

# **Amateur Athletic Association**



## **Annual Report 2017**

# AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
President:  
Chairman Walter Nicholls

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Mrs F M Clarke M.B.E  
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## MANAGEMENT BOARD

W. Nicholls	Chairman
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
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 2016-217 the directors held five Board meetings at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham (including one following the AGM). We thank the staff of the Midland Counties AA for facilitating the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and facilities and hospitality for Board meetings.

Despite a decline in funds and little appreciable income the Association has managed to reduce expenses enabling it to continue its successful programme in providing competition for young athletes at grass roots.

The well-established Tom Pink Relays and World Marathon Challenge initiatives together with the Med Ball Challenge were held and continued to successfully spotlight talented youngsters on their introduction to athletics.

As in previous years the Tom Pink Events were held at Lee Valley Athletics Centre in London, the EIS in Sheffield and Sportcity in Manchester. Whilst funding is depleted some events were held in conjunction with England Athletics Senior competitions and this enabled the introduction of young athletes to perform before a larger audience and enhanced atmosphere.

For the eleventh year the World Marathon Challenge was held in October at London, Manchester and Birmingham with fierce competition all round. It was anticipated that in future this event could be organised on a wider basis as the resources for organising the challenge are available online and perhaps more schools could be involved.

The resources for the very successful Med Ball Challenge were also made available online and this initiative continued to be popular, used in schools and clubs. This challenge is part of the British Athletics Award Schemes and is well established as part of the AAA legacy. Further, endurance tests for young athletes were also established as part of the British Athletics Award Scheme.

Whilst expressing concern in the previous year's Management Board report about the future of the Association after 2017 due to declining income, we are pleased to report that we are still 'in business', particularly providing opportunities for young athletes not catered for elsewhere and the Association still sees itself as the voice of the voluntary sector and has a role to support the England Areas, Cross Country and Road Running which bodies are represented on the Board.

There is also our role in reminding the 'powers that be' that the Association has been at the forefront of athletics since 1880 and has a duty to preserve the traditions and heritage of our sport. There is still 'work in progress' in efforts to establish a museum for the sport.

We are pleased to continue our strong relationship with the English Schools Athletics Association and British Athletics Supporters Club.

In relation to our continuing strong connections with England Athletics we are pleased to record the re-introduction of the 'AAA Championships' in the Senior England Track and Field Championships. Our trophies were highlighted at the meeting and AAA plaques were presented to the 'AAA Champions'. Further, two of our directors, (Walter Nicholls and Ian Byett) are members of the England Athletics Hall of Fame Panel.

The AAA Charity for the Young continues to provide grants to deserving young athletes, ably supplementing the Associations commitment to this sector of the sport.

**Walter Nicholls**  
**Chairman**

# NORTHERN ATHLETICS

**President** Kevin Carr

**Chairman:** Tony Wood

**Treasurer:** Nigel Orr

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

It has been an eventful year for Northern Athletics and this report is an opportunity to report on the testing environment that our area competition providers have to work within. The areas, as you know, are a vital component within the existing structure for athletics and when the areas ceased to be governing bodies it was made clear that the areas would be looked after. Unfortunately our national governing body has failed to live up to that promise and following a series of grants over a number of years it was made clear to the areas last year that after a grant to cover the period 2018/2019 England Athletics could give no guarantees of further funding to the areas.

Northern Athletics consulted with clubs, athletes, coaches and officials receiving an extremely favourable response with over 95% of those responding very clear in their wish to not only wanting Northern Athletics to continue but also prepared to provide extra finance to keep it going. As a result Northern Athletics had their annual open meeting in November and an overwhelming vote was taken in favour of a proposal of £2 per registered athlete. A period of consultation followed and by the 1<sup>st</sup> April the Clubs will be asked as to whether they are prepared to affiliate and contribute on the basis of a fee based on the number of England Athletic registered athletes within their Club. The response so far has been extremely encouraging with more than forty Clubs committing to the scheme at the time of the writing of this report. It is vital that the registration fees reach the right level on the 1<sup>st</sup> October when payment would be made to ensure that we can continue long term. The failure of this scheme will result in the demise of Northern Athletics over the coming two years. Our slogan 'Your support, our survival, your future' seems to have caught on. Our destiny is in the hands of our clubs and our future, if we are successful will be much brighter.

Of course regardless of these major distractions Northern Athletics continues to provide a full comprehensive list of sixteen competitions including our annual championship events over the course of the last 12 months. Our indoor and track and field season events were held in Sheffield followed by two open meetings in November and December with the indoor junior championships including the u13s probably experiencing for the first time competition at this level in our fantastic venue at the EIS.

Our outdoor meetings were in the North West at Sportcity for the seniors in less than ideal weather and at Leigh for the juniors. Both venues welcomed us and gave us much support. In between came our Northern Inter Counties in Hull where many young athletes wore a County vest with pride. A strong Yorkshire team just edged out Lancashire on the day. The Combined Events Championships, indoor and outdoor, were held in conjunction with the England Championships at the EIS, Sheffield and Sportcity respectively.

