

Amateur Athletic Association



Annual Report 2015

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
President:
Chairman Chris Carter

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MANAGEMENT BOARD

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W. Nicholls	Honorary Secretary
M. Etchells	Treasurer
R.H Float	Director
I. Byett	Director (Cross Country)
J. How	Director (Road Running)
J. Gebbels	Regional Director
G. Durbin	Regional Director
B. Heywood	Regional Director
Ms F. P. Ratchford	Director
A. G.Bunner MBE	Co-opted as Events Manager

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MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

During the year 2014-2015 the Directors have held six Board Meetings, five in Birmingham (including one immediately after the A.G.M.) hosted by the Midland Counties A.A. and one in London hosted by the South of England A.A. We thank the office staff of the two Associations for arranging the facilities and hospitality. The Board would also like to thank the Midland Counties A. A. for their assistance in facilitating the Annual General Meeting.

With declining funds and no appreciable income the Association has continued to pursue the programme of youth initiatives as in previous years. The Tom Pink Relays for athletic clubs and the World Marathon Challenge for schools have both given an insight into athletics for the younger members of our sport. It is felt that without innovative competitions for the young boys and girls they could be lost to the sport at an early age. We therefore applaud the Sports Council's recent policy change in the funding of younger age groups. The Tom Pink Relays, thanks to a legacy given for youth competition is now in its ninth year and with the support from England Athletics will continue for a further season. Competitions during the year were held indoors at the Lee Valley Athletic Centre in London and the E.I.S. in Sheffield and as the N.I.A. was unavailable in Birmingham, two outdoor events using the same principles were held in Birmingham and Manchester. The popularity of this event mean that the invitations to take part are usually accepted the day the invites are received!

The 2015 World Marathon Challenge, now in its eighth year, was held on 7th October. It was unsponsored again this year but excellent support was given by Eveque, under the Sportshall banner, and England Athletics. Successful headline events were held in London (Lee Valley) Birmingham (Alexander Stadium) and Manchester (Sportcity). At Lee Valley, Thomas Tallis School from Kidbrook, winners in 2013, regained their title from last year's winners Southend High School, both teams breaking the best by mixed schools teams. Linked with the marathon programme has been a successful 5000m Challenge for primary schools.

As well as the established programme of events for young athletes there has been continuing success for the Med Ball Challenge. This event is designed as a specialist challenge which can identify basic throwing ability. The Sportshall Development Officers Adam Burgess and Mike Frost have continued to deliver the programme in England and with continued funding from England Athletics there will be a further promotion in the spring of 2016. We hope that this will identify previously untapped throwing talent in our young people and improve the pool of throwing talent in the country.

Following the London Olympics a detailed study of the Association's finances and future expenditure was undertaken which indicated that the Association could continue with its agreed programme of initiatives up to and including the 2017 World Championship year. The future of the Association after 2017 is now under serious consideration with the heritage programme supported by England Athletics being seen as a priority. We are under no illusion that we can continue in our current form with no sustainable income, however we believe that there is a role for a strong independent voice for the voluntary sector within the sport. Our Board has representation from the three England Areas and the disciplines of Cross Country and Road Running. The Association is committed to supporting initiatives for young athletes and the A.A.A. Charity for the Young underlines the support and practical approach to this initiative. We also see ourselves as the role of archivists of Athletics in England and with this in mind we have in the last few years published books on the history of the Men's and Women's Associations, reintroduced the historical trophies of the sport in England, taken a place in the Annual Hall of Fame decisions and have a stake in the Athlos website of historical athletic documents.

The Association continues to work with the English Schools Athletic Association and the British Athletics Supporters Club. Our relationship with England Athletics continues as strong as ever. I must thank the Board members for their continued support during the year and on their behalf especially thank Mrs Carolyn Newton for her valuable administrative work for the Association.

Chris Carter
Chairman

NORTHERN ATHLETICS

President (2014/15): Mrs Jean Simpson

Chairman: Brian Heywood (to Nov 2015)

President (2015/16): Dr Leo Carrol

Chairman: Tony Wood (from Nov 2015)

Treasurer: Nigel Orr

Executive Board: M Fletcher, K Taylor, S Gaines,

IM Rogers, A Williams and R Brimage. Mrs E Williams (Co-opted)

Northern Athletics has continued to provide a full programme of Championship events for athletes in Track & Field (indoor & outdoor), Road Running and Cross Country with Combined Events again held within the England Athletics Championships.

