

Amateur Athletic Association



Annual Report 2016

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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President:
Chairman Chris Carter

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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
T. Wood	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 2015-2016 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 a programme of initiatives providing competition for young athletes who are not otherwise catered for. 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 and the Med Ball Challenge has focussed on spotting potential throwing talent. It is felt that without such innovative competitions for young boys and girls they could be lost to the sport at an early age.

Tom Pink Events were held indoors at the Lee Valley Athletic Centre in London and the E.I.S. in Sheffield and an outdoor event using the same principles was held in Manchester. As the fund is now almost exhausted these events have been held in conjunction with England Athletics Senior Competitions where they have provided a boost to the atmosphere and the numbers spectating. The popularity of these events mean that the invitations to take part are usually accepted the day the invites are received!

The 2016 World Marathon Challenge, now in its tenth year, was held on 5th October. It was unsponsored again this year but excellent support was given by Eveque, under the Sporthall banner, and England Athletics. Successful headline events were held in London (Lee Valley) Birmingham (Alexander Stadium) and Manchester (Sport City). The competition at Lee Valley was very fierce with both Thomas Tallis School and Southend High School determined to become the record holders once again. In the end Southend just took the title with less than 3 seconds separating the teams after 210 laps. 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 and the AAA continues to innovate with a new adaptation of the Endurance Awards aimed at primary schools.

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 AAA Board are also investigating links with a view to establishing a National Athletics Museum.

The Association continue to work with the English Schools Athletic Association and the British Athletics Supporters Club. Our relationship with England Athletics continues as strong as ever.

Chris Carter
Chairman

Note from the Management Board

Chairman Chris Carter has indicated that due to ill health he wishes to stand down as Chairman at the AGM to be held in 2017 and the Management Board would like to record the Associations appreciation for the invaluable service that he has rendered to the AAA during his tenure since taking office in 2009. Chris has always acted in the best interests of the Association and conducted its business with expediency and efficiency and always with good cheer.

The Board would like to express best wishes to him for the future.

NORTHERN ATHLETICS

President Roy Swinbank

Chairman: Tony Wood

Executive Board: M Fletcher, S Gaines, IM Rogers, A Williams, R Brimage and K Smith
Mrs E Williams (Co-opted)

As Northern Athletics entered its 10th year we were reminded that our history goes back to our predecessors of 1879 vintage. Our current guise is merely a continuation of that great tradition typified in the last twelve months when there has been increased support for us in terms of the number of athletes competing at our championships not only on the road and country but significantly on the track especially our indoor competitions. The pressure on track and field to justify itself financially in difficult times has been there for some time but we are pleased to report that the tide is turning in the North and it is currently supporting itself in its own right.

2016 was an Olympic year and we should mention particularly Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill who, having supported North of England events throughout her career including this year, retired with a glorious record at the top including gold in London and silver in Rio whilst Sophie Hitchon became Britain's first ever Olympic medallist in the hammer with a bronze and Anyika Onuora was our 400m relay medallist. The Brownlee brothers were brilliant taking gold and silver in the triathlon. Well done to all our Olympians.

With everything that is done to ensure we provide excellent competition at area level in the North an outsider might think that our future must be secure and our national governing body without hesitation would support us in any way possible. Northern Athletics has tried over the past few years to negotiate an arrangement whereby the areas would receive grants from England Athletics to ensure that we can break even without diminishing our reserves. Despite lengthy meetings, when the position of the areas could not have been made any clearer, a meeting in September 2016 resulted in our governing body failing to give any long term assurances. As a result Northern Athletics in close conjunction with the Midlands and the South embarked on another vital survey which will give the areas some detailed answers to very specific questions around the funding of area competition. Armed with the results and taking into account the current position of England Athletics we then intend to plan for our long term future. This will hopefully ensure we will still be here for many years to come continuing to be that vital pathway for athletes and officials from grassroots to national level.

Meanwhile we have continued to provide a full programme of Championship events for our athletes.

Cross Country Championships, Witton Park Blackburn

These championships returned again in January to this great course first used in 1963 by the North. The heavy rain over the previous months and on the day combined with cold winds and sleet tested the most hardy runners and spectators. The day's programme was completed in full with special thanks to the Northern officials and the local club volunteers who marshalled the course. The event proved yet again popular with increased entries and Charlie Hulson winning the men's race and Claire Duck the women's event.