Our Cross Country events took place last January at Knowsley Safari Park outside Liverpool for the first time. The animals could be seen from a safe distance whilst the runners excelled on a course that suited a true cross country runner. Ben Connor ( Derby) took the senior men's title and went on to win the National with Claire Duck ( Leeds ) retaining her title in great style. The 8<sup>th</sup> running of the Cross Country Relays at Sheffield went well which, with the support of the local clubs, is an ever increasing successful promotion in October with 462 teams entered this year. Lincoln Wellington retained both the men's and women's titles

Our road running programme is essential for Northern Athletics and needs to be in order so that we can continue to balance the books. Our 12/6 stage road relays this time were held at Blackpool with Sale winning the men's race and Rotherham the women's gold medals. Blackpool also included a 5k championship event for u17s and u15s which attracted well over 200 entries at this inaugural event. A park venue can cause problems with traffic from the general public however Sports City Manchester, now the regular venue for the autumn 6/4 stage relays, has no such obstacles being a closed venue. Again the entries there were increased with Lincoln Wellington winning the men's 6 stage and Leigh Harriers the women's 4 stage.

We also hold our Northern Road Championships events around three races, the 10K Championships were at the Ribble Valley 10K in December won by Marc Scott in front of Jonny Brownlee and for the

women Laura Weightman winning in the second fastest time of the year in the UK. The famous Brampton to Carlisle 10 mile road race and the Sunderland 5K road race proudly incorporated our championships into their events.

Representative teams from the North competed on the country at Sefton Park, Brussels, Antrim and Port Talbot and the road in Leeds, Telford and Trafford with again a number of our athletes subsequently selected for England teams proving beyond doubt that area investment produces rewards. Our thanks go to team manager Rob Cameron and his support team.

This past year has seen the passing of David Crosdale, Arthur Fox, Derek Ibbotson MBE, Murray Lambden, Charles Stuart and Margaret Watson and we extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Northern Athletics are dependent upon our sponsors, Start Fitness and our thanks go to them as well as our office staff, Judith Temperton and Pat Schofield based in Dewsbury who as always carry out vital work. It has been a successful year for the North providing again that essential pathway of competition for athletes whilst assisting coaches in developing their athletes and providing that perfect experience for our much valued officials as they progress from County through to National level.

**Tony Wood**  
**Chairman**

## **MIDLAND COUNTIES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

**President:** Mr Colin Fox (Nov 2015 to Nov 2017) Ms Lyn Orbel (From Nov 2017)

**Chairman:** Mr Geoff Durbin      **Hon. Secretary:** Mr Andrew Hulse      **Treasurer:** Mr Stewart Barnes

### **Chairman's Report by Geoff Durbin**

I start on a sad note. December 2016 saw the passing of David Cropper O.B.E, my predecessor as Chairman of MCAA. David had also been Chairman of the AAA's. Both organisations are very grateful for the time and energy he gave in steering the then governing bodies.

We are grateful for support throughout 2016/17 from various sources. England Athletics for their continued grant towards running Area Championships. Derby Runner for the sponsorship of our Cross-Country Championships in 2017 and for the provision of an arch at the Road Relays, Athletics Direct for its continued sponsorship of the Track and Field League and Track and Field events. ECCA for providing a grant towards our team at the National Cross-Country Championships and ERRA for providing a grant towards development in Road Running.

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.

Our thanks also go to the Track & Field League Secretary and Divisional Secretaries for the hard work in providing a good structure of competition for the clubs.

Our congratulations go to Midland athletes who have represented England or the United Kingdom in international competition during this year, especially the World Championships and Para World Championships.

We thank all athletes who represented the Midland Counties in various teams throughout the year, together with their team managers, coaches and support staff. The Areas are an important part of the competition pathway. England Athletics supported us and the other Areas to send a track and field team of U20's to the Welsh International where the athletes produced good results and were grateful to receive the England/Area kit provided by England Athletics – the athletes being selected from winners at our U20 Track and Field Championships. With the support of ECCA and ERRA we were able to support Cross Country and Road Running teams to go to various events.

The Association is indebted to the volunteers across the Area who have given their time and energy to support athletics. We thank the Officers and Committees of the Association, Coaches, and Technical Officials, Club and County Officers and all supporters of the sport.

Again, my thanks and that of the Association go to our hard working office staff for their contribution to the smooth running of the Association, especially in the support given to the various discipline committees.

We are still continuing to have discussions with England Athletics concerning the future support and funding of the Association to ensure our viability in the coming years. We will monitor the Northern Athletics approach to funding using an affiliation scheme.

We thank all those who completed our survey. This showed strong support for Midland Counties to continue providing Area competition and support for an additional component of the EA affiliation fee going towards grassroots competition. Be assured that the Management Committee will be making this a key focus of their work during the coming year.

I have been extremely disappointed with UKA for the lack of guidance on organising the fixture calendar for next year. The first fixtures meeting was in February 2016, but the usual autumn meeting was not considered by them to be essential. The numerous late changes and clashes show that this decision was a poor judgement call. As such, Midland Counties has been left with only one day at the Arena Birmingham (our thanks to Joan Durose of WIC2018 for securing this). However this has had to be cancelled because of increased costs. We have, however, put an additional meeting into the HPC at Alexander Stadium for some championship events.

At the November 2017 AGM Colin Fox retired as President and Lyn Orbell took up this position for the next two years. We are very grateful to Colin for the work he has done for the Association, presenting medals at Championships, attending Management meetings and for his officiating at various events.

