

Sent: Mon, Jun 7, 2021 1:49 pm

A message from the President :)

I do not think I can adequately summarize all of the events, athletic achievements and emotions from the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Striders Meet of Champions, but I will give it a try. Most importantly I believe that we achieved our original goal of getting masters athletes "back on track" after what we all endured with the pandemic.

When we decided to host this meet, given the current environment, we knew that it would be difficult. We were aware of some of the hurdles we would face, but not all of them. Finding a venue was next to impossible, and we can't thank Rick Muth enough for his role in accomplishing that. It is not a coincidence that Mater Dei's track is named "Rick's Track". Our tireless meet director Brenda Matthews relied on her decades of experience and expert assistance from Robert Richardson, Stan Whitley and Jeanne Bowman to make this meet run even more smoothly than I dared to hope it could. Linn Dunton and her husband Sewell were in charge of our Covid protocol, and I can't imagine anyone else taking that role more seriously or running it more efficiently than they did. All of the members of the Striders Board did even more than they were asked to do, and as a result I feel that the meet was wildly successful!

I want to thank everyone else who contributed to our Meet of Champions. Faith Hogan and her crew of officials were beyond helpful and did their best to accommodate the inevitable last minute changes. Our volunteers were exceptional with their energy and enthusiasm, and after speaking with them I found that they were really impressed by our athletes.

Now I feel I should talk about the athletes who attended our meet. First, let me thank you for coming. It goes without saying that this meet would be nothing without you. I personally was thrilled to see all of you, and can't tell you how good it felt to hug those of you that I was able to! If I missed you I owe you one. It was wonderful to see so many old friends, and we were all very happy to welcome our new members. Thank you for your fellowship, for your patience and for your best efforts in all of your events.

Kathy Bergen. Really just writing her name should remind everyone about what a great athlete this woman is. Yesterday she even surprised herself a little when she broke two age group world records in the 100m and 200m. She hadn't even brought her own paperwork because she hadn't expected to run so well. She set those new records with speed and grace, and we could not be more proud as Striders that she accomplished this at our Meet of Champions.

With all of that being said, I'd also like to acknowledge that there were a few glitches. Please know that we will do our best to make improvements where we can for our next Meet of Champions.

Again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our meet. Stay healthy, train hard, and appreciate all that you are able to do. We are all so fortunate to be able to participate in this wonderful world of track and field.

Sincerely,

Linda Cohn

President of The Southern California Striders Track Club

