 with the retirement of Kim and Randy.

Facilities

Track and Field supporters in Oceanside (Oceanside Track Club, Mid-Island Distance) have been working hard to raise funds for the construction of a 6-lane rubberized track at Ballenas Secondary. Supporters have currently raised over \$850,000 towards the total \$1.5 million project cost.

<https://www.oceansidecommunitytrack.ca/>

Support for this project has broadened considerably in the last year, so we hope that translates into reaching the fundraising goal.

Officials

It has been a long season for officials and we have been sorry to see the retirement of some valued and experienced officials this year. By my count we will have lost at least 6 officials heading into the 2023 season and will have our work cut out to find replacements.