



PRESS RELEASE - Tuesday 30th April 2019

Athletics – EAP comes to Malta

Athletics history in Malta is about to have a new page written, with the advent of the first-ever European Athletics Promotion (EAP) circuit meeting being held locally on Saturday 4th May 2019.

Athletes hailing from a number of European clubs as well as other non-member individuals will be participating in a program put up by leading Maltese club Pembroke Athleta, Athletics & Triathlon, a newly-joined member of the EAP embarking on this new initiative. The fruit of the work by a number of club individuals, many of whom active athletes, Pembroke will be joining clubs from Denmark, the Netherlands, Sicily and Italy; Hungary, Belgium and France; Switzerland, England, Spain and Portugal, as well as from Northern Ireland and Latvia. Each member-club from these nations is bound to organise at least one track and field competition annually, whereat each host makes up a programme inviting athletes from member clubs and footing accommodation costs and part of the travel expense for a number of athletes from each member. Pembroke athletes, in turn, benefit from their appearances at each visit organised by other members, a significant win-win situation.

As a result of this collaboration Club athletes will hereafter be given wide opportunities for diverse competitions overseas, against some of the best talents from the continent and beyond, since the EAP also invites and attracts other athletes from non-members.

Concurrently, with the Maltese club securing a competition around the end of April/the beginning of May of each year, this international competition on Maltese soil shall serve all our hopefuls for the Games of Small States of Europe, enabling them to hone their skills in the appropriate time, with some even taking the opportunity to qualify by reaching the qualifying standards set for participation.

Were this to be the only benefit, the Club would have reached a worthy objective; however, as all local athletes are invited for the Malta competition, the strong belief is that Maltese athletics in general stands to benefit, not just Club members. Indeed, as will be the case at this year's event, the hope is that other athletes, non EAP members, here with their coaches around the Easter period for their warm weather training prior to the start of their respective National competitions, will in future be attracted in greater numbers, finishing off their one/two-week stays with an international, prestigious, competition, thereby giving testimony to the work done by their coaches. In fact, this will be actively advertised in years to come,

lending fact to the belief that a niche for sport tourism can truly be realised where conditions are right.

In truth the Pembroke club is constantly taking initiatives for the progress of the sport in Malta and its further development, in a manner that holistically would benefit the whole country. One such initiative is to target younger members and the inclusion in this program of events for their category at this international meet; to be followed upon next year with the invitation going out to EAP members to also include in their contingents' their younger members, which most certainly these clubs attract. The Club strongly believes in affording the opportunity of international competition without the necessity of locals having to go abroad to widen their experience, as much as also competing abroad many times over during a season.

We also believe that spreading the love for sport, especially by practicing athletics, shall render our country higher esteem and recognition, making this goal one of the pillars for the existence of the Club, in which our members can grow in stature, proud to be members of Pembroke Athleta and proud to be citizens of our beautiful land.

The programme for Saturday shall include 22 disciplines for Seniors and another 10 for the Youth category, with a total participation of 142 local and 57 foreign athletes, officiated by 35 qualified persons assisted by around 90 other volunteers, with results continuously being shown on a big screen on the infield, set up for the purpose, as well as being made available on the Event website www.eapmalta.com

In conclusion, one important initiative must also be mentioned; that which concerns prizes, where the best 10 males and the best 10 women, classified according to the points gained on the Hungarian Tables, a medium for measuring performances established by specialist scientists within the IAAF, the international athletics parent body, shall win €3000 in total.

Spectators who opt to visit the Matthew Micallef St John Stadium Marsa shall enjoy free admission to an enjoyable afternoon, thanks mainly to the sterling assistance extended by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth and Sport within the Ministry for Education and Employment, SportMalta, the Malta Tourism Authority and the Malta Amateur Athletics Association, who is sanctioning the competition, affording the club its facilities and equipment and providing human resources.

Needless to say, the Club is indebted towards main sponsors POWERHOUSE and ATTRANS but is also grateful for other commercial enterprises that include VING insurance Brokers, Green Finance, McDonalds, Atkins, Ixaris, Eurosport, General Soft Drinks, Af Sign Studios, Eetwell Healthy Restaurants, Vassallo Group and Centro Moda.

Thank you all for your presence here today and the constant support being given towards Maltese athletics.



INFORMAZZJONI GĦALL-ISTAMPA - It-Tlieta 30 t'April 2019

L-ewwel Kompetizzjoni f'Malta tal-EAP

Għall-ewwel darba fostna, iċ-ċirkwit tal-atletika magħruf bħala European Athletics Promotion (EAP) ser ikollu f'Malta destinazzjoni oħra fejn atleti minn klabbs ewlenin mill-Ewropa u atleti oħrajn mhux membri tal-EAP jikkompetu f'sensiela ta' dixxiplini tal-atletika magħżula għal pajjiż ospitu.

Dan l-avveniment ser iseħħ sforz xogħol siewi li wettqu bosta membri tal-klabb ta' Pembroke Athleta, Athletics u Triathlon, fil-maġġoranza tagħhom atleti attivi.

L-EAP illum tħaddan bosta membri u ċ-ċirkwit jinkludi kompetizzjonijiet fid-Danimarka, fl-Olanda fi Sqallija u fl-Italja; fl-Ungerija, fil-Belġju u fi Franza; fl-Iżvizzera u fl-Ingilterra; fi Spanja u fil-Portugall; fl-Irlanda ta' Fuq u fil-Latvia.