Consultation meetings were held during the spring across many venues in England with three held in the North. Since then, some progress has been made to provide for the future through discussions but these are still short of sustainability. This information was further updated and reported to Club representatives at our Annual Open meeting held in November under the heading 'the future for Northern Athletics'.

Meetings of the English Cross Country Association and England Road Running Association were attended by our Executive Board members and reports received from them as well as maintaining contact with our colleagues in the Midlands and South.

This past year has seen the passing of Frank Barraclough, Graham Botley, Stuart Pallor, Joe Shellhorn, Ernie Slaughter and Terry Willis and we extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Cross Country Championships, Pontefract Park, Pontefract, West Yorkshire

These championships returned to Pontefract Park for the 3rd time on what turned out to be a stamina sapping course after the thawing snow and ice leaving some areas extremely muddy although the weather was fine. The 10 race programme for U/13's to Seniors, male and female, was still able to be completed to schedule with due thanks to the Northern officials and an army of volunteers from West Yorkshire clubs that marshalled the course. The event proves to be popular with the number of finishers approaching 2100 athletes!

Cross Country Relay Championships, Graves Park, Sheffield

In the 6th running of this event another increase in competitor teams was seen at this popular venue. Yet again the weather was favourable with the date now allocated in the calendar after the autumn road relays. A full eligibility check was carried out with only 9 athletes from over 900 entered showing to be currently unregistered with England Athletics.

Representative teams went to Brussels, Tilburg, Holland; Edinburgh, Scotland; Cardiff, Wales and the Home Countries International in Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Road Running – Relay Championships

The 12/6 stage events were held in the popular Sefton Park, Liverpool with good entry numbers in both races followed by the 6/4 + YA races held in Stanley Park, Blackpool, again with a large number of clubs taking part.

Road Running Championships

The 10M, 10K & 5K championships were held within the following open road races; Stockport, Ribble Valley & Silksworth, Sunderland respectively although the Ribble Valley fell victim to the devastating floods affecting the North.

Our thanks go to Executive Board member, Steve Gaines and to the Team Managers for looking after our Northern athletes, both on the Road & Cross Country, under the guidance of co-ordinator Rob Cameron.

Track and Field – Indoor season

The 'open' meetings held in November and December have exceeded expectations and hosted record numbers of athletes from across the UK whilst providing an exciting and relaxed atmosphere with heats seeded according to ability, irrespective of gender. The indoor Championships now held over 3 days also saw increases in the number of competitors with the newly introduced U/13 age group entering as many events as possible. All these events were held at the EIS, Sheffield.

Track and Field – Outdoor season

The Senior / U/20 & Parallel Success Championships were held at Sport City, Manchester, a venue that has now become the home of the Senior Championships. Senior County Champions were again handed 'free entry'. The 'age group' Championships were held in the new Middlesbrough Sports Village with the Inter County match being held in Blackburn at the new facility in Witton Park.

The **Combined Events** Championships, indoor and outdoor, have again been held in conjunction with the England Championships at the EIS, Sheffield.

A full programme of 4 matches under the auspices of the **Northern T & F League**, were held and congratulations go to Wakefield District H&AC who retained their 1st division title with Kingston upon Hull AC runners up.

All results can be found on the NA website; www.northernathletics.org.uk

Acknowledgements. Northern Athletics are very dependent upon income from our sponsors, Start Fitness, and the competition grant from England Athletics thereby allowing us to continue with our full programme of Championship events and some representative matches to aid the development of athletes and officials. We also recognise the valued assistance from the many Local Authorities for stadia use along with other areas of help. We are also indebted for the work carried out during the year by the many voluntary members of the athletics community across the North in numerous roles and to 'Northern' officials, without whom, competitions could not take place. Finally, we must not forget our office staff, Judith Temperton and Pat Schofield based in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire and the Executive Board, named at the head of this E Williams (Co-opted) report, for their work throughout the year along with the contribution to our sport from athletes, coaches and supporters of athletics.