Richard Float also stepped aside as Assistant Treasurer. Richard has been a stalwart of the Association and under his lead the Association has sound financial foundations. On a personal note, I am very grateful to the guidance and mentoring that Richard gave me when I became Chairman. Many thanks Richard.

#### **Hon. Secretary's Report by Andrew Hulse**

The Indoor season this year did include 3 days at the Barclaycard Arena; two days for the Midland Championships and a single day for the Birmingham Games - both of which were oversubscribed in some events which forced us to close entries early. The two meetings at the High Performance Centre were well attended and an Inter-National level coach of some repute was totally amazed at the level and numbers involved in one of the days.

The Outdoor season meant 3 days of competition at the Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton - a single day for the Senior and Under 20 Championships, reduced from 2 days last year so that the clash with the County Schools competitions on the Saturday did not result in Officials being in short supply. This clash of fixtures continues to be of concern to both the County Schools and the Areas but does not seem to be seen in the same light by UKA. The U17, U15 and U13 Quadrathlon took place later this year due to the World Para Athletics Championships and IAAF World Championships. Once again Coventry Godiva held the MCAA 3000m Championships during their Godiva Classic meeting and Tipton hosted our 10000m Championships. Our thanks go to these two clubs. I would like to thank all of the staff in the Office and also at the Pingles Stadium for their help and support over the summer period.

#### **Cross Country by Marti Whitehouse**

**Midland Cross Country Relays:** The 2016 Cross Country Relays were held at Aldersley stadium, Wolverhampton and included junior age groups for the first time for several years. This increased numbers from the fact that we had the extra races but we also saw increased numbers in every other category (Men / Women / Senior / Master).

**Midland 5 & 7 Mile Cross Country Championships:** The event moved from Wolverhampton to Nottingham in 2016 and numbers remained pretty much the same.

Midland Cross Country Championships: The 2017 Midland Cross Country Championships were once again held at Prestwold Hall, numbers competing were good and the venue is proving to be popular.

**Home Countries International:** The Home Countries International was hosted in Wales and the Midlands sent full teams in all 4 races. Teams were selected from the Midland and National Championships. The majority of the team were driven down to South Wales by Colin Robinson the morning before and had the opportunity to look around Swansea for a few hours. The hotel, food and competition was of a good standard and all of the athletes were grateful for the opportunity to run at Margam Park.

Dates have been confirmed for the 2017/2018 season and I am now working on confirming the 2018/2019 season. Sponsorship with Derby Runner has continued.

Many thanks to John Skevington, Colin Thompson, Mick Robinson, Colin Robinson, John Muddeman, Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club, Wreake and Soar Valley Athletics Club, Notts Athletics Club, Leicestershire Running Athletics Network, the English Cross Country Association and The Derby Runner.

### **Women's Cross Country League by Mary J Hodges**

The Midland Women's Cross Country League is open to all Affiliated Clubs, within the Midland Counties Competition area.

During the 2016/17 season a total of 640 different athletes from 45 different clubs took part in the league. The competition is run over four races, three of which were held in conjunction with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League and one was a stand-alone race hosted by Wolverhampton & Bilston.

(Thank you to Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League for their continued support of the league and Leamington C & A C, Stratford Athletics Club, Wolverhampton & Bilston and Kenilworth for hosting races)

In addition to the promotion of the sport the league is also dedicated to the development of Officials and to this end the league operates an Assistant Referee role and requires all clubs to provide at least 2 Officials/Helpers per season.

Whilst there is only one race at each venue, two divisions operate within that race to offer an incentive to smaller clubs.

### **Midland Race Walking by Ann Perry**

This year has seen the level of competition improve in standard, however, the numbers of competitors does not appear to have increased greatly. Some athletes who had taken a break have returned, but some others have had to cope with injuries which have kept them out of competition for most of the year. We wish them a speedy recovery to enable them to return to our competitions.

On the Officials scene, our Judges and Officials Secretary, Bob Wheeler, had taken an active lead in negotiations with UKA to ensure that the progression pathway for officials in Race Walking is workable. A report on an agreed way forward is to be presented to the RWA General Committee for adoption on 7th October. This matter was referred to the Rules and Officials Sub-Committee for discussion at a meeting at the end of November.

A session to introduce new officials at Level One is proposed for later this year, and it is hoped that this will be supported by many potential officials, and those who to date have acted in a voluntary position, to enable them to obtain an officials licence and to progress through the gradings as they wish.

Without the core of officials who turn out regularly for all our championships and open events in the Midlands it would not be possible to stage these events. As Honorary Secretary, I would like to extend my personal thanks, and those from the Midland Area Association for all their efforts.

On a financial note, the Association has still not decided how best to utilise the allocated portion of the Cecil Gittins legacy, therefore it rests in the account. We have a reasonably healthy balance, but as most of our events return either a small deficit or a very tiny surplus, care still needs to be taken to ensure that the Association remains in such a position as to finance these events. It has been agreed that for the proposed Officials' course, any deficit will be covered by the Association, however, should sufficient numbers show an interest this should not prove necessary.

For this year, I have had the privilege to be the National RWA President, an honour, and one which I have enjoyed immensely.