Kull klabb membru hu dovut itella tal-anqas kompetizzjoni waħda fis-sena fejn il-klabb li jospita, jistieden atleti ta' klabbs membri u numru minn dawn jingħataw akkomodazzjoni b'xejn u anke parti mill-ispejjes tal-vjaġġ lejn id-destinazzjoni tal-kompetizzjoni. Minn naħa l-oħra, meta atleti lokali mill-klabb ta' Pembroke jkunu jridu jikkompetu barra għand membru ieħor, dawn igawdu mill-istess benefiċċju. Biex tingħata spjega ta' xi jfisser dan kollu tajjeb li nikkonsidraw li ser jinfetħu bibien wiesgħa sabiex atleti Maltin ikollhom ta' spiss kompetizzjoni ma' talent mill-kontinent, xi wħud ta' kalibru għoli, fejn fl-istess waqt, permess taż-żmien propizju meta ssir Malta, din tkun preparament sfiq fejn atleti jkunu jistgħu jilħqu dak l-istandard lejn kwalifika għall-Logħob tal-Pajjiżi ż-Żgħar f'dik is-sena li jkunu qed jiġu organizzati.

Kieku dan biss, diġa nkunu lhaqna għan għoli, iżda sabiex jitwettaq aktar minn dak li jixtieq il-klabb tagħna, din il-kompetizzjoni fuq artna sejra tkun ukol opportunita għal atleti oħra Maltin u Għawdxin li huma kollha mistiedna jieħdu sehem.

Nittamaw ukol, kif fil-fatt ser iseħħ din is-sena wkol, li atleti oħra – mhux neċessarjament atleti ta' klabbs fl-EAP – jiġu jikkompetu huma wkol. Ilna snin li ċertu atleti barranin jiġu jagħmlu taħriġ Malta qabel il-bidu tal-istaġun nazzjonali tagħhom u din il-parteciġazzjoni narawha trid tikber jekk minbarra li jqattgħu żmien Malta mal-kowċis tagħhom, jispċċaw iż-żjara tagħhom b'kompetizzjoni ta' prestigju fejn jistgħu jkejlu l-progress li jkunu għamlu mit-taħriġ tagħhom. B'hekk naraw ukol zieda għall-pajjiż fin-niċċa ta' turiżmu sportiv.

Pembroke, minn snin ilu, jemmen li jinħtieġ jieħu inizjattivi godda, kemm lejn l-iżvilupp tal-

atleti tiegħu, kemm ħolistikament għall-ġid tal-pajjiż; jemmen bil-qawwa li l- atleti żgħar ikollom huma wkoll l-opportunitajiet li jistgħu jinholqu b'dawn il-kompetizzjonijiet.

Għaldaqstant il-programm tal-4 ta' Mejju ser ikollu wkoll sensiela ta' dixxiplini mmirati għall-etajiet iżgħar, fejn hija t-tama tagħna li fi snin futuri nittrattaw anke dawn il-kategoriji mill-istess klabb tal-EAP.

Nemmnu fl-opportunitajiet li atleti tagħna jikkompetu ma' oħrajn barranin fuq livell internazzjonali mingħajr il-ħtieġa li jhallu xtutna; nemmnu fiċ-ċans li jikkompetu bosta drabi kull sena 'l bogħod minn Malta; nemmnu fit-tkattir u ħolqien ta' mħabba lejn l-isport, speċjalment dan tagħna tal-atletika, u fuq kollox nemmnu li pajjiżna jista' jkompli jikber fl-għarfien, minn pajjiżi u ċittadini oħra lil hinn minnha. Għaldaqstant nixtiequ li għandu jkun l-skop aħħari li l-membri tagħna jikbru, kburin li jagħmlu parti minn Pembroke Athleta u minn pajjiżhom.

Il-programm tas-Sibt ser jinkludi 22 dixxiplina għal kbar u 10 oħra għaż-żgħar fejn b'kollox ser jieħdu sehem 142 atleti lokali u 57 atleti barranin, diretti minn 35 persuna kkwalfikata u mad-90 persuni oħra volontarji, fejn riżultati jittellgħu regolarment fuq screen kbir li ser nikru għal tal-apposta, u jkunu aċċessibbli minn fuq is-sit www.eapmalta.com

Fost il-premjijiet hemm dawk finanzjarji li jridu jintrebħu mill-aqwa 10 atleti rġiel u l-aqwa 10 nisa. Is-somma totali sejra tlaħħaq €3000 u l-klassifika sejra tkun ibbażata skont il-punti li kull atleta jirbaħ għall-prestazzjoni tiegħu jew tagħha. Punti li huma mtella fuq is-sit elettroniku tal-IAAF, l-organizzazzjoni dinjija tal-atletika, klassifika mibnija minn xjenzjati magħrufa umgedda kull darba li jsir rekord mondjali ġdid f'xi dixxiplina partikolari.

L-ispettaturi li joġġhobhom jaslu sal-Matthew Micallef St John Stadium il-Marsa, jistgħu jidhlu mingħajr ħlas, dovut primarjament għall-għajjunha siewja tas-Segretarjat Parlamentari għall-iSport fil-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol, l-Sportmalta, l-Awtorita Maltija tat-Turiżmu, il-Malta Amateur Athletics Association, li qed tissanzjoni l-kompetizzjoni, tipprovdi tagħmir u risorsa umana - u l-isponsors ewlenin il-POWERHOUSE u l-ATTRANS.

Madankollu konoxxenti għall-għajjunha ta' bosta kumpaniji kummerċjali oħra li jinkludu il-VING insurance Brokers, Green Finance, McDonalds, Atkins, Ixaris, Eurosport, General Soft Drinks, Af Sign Studios, Eetwell Healthy Restaurants, Vassallo Group u Centro Moda.

Grazzi tal-prezenza tagħkom llum u l-appogg li dejjem tagħtu lill-atletika f'pajjiżna.