Brian Heywood (to Nov 2015) Tony Wood (from Nov 2015)
Chairman

MIDLAND COUNTIES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

President: Mr Colin Fox (from 22.11.15)

Hon. Secretary: Mr Andrew Hulse

Chairman: Mr Geoff Durbin

Treasurer: Mr Stewart Barnes

Assistant Treasurer: Mr Richard Float

We must start the report by offering our thanks to Lyn Orbell. Lyn has been a colleague and friend who has retired from her post as Office Manager for MCAA. She has tirelessly worked for the Association and the athletes of the Midlands, giving far more to the sport than can be recorded here. We are pleased that she remains a member of the Track and Field Committee and wish her well on her retirement.

We welcome Louise Gardner as the new Office Manager and wish her well in her new post.

Mrs Maureen Bullen retired as President in November. Maureen has given excellent service as President over her two years of office and continues coordinating our track and field officials. Mr Colin Fox now takes over the role of President.

We are again grateful for support throughout 2014/15 from various sources: England Athletics for a grant towards running competition, Saucony for its sponsorship of Cross Country and the Road Relays, Athletics Direct for its sponsorship of the Track and Field League and Track and Field events and from Bromsgrove & Redditch Trophies for the Indoor Birmingham Games. With the loss of the Saucony sponsorship, I am very pleased to announce that Brooks are now the new sponsors of our Cross Country and Road Running events for 2015/2016. I am also pleased to announce that Athletics Direct have agreed to renew their sponsorship of the Track and Field League and our Track and Field events for 2015/16.

We continue to promote Area Championships in the various disciplines. However, this coming indoor season we have lost the use of the Barclaycard Arena due to the decision taken by British Athletics to move the Indoor Grand Prix from Birmingham to the Emirates Stadium in Glasgow in 2016. This decision was made without consultation with the Midlands Area and was not made official until the spring of 2015. Since that time Midland Counties has been trying to find dates at either the EIS in Sheffield or Cardiff in South Wales, the only two permanent indoor facilities with spectator seating. Unfortunately, since we were not informed early enough, no dates were available at the EIS and

2015 is also interesting as our top athletes were looking towards the next Olympics in Rio, some of the events are being used to achieve good times to assist in qualifying.

Our special congratulations must go to Emma Achurch of Leicester Walking Club, who has had a fantastic year in International events representing England and Great Britain, and still managed to fit in her A levels.

Road Running:

It was the second time we held the autumn road relays all on one day. It was a popular move, especially for officials who now get a free day. We are grateful to Birmingham City Council for allowing us to use Sutton Park for all our relays, it continues to be a great venue. Due to cuts we don't get as much financial support as in the past but we appreciate their backing.

We are also grateful to Saucony for their sponsorship this season.

Thanks also to Wilne 10k and Northbrook 10k for including our championships in their events.

We are pleased that we are able to send teams to inter-area matches held in Wales, the North and by the Combined Services. It is a good opportunity for improving athletes to gain a Midland vest.

ERRA National 4 and 6 Stage Road Relays – 04.10.14

Senior Women – 2nd team Birchfield Harriers 57m.13 Senior Men – No Midlands teams in top three

U13 girls – 1st team Wreake Runners 44m.27. 2nd fastest leg – Mia Atkinson (Charnwood AC) 14m.11

U13 boys – 1st team Charnwood AC 41m.34. 2nd fastest leg – Ethan O'Shea (Charnwood AC) 13m.34

U15 boys – 2nd team Charnwood AC 38m.33. Fastest leg – Callum Abberley (Burton AC) 12m.20

U17 women – 1st team Charnwood AC 41m.36

U17 men- 1st Leicester Coritanian 35m.11. Fastest leg – Ben Dijkstra (Leicester Coritanian) 11m.19

ERRA National 6 and 12 Stage Road Relays – 11.04.15

Senior Women (first time including 2 long laps)– 2nd team Bristol and West AC 2h.16.44. 2nd fastest long lap: Laura Whittle (Royal Sutton Coldfield) 30m.49.

Senior Men – 2nd team Notts AC 4h.23.06. Fastest short lap – Sam Mitchell (Notts AC) 15m.01.