Our President for 2017, Peter Boszko, has been asked to present medals at many events over the year and it is good to note that the position is regarded as an important one and that organisers of events have thought it appropriate to ask him to do these Presentations.

Lastly, the athletes who continue to compete in this sport of race walking are to be congratulated on their achievements, some participated in events not before attempted. An example being Hardeep Minhas in the 100 miles, together with the several athletes who competed in the Masters events at Aarhus with very good results, and the younger generation who are going from strength to strength in their progress through the age groups. We would wish them all well and encourage them to continue to compete and improve. Young senior athletes are at present not numerous, however, the opportunities for competition in major games are good and these athletes should be encouraged to continue in the sport and to progress to national representation. We realise that many find exam times are stressful, but we would hope that competition and training continue to be part of their regime for the foreseeable future.

### **MCAA Road Running Report by Ian Clarke**

The 12 Stage Road Relays remained in the same format having all long legs in the first 4 stages and the introduction of long legs for the Womens 6 stage. This produced closer racing in the Mens event and an earlier finishing time for all. There was a larger team entry in both Male & Female relays from the previous year. We introduced a single lap 5km race to the program this year for the Under 15 & 17 age groups which were well received with 63 entries. Next year we will increase this to take in the under 13 age group and also introduce a team element to it.

The Autumn Combined Relays were again all on one day and produced a very large entry, which was up on the previous year over all age groups. With the large numbers this made the leg changeovers very congested and caused some confusion with the incoming and outgoing runners.

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 2 more events to the Road Running League - now a series of seven races, with three to score from to identify an overall Midlands male and female Road Running champion.

**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

### **Annual Report for year to 31 March 2017**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the activities of SEAA Competition Limited for the year up to 31 March 2017. The company has promoted championships in all disciplines namely Track and Field both indoor and outdoor, Cross Country, Road Running Relays and Fell Running. The major concern and focus for the Board is the need to make our promotions as economical as possible while maintaining the high standards we set ourselves. Discussions continue with the other areas and with England Athletics in an attempt to find a sustainable funding basis.

A detailed report for each discipline follows:

## **SEAA Endurance DWG Report (Sharon Herbert & Martin Howard)**

### **Southern Road Relays - Six, Four & Three Stage Relays**

After many years at Rushmoor Arena, the races were moved to the Bedford Autodrome at Thurleigh, Bedford. For the first time, and in line with the other Areas, they were completed over one day - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This proved to be reasonably successful and appreciated by the Clubs competing.

The course was very open and flat and the weather conditions were not ideal but despite this the new venue was well liked by a number of Clubs. Due to the late change of venue the numbers of teams entered was slightly down on previous years.

Aldershot Farnham & DAC were the biggest winners on the day winning the Senior Men, Senior Women, Under 17 Women and U13 Boys Championships. Congratulations also to Cambridge & Coleridge (SW Vets & U15 Boys), Oxford City AC (SM Vets), Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers (U17 Men), City of Norwich AC (U15 Girls) and Poole AC (U13 Girls).

### **Southern Road Relays - Twelve & Six Stage Relays**

For the second year these Championships were held at Cyclopark, Gravesend on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Our grateful thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation of this event especially the staff at Cyclopark. We have asked Cyclopark that consideration be given to extending this course for future years.

Winners were Tonbridge AC (Senior Men) and Winchester & District AC (Senior Women). The fastest men's times were A.Maud (Highgate Harriers) and N.Goolab (Belgrave Harriers) on the long leg in 19m.07s and L.Lloyd (Herne Hill Harriers) in 13m.01s. For the women, N.Taschimowitz on the long leg in 22m.02s, and on the short leg I.Lee (Winchester AC) in 14m.23s.

Because of short notice it was decided to put off holding inaugural 5Km U/17 men's and women's races in conjunction with these relays this time.

## **Cross Country**

### **Southern Relays**

The Southern Cross-Country Relays were once again held at Wormwood Scrubs on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. Many thanks to members of Thames Valley Harriers for hosting this event and all the hard work in preparing for these Championships. Numbers were slightly up on previous years and every effort is being made to make this a more popular event in the Cross Country Calendar.

Winners in the men's races were Highgate Harriers (Sen Men), Chiltern Harriers (U/20), Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers (U/17), Chiltern Harriers (U/15) and Herne Hill Harriers (U/13). The winners in the women's races were London.Heathside RC (Sen Women), West Suffolk AC (U/20), Herne Hill Harriers (U/17), City of Norwich AC (U/15) and Herne Hill Harriers (U/13).

## **SEAA London Championships**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016, in conjunction with the London Youth Games, the London Cross-Country Championships were held, as usual at Parliament Hill Fields. Many thanks to the City of London for their tremendous support in the staging and preparation for this event.

Individual London Champions were P.Huck (Run Fast) for the men, and for the women S.Ward (Herne Hill Harriers). Highgate Harriers took the Senior Men's title and London Heathside the Senior Women's title.

## **Southern Masters & Inter Counties Championships**

The SEAA Masters & SEAA Inter-Counties XC Championships were held concurrently on 10<sup>th</sup> December at Horspath in Oxfordshire. Thanks go to Richard Hart and Oxford City AC for their support and assistance in the staging of these Championships. The day was wet and gloomy and the course a mixture of open grassland and very muddy woods. The officials and marshals did an excellent job of work. Unlike most venues there is more than adequate car parking here.