Cross Country Relay Championships, Graves Park, Sheffield

It was the 7th running of this autumn event with yet another increase by 20% in athletes and teams at this now popular venue. The weather was favourable with the date excellently placed in the calendar as a preliminary test for the National relays in Mansfield. Lincoln Wellington AC won the double taking the men's and women's team title.

Road Running – Relay Championships

The spring 12/6 stage events were held in the North East at Sunderland with excellent local club support and reasonable entry numbers in both races with Leeds City AC winning the women's 6 stage and Salford the men's 12 stage. The 6/4 stage and young athlete relays were held in the autumn at Sportcity Manchester with this event resulting in a large number of clubs taking part. Leeds City AC's women matched their 6 stage efforts with a win whilst Liverpool took the men's race led by Jonny Mellor as fastest leg overall.

Road Running Championships

The 10M, 10K & 5K championships were held within races at Stockport, Ribble Valley & Sunderland respectively with all three races providing quality competition and proving the value of incorporating Northern Championships within these events.

Representative teams from the North on the country went to Sefton Park, Brussels, Falkirk and Antrim and on the road at the Trafford 10k. A number of our athletes were subsequently selected for England teams after their efforts for the North showing that investment in area athlete development is a beneficial part of our work. Our thanks go to team manager Rob Cameron and his support team.

Track and Field – Indoor season

The 'open' meetings held in November and December have again exceeded expectations with over 800 athletes taking part providing excellent pre-championship competition in superb surroundings at the EIS in Sheffield. The indoor Championships held over three days saw increased entries with the U/13 age group thriving again. Thanks must go to our technical officials who in particular handle the events with great skill and we are particularly blessed with the boundless energy of Malcolm Fletcher our constant meeting manager.

Track and Field – Outdoor season

The Senior and U/20 Championships were held again at Sport City, Manchester with its helpful and co-operative staff. The weather was not so kind but the championships saw the appearance for the last time of Jessica Ennis-Hill who broke Shirley Strong's long standing 100m hurdles record. The 'age group' Championships returned to the new Middlesbrough Sports Village with the Inter County match being held in Hull with good support from the Counties enabling u17 and u15 athletes to gain a county vest. In all the North organise ten days of exclusive track and field competition and combined with the extensive preparation and administration reveals much hard work and dedication from everybody concerned much of it unseen.

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

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 yet again their 1st division title with Preston Harriers runners up.

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

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 increasing contact with our colleagues in the Midlands and South especially to co-ordinate support for funding.

This past year has seen the passing of Dr Leo Carroll, Sheila Markendale, John Newsome, Roger McCall, Arthur Cockcroft, Eric North and Dr Mike Turner and we extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Acknowledgements

Northern Athletics are dependent upon our sponsors, Start Fitness, and the competition grant from England Athletics allowing us to continue with our full programme of Championship events, provide officials with a pathway and to support representative matches. We also value assistance from the many Local Authorities for stadia use along with other areas of help. We are 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. We must never forget our office staff, Judith Temperton and Pat Schofield based in Dewsbury who carry out vital

work every day providing a friendly voice for all who contact us and our Executive Board for their work throughout the year.

Tony Wood
Chairman

MIDLAND COUNTIES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

President: Mr Colin Fox
Hon. Secretary: Mr Andrew Hulse

Chairman: Mr Geoff Durbin
Treasurer: Mr Stewart Barnes

I start this report on a sad note. Dave McNamee, a former employee of the Association, died suddenly early in 2016. After retiring from GCHQ, Dave worked in the Midland Counties office where we put his knowledge of the sport and organisational skills to great use. He was a quiet and hard-working employee who gave much to the Association. He was a former Chairman of the MCAA Road Running Committee and had performed the role of race director at the Midland Championships in Sutton Park. He will be much missed.

We are again grateful for support throughout 2015/16 from various sources: England Athletics for a grant towards running competition, Brooks for its sponsorship of Cross Country and the Road Relays, Athletics Direct for its continued sponsorship of the Track and Field League and Track and Field events. ECCA provided a grant towards our team at the National Cross-Country Championships.