I/A match

Senior Women – Midlands 2nd 16 pts (Juliet Potter, Claire Martin, Lisa Palmer)

Senior Men – Midlands 3rd 36 pts (Alistair Watson, Martin Whitehouse, Andrew Peat, Patrick Roddy)

Inter-area Welsh match – Swansea Bay 10k – 21.09.14

Senior Women – Midlands 2nd team 18 points. Kim Fawke-Williams (Telford AC) 35m.13, Kate Hulls (Bristol and West) 36m.48, Sarah Mackness (Telford AC) 38m.34

Inter-area Combined Services match – Leeds Abbey Dash 10k – 16.11.14

Senior Women – Midlands 4th team 35 points. Rachel Felton (Shaftesbury Barnet) 33m.49, Jenny Spink (Bristol and West) 34m.40, Alison Lavender (Oswestry Olympic) 34m.58

Senior Men – Midlands 4th team 34 points. Graham Rush (Cheltenham) 30m.02, Alistair Watson (Notts AC) 30m.19, Toby Spencer (Coventry Godiva) 30m.28, Dave Roper (Cheltenham) 30m.59

Inter-area Northern match – Trafford 10k – 08.03.15

Senior Women – Midlands 3rd 21 pts. Laura Whittle (Royal Sutton Coldfield) 33m.48, Laura Day (Notts AC) 34m.49, Kate Hulls (Bristol and West) 35m.49

Senior Men – Midlands 2nd 27 pts. Phil Nicholls (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC) 29m.55, Dan Studley (Bristol and West) 30m.08, Toby Spencer (Coventry Godiva) 30m.14, Ross Jones (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC) 30m.32

Midlands Athletes at Major Games 2015

World 100km Championships, Winschoten, Netherlands – 12.09.15

Sue Harrison (Leamington C & AC) 10th 7h.39.50 (PB)

Track &Field:

The Birmingham Games, MCAA Indoor Championships and an Open were held at the Barclaycard Arena and Indoor Opens at the Alexander Stadium HPC. These were well supported. Our Outdoor Championships were held at the Alexander Stadium.

We organised and managed a Midland (EA) U20 team for the Cardiff International in July.

After a number of corrections to the points total, the Midland Team were overall winners.

Midland Athletes at Major Games 2015:

European Indoor Championships

Jarryd Dunn, Birchfield Harriers 400m/4 x 400m S/F 400m: Lucy Hatton, Corby AC 60m Hurdles Silver & PB: Laura Maddox, Swansea Harriers 400m/4 x 400m Silver: Kelly Massey, Sale Harriers 4 x 400m Silver

European U23 Championships

Theo Blundell, Birchfield Harriers 800m: David King, City of Plymouth 110m Hurdles: Leon Reid, Birchfield Harriers 200m Silver: Jazmin Sawyers, City of Stoke AC Long Jump Silver & PB: Becky Straw, Birchfield Harriers 10,000m 7th: Alice Wright, Worcester AC 10,000m Bronze & PB

World Youth Championships

Joel Leon Benitez, Notts AC Pole Vault: Ada'ora Chigbo, North Somerset High Jump: Emma Hamplett, Birchfield Harriers Javelin: Emily Wright, Bristol & West AC Long Jump 4th & PB

European U20 Championships

Emma Achurch, Leicester Walking Club 10,000m Walk: Alex George, Gloucester AC 5000m Gold Molly Long, Bristol & West AC 800m 4th: Charlotte McLennaghan, Notts AC 4 x 100m Gold: Adele Nicoll, Birchfield Harriers Shot PB: Freddie Owsley, Bristol & West AC 200m: Elliott Powell, Leicester Coritanian AC 200m Silver

World Championships

Meghan Beesley, Birchfield Harriers 400H S/F & PB: Jarryd Dunn, Birchfield Harriers 400m/4 x 400m Relay Bronze: Robbie Grabarz, NEB High Jump: Steve Lewis, NEB Pole Vault: Danny Talbot, Birchfield Harriers 200m/4 x100m 3rd S/F & PB

Commonwealth Youth Games

Daniel Cartwright, Birchfield Harriers Shot 4th & PB: Emma Hamplett, Birchfield Harriers Javelin Gold William Richardson, Birchfield Harriers 3000m 4th

Congratulations and thank you to all our athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers in the Midlands.