Surrey County had a very successful Championship winning 5 of the 8 age groups. U13 Girls & Boys, U15 Girls, U20 Women and Senior Women. Kent won the U15 Boys and U17 Women and Hampshire the U17 Men.

In the Masters Championships Herne Hill Harriers won the Men 40 – 49, and 50 – 59 events with Oxford City AC winning the 60-69 event. In the Women's categories Arena 80 won the 40 – 49 event, London Heathside the 50 -59 event and Newbury AC 60—69 event.

## **South of England Main Cross Country Championships**

The main Southern Cross-Country Championships were, as is currently usual for two years out of every three, held at Parliament Hill Fields on 28<sup>h</sup> January 2017. This would not be possible without the permission and enormous support we receive from City of London and the staff at Parliament Hill.

This year the course was dry and quite hard. Men 2016/17 Champions are Senior A.Maud (Highgate Harriers) – Team Highgate Harriers, U/20 E.Cross (Aldershot Farnham & District AC) – Team Aldershot Farnham & District, U/17 Z.Mahamed (Southampton AC) – Team Tonbridge AC, U/15 C.Brisley (Invicta East Kent AC) – Team Tonbridge AC, U/13 F.Vaughan (Reigate Priory AC) – Team Aldershot Farnham & District.

Women's Champions are Senior E.Hasker-Thornhill (Aldershot Farnham & District) who also were the Team winners, U/20 G.Holloway (Thurrock H) – Team Aldershot Farnham & District, U/17 A.Quirk (Bracknell AC) – Team Herne Hill Harriers, U/15 C.Alexander (Herne Hill Harriers) – Team City of Norwich AC, U/13 I.D'Amico (Herne Hill Harriers), Team Chiltern Harriers AC.

Finding suitable venues is becoming more difficult each year and we are most grateful for all the help we received in overcoming this problem during this last period. SEAA are always ready to view any venues put forward as possibilities, so please do not hesitate to speak with us if you think you know of potential venues.

Because of a clash of dates with the 12- and 6-stage Road Relays it was decided not to send Southern teams to the Home Countries International event in March. The proposed fixtures for 2017/18 show separate weekends for these events and therefore it is anticipated that we will enter teams in next year's event.

## **SEAA Track & Field DWG Report (Acting Chairman Mrs Susan Deaves)**

### **Outdoor Championships**

Our first Championship Meeting of the season – the **U20/Senior** – took place at Lee Valley on 11/12 June. Although the Indoor facility is so very good for our events, the external area completely lacks atmosphere, but nonetheless we had a good weekend's athletics in difficult wet and windy conditions. The UKA-enforced clash with the County Schools' does lead to serious difficulties with the provision of Officials.

The best performances probably came from the field events. In the Senior Men's Hammer, the record which had stood since 1992, was broken by Taylor Campbell (WSEH) with 71.39m, which was also a new personal best. Thanks to our generous benefactor, Taylor received a cash award of £100.

In the U20 men's Javelin, Harry Hughes (West Suffolk) threw 71.39m and won by over 12m. This performance bettered the Senior event. In the Senior Women's shot, Sophie McKinna (Gt Yarmouth) threw 16.61m, some 2m further than the second placed athlete.

U20 Finette Agyapong (NEB) achieved a fine sprint double, registering two personal bests - 11.78 and 23.72.

The **Combined Events weekend, 16/17 July** saw the first Southern Championship at Horspath Track, Oxford. We were made very welcome and received valuable help particularly from the Chairman of Oxford City, Richard Hart.

In hot sunny conditions we had good fields, particularly in the younger women's age groups, which bodes well for the future.

For the **U15/U17 Championships** we returned to the Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford on 13/14 August. This is a very good venue and facility, but the location does create some travelling problems. There was a good entry and despite a very gusty wind, there were some sparkling performances.

The U17 Boys Hammer was won by Bayley Campbell (WSEH) with 65.12m and Katie Head (NEB) won the U17 Girls event with 58.37m. It was her Dad, Paul's, 24-year old record which had been broken at the Senior Championships.

Once again, we included some U13 Open Events for boys and girls in this meeting.

The following weekend, Sunday 21 August, we returned to Horspath Track for the **U15/U20 Inter-Counties**. As usual this was a very busy meeting with 16 Counties taking part in what were fairly windy conditions. The U20 match was won by Kent, and the U15 match by Middlesex.

The U20 Men's Hammer record was broken by Jake Norris (Berks) with 70.94m. The record had been held by Taylor Campbell who earlier in the season won the SEAA U20 title. It was particularly pleasing to see an athlete from Cornwall achieve another record - Molly Caudery pole vaulted 3.85m. This County always supports our event and those athletes welcome the competition despite the lengthy travel involved.

Joe Smith from Sussex added the U15 800m title to the 1500m and 3000m titles he had won earlier in the season.

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September saw a **10K Track Championship** integrated with a Vale of Aylesbury AC meeting at Stoke Mandeville. Entries were very small, but this could largely have been due to the late decision to stage the event. We intend to repeat this opportunity in 2017 with earlier announcements.