With the loss of the Brooks sponsorship at the end of the year, I am very pleased to announce that Derby Runner are the new sponsors of our Cross Country Championships in 2017.

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 2017.

We continue to promote a number of Area Championships and open events in the various disciplines. Our thanks go to the athletes, coaches, officials and helpers for their continued support of our events.

I can announce our return to the Barclaycard Arena in February 2017 for the Athletics Direct Midland Championships & Open (2 days) and the Athletics Direct Birmingham Games Open (1 day). The facility is only available for these three days due to work on the track in preparation for the 2018 World Indoor Championships. However there is no guarantee of the use of the facility beyond 2019.

The Association continues to work with the AAA's in their efforts to promote the sport to the young.

I attended a meeting with the other Area chairmen at England Athletics in August. We had an update from EA on their current funding position which will not be known fully until Nov/Dec. We were only assured of funding from 1st April 2017 for 6 months at the current rate (an offer since withdrawn because of the survey we are conducting with the other Areas).

We were told that the Areas are an important part of the competition pathway and that they wanted to offer target events as an incentive for athletes to compete (an example of this is the Welsh International to which, along with the other Areas, we sent a team of U20 athletes).

The Areas initiated an online questionnaire regarding funding of grassroots competition. As I am sure you are aware, following the Foster Report, Midland Counties Athletics Association (along with the other Areas) lost governance within the sport and became a competition provider only. As a result of this change, the Association lost its income streams from its own membership scheme and unattached levies (which also gave a source of income to the Counties). For a couple of years the only income came from entry fees and we also made use of our reserves. Since then England Athletics has made grants to grassroots competition providers, including the Areas, which have unfortunately decreased over the years due to their own circumstances. These have been gratefully received but now no longer meet spiraling costs. The Association has down-sized the office twice and renegotiated service contracts to ensure the best value for money, but still makes a loss year on year.

We need to obtain some information to enable us to present a case to ensure grassroots competition is successful and sustainable in the long term. The survey was duplicated by Northern Athletics and the South of England AA.

We are not seeking Sport England or Treasury funding, we simply believe that some of the money that is generated by the athletes in the sport, should support grassroots competition. The Areas wish to make a presentation to the EA Board when we have the results of our survey. The Association wishes to work with England Athletics to produce a long term solution to the funding problem.

The Area's did have a very good meeting with England Athletics (Dean Hardman and Andy Day) in September regarding the fixture calendar for 2017. This was a pre-meeting before the UKA meeting. We were able to discuss some of the date clashes and propose solutions. We also had concerns on the way certain fixtures were given priority.

There has been a change to the staff in the office. Louise Gardner, our office manager, left us in September to take up a post with a cycling charity. We thank Louise for her hard work for the Association and her professional approach. We wish her well in her new career.

Cross Country

The 2016 Midland Cross Country Championships were due to be held at Stafford Common. Our current president Pete Burns had completed all the groundwork, only to find that it had been washed away by rain a week before.

John Skevington stepped up and offered his services and provided a venue at Prestwold Hall which proved to be as successful as anywhere else. The event will head back to Prestwold in 2017.

XC relays - The xc relays incorporated the junior age groups for the first time since 2011. We had 70 junior teams compete at Wolverhampton this year compared to 7 at West Bromwich in 2011. The senior race also had a big increase in numbers (300% since 2011 and 50% on 2015).

Midland 5 & 7 mile champs - The Midland 5 & 7 were held at Bulwell Park Hall. Entries were comparable to the previous year despite moving the event from Wolverhampton.

MWCCCL 2015-16 - Over the season the Midland women's Cross Country League hosted 4 successful races in conjunction with the Birmingham and District Cross Country league.

Once again the league was run as two divisions with races taking place at Newbold Comyn, Leamington, Cofton Park, Crypt School, Blackbridge Court, Gloucester and Aldersley stadium, Wolverhampton. The team results had Loughborough University as convincing winners of Division 1 Division 2 winners were Rugby & Northants who were promoted to division 1.

In the Masters competition Kenilworth Runners were the winners.

Over the season each race had over 270 athletes running and over 620 athletes ran at least one race with 41 different clubs represented.