Geoff Durbin

(Chairman)

SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION LIMITED

President Miss Donna Fraser
Chairman Mr John Gebbels

Honorary Secretary Ms Abi Onatade
Honorary Treasurer Mr Nigel Faben

The South of England Athletic Association as in 2014, in conjunction with its Competition Company SEAA (Competition) Ltd, had a successful 2015 season in all its areas of competition and in all disciplines. The Discipline Working Groups as usual have worked hard to make sure that athletes have had the standard of competition that they had come to expect of the Association all within the financial constraints of the Association.

Once again the Association's Twitter Account and Facebook Page continue to be used to support our clubs and organisations along with our regular information mail outs. Also, the Association continues to accept entries to all Championships both online and via paper entries.

Endurance DWG: Chairman - Mr Chris Stott.

The Endurance DWG (consisting of Cross-Country and Road Running) were very active over the year. At the main Cross-Country Championships held at Stanmer Park in Brighton: Aldershot, Farnham and District maintained their club dominance by winning medals in 6 out of the 10 race categories whilst Herne Hill Harriers were the second dominant club by winning medals in 3 of the race categories. The Cross-Country Relays were once again held at Wormwood Scrubs and were dominated by two teams; Herne Hill Harriers winning medals in 6 of the race categories and Windsor Slough Eton and Hounslow who won 5 medals. The Masters and Inter-Counties Championships were held at Shuttleworth Park in Biggleswade. The top three Counties in the Inter-Counties Championships were Essex, Surrey and Kent.

As usual the 6&4 Stage Road Relays were successfully held at Aldershot and once again Aldershot, Farnham and District AC dominated the Relays by winning medals in 5 out of the 8 race categories. They were followed by Cambridge and Coleridge who won 3 medals in the race categories. The 6 & 12 Stage were held at Milton Keynes and there was excellent competition amongst the senior teams with the winning clubs being Aldershot Farnham & District (Women's 6 Stage) and Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers (Men's 12 Stage)

Track and Field DWG: Chairman – Ms Abi Onatade

The 2015 Indoor Championships were once again held at Lee Valley Athletics Centre, and was over six days. This consisted of the Indoor All Ages Combined Events and the Individual Championships

across all age groups. In the Individual Championships there were various new Championship Best Performances set on the track and in the field.

Both the Senior and U20 Outdoor Championships were held at Lee Valley for the first time and the U15 and U17 Championships returned to the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford along with some Open Events for U13 athletes.

The Association was once again honoured with an anonymous donor who gave a cash award to any athlete who broke any track and field record that was over 10 years old, and several athletes received this.

The Combined Events were once again held at Bedford and this venue was again warmly received by athletes who always enjoy competing there.

The U15 and U20 Inter-counties was once again held at Allianz Park and Essex County did the double by winning both the U15 and U20 matches.

As always the Association would once again like to put on record that without the efforts of our numerous officials and ancillaries all of whom support the association voluntarily, the Association would not be able to put on the standard of competition that has come to be expected by all our affiliated clubs and athletes and would like to thank them all for their hard work. Once again, the Association also owes a great debt of gratitude to both Ms Linda Whitehead and Miss Ella Jolliffe for the considerable work they do on behalf of the Association.

Ms Abi Onatade
Honorary Secretary

ENGLISH CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

I hear from certain quarters that Cross Country needs to be revived but the numbers taking part certainly don't reflect a downward trend and at Parliament Hill last February we had a record turnout. The underfoot conditions were glutinous but that didn't put anyone off and 5288 runners took part, a new record. True we haven't got the star names of yesterday like Eamonn Martin, Tim Hutchins, Dave Bedford and Paula Radcliffe to name a few but IAAF President Seb Coe believes in Cross Country so at some stage new names will emerge. Great Britain continues to do well on the European scene but on the World stage British Athletics thinking and commitment seems to be indecisive and woolly and at the top GB seems to be leaderless endurance wise.