### **Indoor Championships**

The Indoor season began again with the all-ages Combined Events weekend on December 17/18. It is pleasing that this event has been well received by athletes, and we welcomed guests from as far afield as Coventry and Stockport. It does mean that Southern combined-eventers do not have to travel to the north of the country to compete in their own Area Championship.

For the individual Championships, the whole format of the weekends had been given a drastic rethink because we cannot have access to the arena on Saturday mornings, and the first event cannot take place until 1.30pm. This led to a very late finish on the Saturday so the DWG arranged for just sprints and hurdles on the Saturday and all other events on the Sunday - this format was applied to both weekends. Although in principle the new timetable worked successfully, it will require some adjustments for future events.

The U15/U17 events took place on 7/8 January, with the U20/Senior the following weekend. Being on consecutive weekends does create very considerable pressure within the Office, who are also heavily involved with Cross-Country at that time, but thanks to great efforts by Linda Whitehead and Ella Jolliffe, the meetings went ahead relatively smoothly. Entries were somewhat down on the previous year – in fact, the U15B were down nearly 30%. With the new timetable, we did finish at 4.30 on the Sunday.

On January 14/15, the U20/Senior meeting did cause some problems, With the new timetable, there was a very long gap between heats and final in some events. The meeting was well attended although as with the younger age groups, entries were somewhat reduced. We did, in fact, have 60 entries in the Senior Men 60m!

One surprising, (but legitimate!) entry came from Eilidh Doyle, the former European 400m Hurdles Champion. Needless to say, she rather ran away with the 400m title, but in doing so, pulled U20 Hannah Williams (Herts Phoenix) through to an indoor personal best of 54.05, an outstanding time for an U20. The Senior Men's 100m was indeed a busy event, and was finally won by Emmanuel Stephens (NEB) in 6.69 closely followed by Rion Pierre (WSEH) in 6.79 and then equal third were Edmond Amaning (TVH) and Josh Swaray (Harrow) in 6.81.

Following our own Indoor season, we administered the Officials for two weekends of the London Indoor Games at Lee Valley. The DWG feel it is beneficial to the SEAA to assist Lee Valley in their promotions. During the year, we were fortunate to again receive a grant from the Arthur Kendall Memorial Fund, which was applied to the younger age groups events. It is a considerable help to us and greatly appreciated.

It has not been an easy year for Track & Field as there have been considerable difficulties with Officials. This is the first year for our new Co-ordinator and John Neale's shoes were always very big to fill. I would particularly like to thank Linda Whitehead for the additional help she has provided in this area.

The Track & Field DWG is well aware that we are heavily dependent on the staff in the office for all the inputting etc for our Championships. It would just not be possible to achieve the events without their considerable devotion to duty and we do sincerely thank them.

### **Finance**

The company is still operating on the basis that it will be supported by its parent. We received a grant of £63000 from England Athletics. The company accounts for 2016/2017 show a small surplus against the budget forecast and we continue to strive to minimise costs and maximise revenue.

**John Gandee**

**Chairman SEAA Competition Limited**

## **ENGLISH CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION**

The English Cross Country Association continues to put on top quality events and the reputation of them has grown to such an extent that the Organisers of the next World Cross Country Championships to be held in Aarhus, Denmark came over to England to pick up a tip or two last February. They saw another great National Championship that was superbly organised by the LOC led by Mick Robinson.

From a large entry a total of 5191 runners finished this year across all of the Championships; this is the second best ever just under a 100 short of the record which is 5288 at Parliament Hill in 2015. There

were five new Race records and one equalled, the first being in the Junior Women's race where 148 finished up 14 on the previous best. Then in the Under 17 Women's race 252 finished again up 14. The run was kept going in the 4th race of the afternoon the Under 13 Girls race with 467 up 18, next came the Under 15 Girls this time 426 finished up 15 on the 1994 best. The final record of the day came in the Under 13 Boys with 467, 47 up on the 2015 record. The equalled record was in the Junior Men's race where 211 finished the same as in 1995. So overall grass roots cross country is in good health and can look forward to the future.

However there are problems to overcome, large numbers taking part means more care is required with greater costs incurred with regards, First Aid and the need for more Marshals and other things. Also along with a suitable course, car parking has to be considered as greater numbers travel by car to a venue. It is great see lots of supporters but it means venues have to be able to park larger numbers of vehicles. The number of venues able to support requirements needed are not available or cost a lot of money to hire. Local Authorities are reluctant to allow cross countries to take place on their land so organisers have to search for new places for events to be held where there is plenty of facilities available, thank goodness Portable Toilets can be hired in. I have often thought that for a successful Cross Country to take place that the quality of the Course is almost secondary to the provision of Parking and Toilets.

Back to the Racing and The Relays were once again held at Berry Hill Park, Mansfield and it continues to be a successful event, the venue does tick all the boxes for a good promotion and the atmosphere created is superb. The fact that this venue is central has been a major factor and athletes travel along way to compete in the event.

The ECCA has continued to invest significant funds in the International programme. 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 President for 2016/17 was Basil Heatley, a great cross country runner; who won medals at the Youth, Junior and Senior Nationals. At the Annual Meeting of the Association, Basil stated that he had enjoyed his year in office He was amazed by the amount of work done by so many people some who don't even see any of the events. He also said he will always remember the young athlete who fell face first in to the mud, got up and continued to finish the race. He also commented on how upset everyone had been at the news of the 2 Aldershot athletes involved in the horrific road traffic accident.