Road

The Road Relays have seen some changes this year with the 12 Stage having all long legs in the first 4 stages and the introduction of long legs for the Women's 6 stage. This produced closer racing in the Men's event and an earlier finishing time for all. Unfortunately, the entries were down on the previous year.

The Autumn Relays were once again a one day affair with a change to the Men & Ladies start times bringing the days racing to an earlier end. The entries were well up on the previous year.

Both the Spring and Autumn relays produced some close competition throughout the age groups.

We continue to send teams to represent the Midland Counties in Inter Area Road Matches, and we must thank our team Managers for their work in selecting the teams and managing them at the events.

This year saw the introduction of the New Road Running League; which replaces our Midland 10km Championships. A series of five races, with three to score to produce an overall Midlands Male and Female Road Running champion. Once again we thank Brooks Running who will present the two champions with sports kit.

Track and Field

The Indoor season in 2016 was made up of 3 indoor events at the HPC at Alexander Stadium, as there was no access to the Barclaycard Arena this year.

1st Open – January 2016 there were 471 entries for events from 363 athletes, with sprints and outdoor throws on Saturday 16th and Field events including outdoor throws on Sunday 17th

2nd Open – February 2016 there were 650 entries for events from 483 athletes, with Field events including outdoor throws on Saturday 20th February and sprints and outdoor throws on Sunday 21st

World Junior Championships

Ryan Gorman, Notts AC, 200m
Alex Farquharson, Coventry, Long Jump
Alicia Barrett, Chesterfield, 100mH 6th

Rory Dwyer, Stratford Upon Avon, High Jump
Charlotte McLennaghan, Notts AC, 200m
Mollie Courtney, Cheltenham, 100mH

Olympic Games

Danny Talbot, Birchfield Harriers 200m/4x100mR

Matthew Hudson-Smith, Birchfield Harriers, 400m/4x400mR, 8th

Jarryd Dunn, Birchfield Harriers, 4x400mR

Andy Pozzi, Stratford Upon Avon, 110mH

Laura Whittle, Royal Sutton Coldfield, 5000m

Elliot Giles, Birchfield Harriers, 800m

Robbie Grabarz, NEB, High Jump, =4th

Jazmin Sawyers, City of Stoke, Long Jump 8th

Geoff Durbin
Chairman

SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION LIMITED

President Mr Martin Howard
Chairman Mr John Gebbels

Honorary Secretary Ms Abi Onatade
Honorary Treasurer Mr Nigel Faben

The South of England Athletic Association in conjunction with its Competition Company SEAA (Competition) Ltd had a successful 2016 season in all its areas of competition and in all disciplines. The Discipline Working Groups have worked hard to make sure that athletes had the standard of competition that they have come to expect of the Association, while within the financial constraints of the Association.

Once again the Association's Website, Twitter Account and Facebook Page continue to be used to support our clubs and organisations along with our regular information mail outs.

Endurance DWG:

The Endurance DWG (consisting of Cross Country and Road Running) were very active over the year. At the main Cross Country Championships held at Parliament Hill in London, Aldershot, Farnham & District AC won 5 medals in various team categories, just one short of 2015, though Highgate Harriers won the Senior Men's Team Race.

The Cross-Country Relays were once again held at Wormwood Scrubs. Medals were won across the board with Herne Hill Harriers winning the Under 13 Girls, Under 13 Boys and Under 17 Women's Team. Highgate Harriers took home the Senior Men's Team Gold and London Heathside AC the Senior Women's.

The London Championships were again held in conjunction with the London Youth Games at Parliament Hill in November. Highgate Harriers took home the Senior Men's Team Gold and London Heathside, the Women's.

The Masters and Inter County Championships were held in December at Horspath, Oxford. Surrey took home 5 Gold medals in the Inter Counties, Kent and Hampshire took the remaining 2 each.

Due to the withdrawal of support from Milton Keynes, the SEAA hosted the 12/6 Stage Road Relays for the first time at a new venue, the Cyclopark in Kent. The event and venue were hugely successful. With only two races, Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers took gold in the Senior Men's 12 Stage and Highgate Harriers in the Senior Women's 6.