During the past 12 months I have been delighted and honoured to be the Association's President. It has been a role I have thoroughly enjoyed doing and it has been great presenting the medals at both the Relays and National Cross Country Championships. One of my highlights was being able to present medals to a Team representing my own Club, they did exceptionally well, while another was planting an Oak Tree at Wollaton park to commemorate the National being held there in 2013.

The Relays were again a success with over 1000 Teams taking part. One of the entertaining features which also demonstrates how competitive the races are is the fact the Team leading on leg 1 rarely wins, this was illustrated in 2014 by the fact that in 9 of the 10 events the first Team home on the first leg did not go on to win. In recent years there has been some doubt about the availability of Berry Hill Park, Mansfield but after careful negotiations assurances have been received that this popular venue will stage the Relays for some years to come.

The International programme continues to give developing athletes the opportunity to compete at a high level abroad and the early fixture in November has proved to be a good one for athletes with ambitions to get in the Great Britain team for the Europeans in December. However the rest of the programme didn't work as well last season so a careful examination is needed this year when the Team Managers sit down to plan the 2015 – 16 Programme. Also the haphazard approach the GB selectors took with regards the Senior Teams going to the World Cross really damped the international aspect of the season.

The ECCA's relationship with England Athletics has strengthened during the last 12 months and Wendy Sly MBE will now sit on the ECCA General Committee as the EA representative. We continue to work well with Saucony, sponsors of our Championships, they have been partners now for over a decade and we are now into another 3 year contract so the future continues to look bright on that front. We are also delighted with the support that the AAA continues to give the Association in many ways. Finally thanks once again to all the volunteers that help the Association with its programme, they show the passion our sport needs to continue to be a success.

Ian Byett
ECCA Honorary Secretary

ENGLISH ROAD RUNNING ASSOCIATION

The ERRA are the organising body that is responsible for the organisation and delivery of the National Road Relay championships. These championships are traditionally held at Sutton Park, Birmingham. The Championships take place in the spring, usually early April for the Men's 12 stage and Women's 6 stage, with the young athletes, men's 6 stage and ladies 4 stage held in October.

On the 11th April 2015 the ladies 6 stage saw the race include 2 long stages for the first time but this didn't stop Aldershot Farnham & District AC from recording their 6th successive win in 2.13.49 with Bristol & West AC second in 2.16.44 and Swansea Harriers 3rd in 2.17.01 The quickest short stage was Laura Weightman of Morpeth in 16.44 with Emilia Gorecka of AFD fastest long stage with 29.53 The men's 12 stage produced a first ever victory for Morpeth Harriers in 4.21.52 with Notts AC 2nd in 4.23.06 & Leeds City AC 3rd in 4.25.34 Sam Mitchell of Notts went quickest on the short stage with 15.01 while Shaftsbury Barnet's Michael Callegari was fastest long stage with 26.41

The Senior 4 & 6 stage and the Young Athletes Relays took place on the 3rd & 4th October. The women's 4 stage saw AFD's 8 year reign come to an end as Swansea Harriers claimed the title in a time of 59.14 with Bristol & West 2nd in 59.51 and 3rd place going to Vale Royal in 60.03 Fastest stage went to Elle Vernon from Stockport Harriers in 14.11

The men's 6 stage was a close run race with only 14 seconds separating the top 3 teams. Tonbridge took the honours in 1.47.25 with Derby in 2nd with 1.47.29 and Central 3rd in 1.47.38 fastest stage went to Highgate's Andy Maud in 17.03

Under 13 Girls

1st Wreake & Sear Valley AC 44.38: 2nd Blackheath & Bromley Harriers 45.08: 3rd Herne Hill Harriers 45.20: fastest stage Femke Rosbergen, City of Norwich 14.09

Under 13 Boys

1st Keithley & Craven 41.58: 2nd Guildford & Godalming 42.22: 3rd Birchfield Harriers 42.30: fastest stage Dylan Bowley, Kettering 13.37

Under 15 Girls

1st Herne Hill Harriers 42.24: 2nd Liverpool Harriers & AC 43.19: 3rd Blackheath & Bromley Harriers 43.21: fastest stage Lucy Olsen, Herne Hill Harriers 13.38