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 are 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> with Cambridge & Coleridge moving through to claim 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> place were the 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

### **Executive committee report 2017 AGM**

- a. 2016 – 17 has been a good and stable year for the FRA with a slight growth in members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported our work.
- b. Many of our traditional activities have continued, as in recent years, including:
  - a. A healthy financial position. Over 85s now having free life membership and reduced charges for U 23s.
  - b. A calendar with over 500 races, resulting in a small number of disciplinary sanctions for breaches of rules, printed as part of a handbook FRA rules and other information.
  - c. There was also a further increase in the number of reported incidents (injuries resulting in a hospital admission). Sadly we also had a fatality at a fell race in April 2017, and a Mountain Rescue airlift. This further emphasises the importance of good first aid, including wilderness first aid provision and mountain rescue cover at races.
  - d. A successful championships and presentation events for juniors and seniors, both with continued sponsorship plus the U 20s, U 23s championships and the Long-distance award. The senior 'do' continue to host the British championship, British relay and the Lakeland challenge presentations
  - e. Success in holding the junior and senior Inter counties and the Schools championship
  - f. Success, as well, at international level
  - g. Developing membership beyond 7,000.
  - h. 3 Fell runner magazines produced and the website maintained
  - i. Coaching, navigation and wilderness first aid courses held
  - j. Continued positive relationships with UKA/BA, including our membership of MRAG, who organise the British fell running events and teams and with England Athletics in relation to membership issues.
- c. There were some challenges and new developments during the year:
  - a. The FRA rules were reviewed and changed following UKA / BA rule revision exercise.
  - b. A fresh round of UKA Rules changes and consultations started.
  - c. The junior age categories were successfully changed.
  - d. Junior eligibility issues were successfully resolved, this took longer than planned, and we thank competitors and their parents for patience while this was resolved
  - e. The scope of the Race Liaison Officers was extended to include Junior Championship events, and as a result, the team of Race Liaison Officers has also expanded.
  - f. The FRA strategy was turned into a set of activities, allocated to individual members of the committee.
  - g. An official FRA Facebook page was launched.
  - h. The FRA's welfare policy was reviewed and changed by the welfare officer.
  - i. An U21 / U23 Co-ordinator was appointed to improve transition rates to Seniors
  - j. The UKA moved to an "online only" incident reporting procedure
  - k. A number of initiatives with landowners progressed in relation to access for races
  - l. A review of the Companies Act and FRA obligations was completed and it was confirmed that we are now fully compliant.
  - m. A number of FRA roles were advertised in the Fell Runner with an excellent response from members.
- d. All roles on the committee were full for the year. We are grateful to all the members who have come forward to join the committee and to the 60 plus members who provide a whole variety of support functions that ensure that the FRA is well managed. Owen Mills, Junior Co-ordinator was replaced by Chris Jones, who was replaced as Access officer by Nicky Spinks in 2017. Anne Buckley was

replaced by Alec Duffield in September, as Anne takes the role of Chair of MRAG in the UKA. We wish Anne all the very best in her new role.

**Steve Cliff**  
**General Secretary**

## **RACE WALKING ASSOCIATION**

England's elite race walkers capitalised upon the success of 2016 to push the profile of British Race Walking even further in 2017. Much of this is due to the media coverage leveraged from Tom Bosworth's epic performance at the Rio Olympics last year but it is wholly cemented by the continued improvement of the rest of the English internationals.

This was highlighted by four English walkers gaining selection for this year's world championships in London and the media interest through mainstream British television is testament to the belief in the potential of these up and coming stars. Huge congratulations to Tom Bosworth, Callum Wilkinson, Gemma Bridge and Dominic King – you made your country proud!

With a promising start in 2017, coaching and development work had a setback when the new sub-committee chair had to stand down due to a change of personal circumstances. The RWA are pleased to announce that Mark Wall has taken up the reins for 2018. Mark brings many years of race walking experience to the fold and currently coaches athletes from grass roots to international level. This appointment should drive forward closer collaboration between the work of the RWA with that of England Athletics.

Throughout 2017, representatives of the RWA have been working with the UKA Technical Advisory Group to further develop the race walk officials' pathway at UK level. It is hoped that this work will continue into 2018 and lead to further improvement in the provision and support of race walk officials.