The 6/4 Stage Road Relays were successfully held at Bedford Autodrome after Aldershot, Farnham & District AC were unable to secure Rushmoor Arena. Aldershot took 4 Gold Medals in the U13 Boys, Under 17 Women, Senior Men and Senior Women age categories.

Track and Field DWG:

The 2016 Indoor Championships were once again held at Lee Valley Athletics Centre over six days. This consisted of the Indoor All Ages Combined Events and the Individual Championships across all age groups. In the Individual Championships the SEAA, thanks to an anonymous benefactor, were offering £100 and £50 prizes to any athlete who beat a Championship Best Performance that had stood for either 10 or 5 years respectively and several athletes were awarded the cash prize. As always, there were various new Championship Best Performances set on the track and in the field.

The U20/Senior Outdoor Championships were held at Lee Valley for the second time, and the U15/U17 Championships at the Julie Rose Stadium, in Ashford, which once again included some U13 Open Events. This year the 70/75m Hurdle and High Jump events were added and all are proving extremely popular.

The new tradition of offering cash prizes for Championship Best Performances continued, with several athletes winning the awards.

The Combined Events were once again held at Horspath Track in Oxford, which proved to be a popular change of venue, alongside the U15/U20 Inter County Championships, where Kent County took gold in the U20 Age Group and Middlesex in the U15.

As always the Association would once again like to put on record that without the efforts of our numerous officials, 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. 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.

John Gebbels
Chairman

ENGLISH CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

The Saucony English National Cross Country Championships were held in the middle of the Country in 2016 with Aeroplanes flying over into East Midlands Airport and Motor Cars flying around the Race Track at Donnington Park adjacent to the Cross Country Course. Despite the noise from the Planes and Cars the venue proved to be a good one and was very popular with the athletes and the Championships were a success. The runners however ran in the direction away from the Airport and the Race Track into the Countryside and tackled a tough hilly Course. In total 4921 runners finished the 10 race programme with record fields in the under 13 Girls, under 13 Boys and under 17 Women's races and with the younger age groups showing up well the future looks good.

So the quantity was there but what about the quality. All the Champions were worthy winners however what was the depth of the field like? When looking at the National Fields, of the 31 Athletes that ran for Great Britain in the European Cross Country Championships back in December 2015 and also eligible to run in the English National, 9 did although 2 more were at University in the USA. In the Men's race, 1 Past Champion took part while in the Women's race 3 Past Champions did. In the Younger Age Groups, most of the star names competed and arguably all the favourites performed well and either won or were medallists.

The Relays were once again held at Berry Hill Park Mansfield and were a success No records this time but the Park produces a superb atmosphere with supporters and spectators spread around the Course and once again over a 1000 Teams took part. The fact that this venue is central has been a major factor in the success of the event and despite obstacles that have come about the Championships will be held at Berry Hill again in 2016.

The ECCA has continued to invest significant funds in the International programme and this gives athletes the opportunity to compete at a high level abroad. 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. Each year the Team Managers meet at the end of September to consider the best programme to help athletes develop and both Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity race at a higher level and gain experience.

The ECCA elects a President each year, this is an honorary position and the person elected presides over the Championships. For 2016 -17, Basil Heatley will be the President, famous for gaining a silver medal in the Marathon at The Tokyo Olympics, Basil was a great Cross Country runner, winning the

National 3 times and also the International in 1961. He is one of the few athletes to have won medals at the Youth, Junior and Senior Nationals and has remained a member of Coventry Godiva AC since joining in 1950.

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 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.

The year began with the Men's 12 stage and women's 6 stage relays on Saturday 16th April 2016. In the ladies race Aldershot Farnham & District were the pre-race favourites having won this championship since 2010. As expected AFD led the field home on stage 1 but slipped to 2nd on stage 2 before normal proceedings were resumed on stage 3 as AFD stretched their lead to almost 5 minutes by the finish. Leeds were a comfortable 2nd with Cambridge & Coleridge moving through to claim 3rd place. Fastest short stage went to Susan Partridge of Leeds while the quickest long stage was Steph Twell from AFD

In a more open contest the men's race saw Highgate come out on top for the first time in their history. Although not actually hitting the front until stage 11 they ran out worthy winners by 45 seconds from AFD who couldn't quite make it a club double. Third place went to Bristol & West who produced a very consistent performance and were never outside the top 3 all afternoon. Fastest short stage was shared by Ross Murray of Gateshead and Matt Jackson from Liverpool. Quickest long stage was Dewi Griffiths of Swansea.