Under 15 Boys

1st Shaftsbury Barnet Harriers 38.02: 2nd City of Portsmouth AC 38.10: 3rd Bracknell 38.21 fastest stage Lachlan Wellington, City of Portsmouth 12.04

Under 17 Girls

1st Aldershot Farnham & District AC 41.39: 2nd Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow 42.29: 3rd Bracknell 42.41: fastest stage Morven Goodrum WSEH 13.10

Under 17 Boys

1st Tonbridge AC 35.51: 2nd Reading AC 36.09: 3rd Aldershot Farnham & District AC 36.12 fastest stage Thomas Dodd, Birchfield Harriers 11.43

The ERRA would like to thank Birmingham City Council for their help and support in staging the relays and the financial assistance provided by our sponsor Start Fitness.

My thanks also go to the Championship Secretary, Ken Smith and the committee for their work during the year.

Bob Brimage
Secretary ERRA

FELL RUNNERS ASSOCIATION

Introduction

This report highlights some aspects of the work of the Executive Committee since the 2014 AGM. On your behalf we are grateful for the support of the whole Committee during the year and for the many hours they have spent ensuring the organisation functions smoothly. We would also like to give special thanks to the many race organisers and their teams: without them fellrunning in England would not happen.

FRA Limited Accounts

The Treasurer's report gives full details of the accounts for 2014. Members will note the improvement in the financial position and, following the increase in the subscription rates agreed at the 2014 AGM, this will continue to improve in future years. From 2015 subscriptions moved away from the cumbersome Standing Order system and we would like to thank the membership for their support during the transition.

Safety in Fell Running

Safety within the sport will always be the first concern of the Committee. In 2014, following the Brian Belfield Inquest, revised requirements were introduced and for 2015 these were refined to make them more concise and easier to understand. These changes have been well received. Your Committee is, of course, made up of active fell runners and it has been heartening for us to observe at first-hand how race organisers have adopted and enhanced the new procedures including, for example, the greater use of FRA radios better to protect runners in the sport.

However, the acceptance of safety requirements is still resisted by a few runners and the Committee will continue to support race organisers in denying these individuals any opportunity to jeopardise the safety and wellbeing of the sport.

There was a serious incident on the Corridor Route during the 2014 Borrowdale Race. This was fully reported in *The Fellrunner* and prompted a new section in the FRA Handbook -*First On The Scene*- to advise runners how best to respond when faced with an incident.

Later this year the newly appointed Race Liaison Officers will start work and more details of their role will be published shortly in *The Fellrunner*.

Committee Activities

Your Committee includes many officers who dedicate their time and energy focused in a particular area, enhancing, introducing new initiatives, achieving new successes. One recent new initiative (April 2015) was an Emergency Wilderness First Aid Course which was subsidised by the FRA and achieved positive reports. Whether it is juniors, coaching, organising the championships, the Handbook & Calendar; *Committee members, sub-Committee members and other volunteers* just "get on with it" and their successes and achievements have been reported in *The Fellrunner*.

There is a risk that all this work is done so well that the efforts of these Officers might be taken for granted by the membership; which would be wrong.

Until the recent appointment of Chris Jones the FRA had been without an Access & Environment Officer for some time and the absence of anyone in this key role at a time of important discussions with the National Trust was a serious problem. It now seems that the access issues which faced the sport are resolvable but the experience has been a timely reminder that the sport can only survive if volunteers continue to come forward, year after year, to serve their fellow runners.

In this regard the Committee is proposing a Special Resolution that, amongst other things, will ensure that Committee vacancies arise more frequently than before so that more members can make their contribution and bring fresh ideas into the sport.

The Future

It is normal for the Chair of the FRA Committee to serve for 3 years. This Chair was appointed in 2012 when fell running was experiencing a crisis. Continuing the pattern of the last 45 years, the FRA has worked to overcome the issues, growing stronger in the process, which will serve it well in resolving current and future problems for the good of the sport.

M Watson
Chair FRA

RACE WALKING ASSOCIATION

This year race walking has been gradually building on previous successes. Several of our top junior athletes, assisted by more senior colleagues took part in the Small Nations cup, the Nihill Shield and several took part in the European Cup of Race Walking and of course the World Championships. We are now looking forwards to Rio 2016 amongst other challenges.