**Colin Vesty**  
**Race Walkers Association**

## **TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION**

### **Championship Report**

1. AAA's outdoor Championship 7<sup>th</sup> – Daventry Sports Club, Daventry, Northants  
Chief Judge Mr P. Craft, Chief Time-keeper/Recorder Mrs S. Hutchins  
Catchweight – 1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fenton Eccles (Somerset), 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandhurst (Berkshire)  
640Kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Norton (Staffordshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln, 3<sup>rd</sup> Two Dales (Derbyshire)
2. National Outdoor Championships 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Offwell, Honiton, Devon  
Chief Judge Mr A. Fray-Smith, Chief Time-keeper/Recorder Mrs W. Dyer  
Catchweight – 1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln (Lincolnshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Pats (Leicestershire)  
720kg- 1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln (Lincolnshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> Holland (Staffordshire)  
680kg - 1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln (Lincolnshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> Oxney Vines Cross (Sussex), 3<sup>rd</sup> Two Dales (Derbyshire)  
640kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Norton (Staffordshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> Felton Eccles (Somerset), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln (Lincolnshire)  
600kg - 1<sup>st</sup> Norton (Staffordshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> Felton Eccles (Somerset), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln (Lincolnshire)  
560kg - 1<sup>st</sup> Norton (Staffordshire), 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandhurst (Berkshire), 3<sup>rd</sup> Upper Eden (Cumbria)  
Ladies 520kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Kilroe (Lancs/Derbys), 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Ladies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Haldon (Devon)  
Ladies 560kg - 1<sup>st</sup> Kilroe (Lancs/Derbys), 2<sup>nd</sup> York (Yorkshire), 3<sup>rd</sup> Haldon (Devon)  
Mixed 4x4 600kg - 1<sup>st</sup> Kilroe (Lancs/Derbys), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln (Lincs), 3<sup>rd</sup> Upper Eden (Cumbria)
3. Inter-Counties Championships 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – Sandhurst Berkshire  
Chief judge Mr M. Selwood, Chief Time-keeper/Recorder Mrs W. Dyer  
640Kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Staffordshire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Somerset, 3<sup>rd</sup> Devon  
680Kg-1<sup>st</sup> Staffordshire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sussex, 3<sup>rd</sup> Berkshire

4. AAA's Indoor Championship 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Harry Mitchell Centre, Smethwick, West Mids.  
Chief Judge Mr D. Kitchener, Chief Time-keeper/Recorder Mrs J Thomas  
Catchweight – 1<sup>st</sup> Raunds (Northants), 2<sup>nd</sup> Kilroe (Cheshire), 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheen Farmers (Derbys/Staffs)  
640Kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Raunds (Northants), 2<sup>nd</sup> Kilroe (Cheshire), 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheen Farmers (Derbys/Staffs)
5. National Indoor Championship 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 – Harry Mitchell Centre, Smethwick, West Mids.  
Chief Judge Mr P. Craft, Chief Time-keeper/Recorder Mrs J Thomas  
Catchweight – 1<sup>st</sup> Sheen Farmers (Derbys/Staffs), 2<sup>nd</sup> Kilroe (Cheshire)  
720Kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Raunds (Northants), 2<sup>nd</sup> Uppertown (Derbys), 3<sup>rd</sup> Kilroe (Cheshire)  
680Kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Raunds (Northants), 2<sup>nd</sup> Uppertown (Derbys), 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheen Farmers (Derbys/Staffs)  
640Kg - 1<sup>st</sup> Raunds (Northants), 2<sup>nd</sup> Uppertown (Derbys), 3<sup>rd</sup> Kilroe (Cheshire)  
600Kg – 1<sup>st</sup> Raunds (Northants), 2<sup>nd</sup> Kilroe (Cheshire), 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheen Farmers (Derbys/Staffs)

**Ernie Jones**  
**TOWA**

## **AAA DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES & LEGACY**

### **Tom Pink Relays**

1. Lee Valley, London – The 2017 event was again very popular and well supported. We are putting a proposal to the clubs that are regularly involved that they should organise this event for themselves with the AAA giving some modest support in future
2. EIS, Sheffield – The Sheffield event run in conjunction with the EA National Multi event age group championships were again very successful with a large number of participants. The 2018 event will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and already many clubs have entered.
3. Manchester – The outdoor version of the Tom Pinks held in conjunction with EA's Home International was again successful but the 2018 event will probably be curtailed to reduce the length of the programme.
4. Midlands – John Skevington whose team took part in Manchester plans to organise an outdoor version of the Tom Pink Relays during the 2018 season at a venue in Leicestershire.

### **Med Ball and Endurance Challenge**

Both these programmes now form part of the National Awards Schemes and there is a possibility that they will be included in the future school games programmes

### **World Marathon Challenge**

This year there was no central organisation but teams were invited to organise their own events and submit their results to the website. Teams from France, Ireland and the Czech Republic have taken part.

### **Museum**

Walter Nicholls is still progressing his plans

### **Grants**

- a. **Hall of Fame** – The AAA continued 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 is continuing his 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.

During the year three trustees have retired and we thank them for their support in the past. We have also welcomed two new trustees and hope they enjoy their involvement with the charity.

**Alan Barlow**  
**Treasurer / Trustee**

## **STANDARDS SCHEME**

The sale of standards badges has continued to increase with a total of 2194 to the end of August 2017. This was an increase of 852 on the previous year.

Over thirty clubs have made purchases for their athletes, many for annual presentation nights. These range from Annan A.C (Scotland) in the north to Tavistock A.C. in the south, and West Norfolk and West Suffolk in the east to Rhonda A.C. in the west.

The English Schools Championships once again was a successful meeting with 199 badges sold and not far behind was the Northern Inter-Counties with 127 sales, and the under 13's and under 15's Inter-County match at Nuneaton with 129 sales (the same as the previous year).

The first third of the current financial year, usually the quietest, has seen sales of 271 badges. On line orders and payments now make up the largest proportion of sales, followed by direct sales at athletic meetings, with postal applications now producing the fewest applications.

**Edwin Bellamy**  
**Hon Standards Officer**