The young athletes and the senior 4 & 6 stage relays took place on the same day for the first on Saturday 8th October 2016. In the ladies 4 stage race AFD having lost the title to Swansea last year that they had held since 2007 returned to winning ways after a closely fought battle with Birchfield, only taking the lead for the first time on the last leg through Louise Small, Cardiff held on for the bronze medals. Fastest leg went to Kate Hulls from Bristol & West.

The men's race proved to be just as exciting with the top 3 teams leading at some point during the race. Winners Cardiff moved through from 5th on leg 1 to take a 3 second lead over Swansea on leg 5. The last leg saw a real battle between Cardiff's Tom Marshall and Swansea's Jon Hopkins with both recording the same time to give Cardiff the victory. Liverpool, in 3rd place were the 1st English club. Andy Butchart from Central AC recorded the fastest time of 16.29

Under 13 Girls

1st	Poole AC	44.27
2nd	Wreake & Soar Valley	44.47
3rd	Birchfield Harriers	44.58
fastest stage	Amy Harland, Birchfield	13.48

Under 13 Boys

1st	Herne Hill	40.14
2nd	AFD	41.00
3rd	Tonbridge	41.16
fastest stage	Jaden Kennedy, Herne Hill	13.02

Under 15 Girls

1st	Macclesfield	42.50
2nd	Blackheath & Bromley Harriers	42.54
3rd	City of Norwich	43.06
fastest stage	Emily Williams, Kettering	13.40

Under 15 Boys

1st	Cambridge & Coleridge	38.19
2nd	Leeds	38.47
3rd	Tonbridge	38.57
fastest stage	Alfie Bould, Vale Royal	12.05

Under 17 Girls

1st	Aldershot Farnham & District AC	41.27
2nd	Liverpool Harriers	41.43
3rd	Herne Hill Harriers	42.54
fastest stage	Amelia Quirk, Bracknell	12.54

Under 17 Boys

1st	Shaftsbury Barnett	35.52
2nd	Vale Royal	36.05
3rd	Tonbridge	36.12
fastest stage	James Puxty, Tonbridge	11.42

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 and to AAA's for providing the Salvors for the winning teams in each of the young athlete's relays

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

2015 – 16 has been a good and stable year for the FRA. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported our work.

Many of our traditional activities have continued, as in recent years, including:

- a. a healthy financial position, despite slight reductions in advertising income
- b. a calendar with over 500 races resulting in a few disciplinary sanctions for breaches of rules but with an increase in the number of reported incidents (injuries resulting in a hospital admission) emphasising the importance of good first aid, including wilderness first aid provision and mountain rescue cover at races.
- c. successful championships and presentation events for juniors and seniors, both with continued sponsorship plus the U 20s, U 23s championships
- d. success in holding the junior and senior Inter counties and the Schools championship
- e. success, as well, at international level
- f. developing membership beyond 6,000 again
- g. 3 Fell runner magazines produced and the website maintained
- h. coaching, navigation and wilderness first aid courses held
- i. continued positive relationships with UKA/BA, including our membership of MRAG, who organise the British fell running events and teams.

There were some challenges and new developments during the year:

- a. resolving issues related to fell only club registration with England Athletics
- b. developing our links with many of the other bodies registering fell races in the UK
- c. participation in the bi-annual UKA/BA rules revisions exercise, the outcome of which will have little or no effect on fell running
- d. developing a team of Race Liaison Officers to work with race organisers
- e. carrying out a further audit of race organiser compliance with FRA rules
- f. taking forward a number of initiatives with landowners in relation to access for races
- g. holding the first ever members survey, with one third of the membership responding
- h. starting the production of the FRAs first ever plan, which will include responses from the member's survey.

After a number of years with an Executive Committee with many years' service the last few years have seen rapid changes and in 2016 – 17 there will be few members who were on the Committee before 2010. We are grateful to all the members who have come forward to join the committee and to the 40 plus members who provide a whole variety of support functions that ensure that the FRA is well managed.