Race walking has been positively endorsed in the media from concerted efforts by several in the walking fraternity. The sterling efforts by those such as Tom Boswoth, Jo Atkinson and John Constandinou have gone some way to move the attention away from the sad news from Russia that is affecting the image of Race Walking as well as athletics globally.

Nationally there is some concern over the viability of some of the National Championships. Athletes are reminded that unless they support the events the races, such as the 10 miles, will be cancelled.

It is also becoming a greater problem for race walking in respect of racing venues and the ever diminishing number of officials and race organisers. This sport is run by volunteers so the more volunteers the better the sport will be. Thank you to all the existing volunteers and officials for you efforts this year.

This will be my final report as Honorary General Secretary as I am moving on to other things after 32 years in the sport in various roles. It has been an interesting few years and a time of adjustment for the RWA and race waking in the UK. I believe I have left the post in good order for my successor, Colin Vesty, who I wish good fortune and smooth sailing.

Catharine Telling
Race Walkers Association

AAA DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES & LEGACY

Throughout the year the AAA have worked in partnership with England Athletics, Sportshall Associates, and the English Schools on the following development initiatives which have been acknowledged as an important contribution to the future of our sport:

TOM PINK RELAYS

During the year the AAA held very successful Tom Pink Relays and Field Events for children in the U11 and U13 age groups at Lee Valley Athletics Centre, London and the EIS Sheffield. Due to the unavailability of the NIA and the lack of a suitable alternative indoor venue in the Birmingham area an outdoor alternative was held for the Birmingham clubs at Alexander Stadium.

The popularity of these events continues to grow with many clubs referring to it as their favourite event of the year. Funding however, is now coming to an end and its future is under discussion with England Athletics.

MED BALL CHALLENGE

The Med Ball Challenge has continued to expand and is proving very popular with participants. In addition to the National Virtual League, a number of school groups have formed local virtual competitions. Further demonstrations are planned for the spring of 2016.

WORLD MARATHON CHALLENGE

The three headline events were held again in London, Birmingham and Manchester and despite there being no sponsorship 120 teams entered from 12 nations. Enquiries about this event continue to be received and we were recently contacted by a group in Melbourne Australia. The AAA are also in discussion with England Athletics about the future of this programme.

WORLD 5000M CHALLENGE

This event for the primary school age groups was run in conjunction with the World Marathon Challenge and is developing nicely with 130 teams entering the 2015 event. Its development is being included in our discussions with England Athletics.

HALL OF FAME

The AAA continued to support this England Athletic initiative during the year. Contacts made at the recent dinner have led to some exciting possibilities concerning the establishment of a National Athletics Museum which the Secretary will report on.

ENDURANCE

The Endurance Development Programme which we are jointly funding with England Athletics is scheduled along with the Med Ball Challenge to continue in the spring term of 2016.

George Bunner
Events Manager

ATHLETICS FOR THE YOUNG (CHARITY)

We see a continuing strong demand for grants from young athletes during our yearly exercise and are happy to be able to support so many. Start Fitness have withdrawn their support at the last minute in 2015 and have not paid us for 2014 despite many promises to do so. Consequently this sum has been written off in the 2015 accounts.

The expenses seen in the accounts are modest and relate solely to the costs in distributing our grants.

The investment performance seems in line with market trends and we continue to be advised by Brewin & Dolphin. We are confident of continuing the charity's work in future years at our current level but given our lack of income will eventually run out of funds.

Alan Barlow
Treasurer / Trustee

STANDARDS SCHEME

The past year has been the most successful for a number of years with almost 2700 badges sold; over twice the amount in the previous year.

A change of manufacturer has enabled us to keep the cost of badges at £2 and there has been a gradual increase in the use of on-line purchases with payment via Paypal.

A growing number of clubs are buying badges in bulk for their club presentations and our operations are going further afield as this year Guernsey A.C. ordered a stock of badges.

Discussion has taken place with UKA about integrating 365, ESAA Awards Scheme and AAA Standards to provide a progression over the age groups. It is hoped that these will be drawn together and integrated into the Power of 10 when the next revision of Standards is made next autumn.

Edwin Bellamy
Hon Standards Officer