Steve Cliff
General Secretary

RACE WALKING ASSOCIATION

English race walking is truly back on the world stage with major championship results at a level not seen for half a century. Highlights of the year saw Callum Wilkinson becoming World U20 champion in Bydgoszcz with a huge PB and new British record and then Tom Bosworth finishing an amazing sixth in the Olympic 20K having led the field for much of the race.

Both Bosworth and Wilkinson have great potential which is matched only by their determination to improve further. Having said that, there are more young athletes being inspired by their success and are quickly following in their footsteps with potential to succeed at world level, non-more so than Sophie Lewis Ward who turned out a big PB when it mattered to finish fourth at the inaugural European Youth Championships.

This success is testament to the work put in at the Leeds Beckett based centre for race walking led by Andi Drake. The team there are now strongly focussed on achieving even better results on the road to Tokyo 2020.

Over recent years the RWA has tried to increase the competitor numbers in some of the national championships but it has been recognised that the quality of competition at these events has not been maintained, largely due to the programme not being in tune with the major internationals. It is a difficult task balancing the lack of suitable venues and available dates with the competition needs of the top athletes but this must be achieved to ensure that national championships are duly regarded with the greatest respect.

Much has been said in recent years about the decline in numbers of officials. It is recognised that this is particularly true in race walking where athletes tend to continue competing much later into life. The RWA has assigned a working group to look into ways of addressing this issue and encourage more people to become officials thus ensuring the ongoing provision of competitive opportunities.

The RWA is pleased to welcome Steve Arnold as the new chair for Coaching and Development. Steve brings with him many years of competitive experience as well as a proven track record in coaching at both development and international level.

Colin Vesty
Race Walkers Association

AAA DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES & LEGACY

Tom Pink Relays

During 2016 events were held at Lee Valley, Manchester and Sheffield but unfortunately the facility was not available to hold an event in Birmingham.

The available funding for the Tom Pink Relays is coming to an end but the AAA are still committed to two events this coming year which will be held in conjunction with England Athletics. These events will be at the EIS Sheffield on the 11th March in conjunction with England Athletics National Multi-Event Age Group Championships and at England Athletics' Home International in Manchester during August.

Med Ball and Endurance Challenge

More than 60 delivery days have been held during the year. Both challenges have proved very popular and are now well established as part of the National Awards Schemes.

World Marathon Challenge

The World Marathon Challenge has continued along with the popular 5000 Metre Challenge for the primary age group. More than 100 teams entered each of the two events including teams from France, Ireland, Canada and the Czech Republic.

The Association plans are for this event to continue as an outreach programme.

After Schools Resource

This programme has been successfully piloted in Manchester. The demand from parents and children meant that the number of evenings originally planned had to be increased fourfold.

A draft is in preparation for an online resource to be made available for use in clubs and schools.

The Museum

Walter Nicholls is working hard to progress the Associations plans for an Athletics Museum and has made several valuable contacts.

Grants

- a. **Hall of Fame** - 2016 will be the last year that the AAA will provide a grant to the Hall of Fame but our plan is to continue providing salvers to the best English performers at the National Track and Field Championships
- b. **Activities for the Young** - The AAA continue to provide grants in support of the ERRA and ECCA, Sportshall and the Three Area Associations in support of activities for the Young.
- c. **AAA and WAAA Trophies** - Philip Andrew has kindly taken on the task of cataloguing the AAA and WAAA trophies to ensure that their historic value is safely recorded.

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.

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.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our chairman, David Cropper who will be greatly missed after many years of valuable work both for the AAA and its charity.

Alan Barlow
Treasurer / Trustee

STANDARDS SCHEME

As last year there are a growing number of clubs buying badges in bulk for their club presentations.

There is always a brisk demand for badges at the English Schools Championships and it was noticeable that this year there were a number of applications for badges post that event.

It is obvious that there is a demand for badges to be purchased at athletic events. The busiest day was in September when 129 badges were sold at a young athletes Inter County Match at Nuneaton. Having said this, the Youth Development League made the decision not to have badges at their finals.

The revision of Standards, to become effective for the coming Track and Field season, has been conducted and its publication is now dependent on meeting representatives of UKA to try to incorporate them into the Power of 10.

Edwin Bellamy
Hon Standards Officer