



Dear Club Contact,

AGM 2021

We are delighted to announce details of the England Athletics 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 11am on Saturday 23 October at the Hilton Metropole Hotel, NEC, Solihull B40 1PP.

We also invite you, our members, to join us for a pre-AGM Board webinar on Wednesday 6 October (6pm to 7pm) where attendees will be able to join directors for an open Q&A session specific to the AGM and activities undertaken by the company during the last 12 months.

[Click here for further details](#), including the AGM documentation and how to register for both the AGM (which will also be streamed live as 'broadcast only') and the pre-AGM webinar.

We hold this year's AGM having experienced arguably the most challenging period since the company's formation 15 years ago. The COVID-19 induced impacts that forced our sport, and wider society, into lockdown at various points during 2020-21 were unprecedented.

While the impact of the pandemic on the financial position and other key performance indicators of England Athletics, and indeed the wider sport, has been significant we have worked proactively as a Board and Executive, through the production of an alternative delivery plan and budget for 2020-21, to ultimately realise a better year end position as reflected in the AGM documentation. We are optimistic about the future as we have introduced a new strategic plan for the company and worked proactively to strengthen our working relationships with all our partners.

During the last year we have reduced our fixed cost base, reduced non-essential expenditure, generated alternative income through the digital conversion of programmes and service delivery, and by realising an improved affiliation and membership position against budget. This was a challenging exercise but there were learnings, particularly the importance of focusing on the essential core functions of the business, embracing technology in supporting our members, working efficiently, smartly, and collaboratively through partnership, and recognising where we are best placed to deliver and where we are not.

The support of our Regional Councils, not just in the areas of competition licencing but also in guiding clubs, networking them with one another and generally providing a proactive consultative presence for England Athletics was first class and the relationship between staff, Board and the Council structure grew during 2020. It was pleasing to see a strong response to the nomination process in the early 2021 Regional Council elections and the future looks positive across the nine respective regions.

We have also worked proactively during the last year to forge closer and more collaborative relationships with UKA and other Home Country Athletics Association partners, through the development of a 12-year ambitious UK-wide high level strategy 'Athletics Unified', and in agreeing a high level Framework Agreement and set of roles and responsibilities that will, we hope, provide the basis for effective and efficient working during the foreseeable future.

We have worked supportively with UKA following a UK Sport-led review of the organisation. Central to this review was the publication of a 'change plan' that sought to strengthen the relationship between Home Country Athletics Associations and UKA and to clarify roles and responsibilities between the respective parties. This important relationship will continue to be a key priority for England Athletics throughout 2021-22 as we further review roles and responsibilities. The webinar on 6 October and the AGM on 23 October will provide a further opportunity to hear more about this work.

The development of the new UK-wide strategy for the sport was timely and the role that England Athletics played in shaping this work undoubtedly complemented the development of its own strategy specific to the roles and responsibilities it must have in the sport.

Our strategy – 'athletes and runners at the heart' – provides us, as the membership

and development body for grassroots athletics and running in England, with a renewed sense of **purpose** to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and have a lifelong love for the sport.

Our new strategic **vision** is for athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

How we will deliver our strategy will be embodied by our **values** of inspiration, integrity, inclusivity and fun.

We have four **guiding principles** within our strategy which will ensure a consistent approach in everything we deliver. These are:

- Putting the athlete and runner first
- High standards and ethical success
- Enhancing people's experiences
- Working together in partnership

Members will be able to receive more detail around our new strategy, our focus, hopes for a home Commonwealth Games in 2022, and future priorities at both the AGM and webinar. We hope you will be able to join the directors and staff.

England Athletics (EA) Article Change Proposals

As referenced above, during the last year we have worked proactively to strengthen and clarify our relationship with both UKA and the other Home Country Athletics Associations.

UKA is in the process of reviewing its own Articles to reflect a revised membership, purpose and objectives as an organisation resulting from a consultation, led by the Home Country Athletics Associations, with the sport in early 2021 and reflective of those roles and responsibilities set out in the strategy 'Athletics Unified' and related Framework Agreement (Autumn 2020).

The consultation exercise on the future membership of UKA engaged our Regional Council network, and our member clubs and bodies through the delivery of an online survey and webinar where a number of options were presented and considered

relating to the future membership of UKA reflective of its primary duties.

These proposed changes to the UKA Articles have inevitably influenced the Home Country Athletics Associations to reflect on their own Articles and objects as organisations specific to their roles in supporting the sport.

Indeed, following our own extensive consultation process across the sport, bringing together the thoughts and ideas of our members and the wider athletics and running community, we were delighted to launch our new England Athletics strategy 'Athletes and runners at the heart' earlier this year. This 12-year plan sets a robust and clearly defined future direction for our sport which places athletes and runners at the heart of everything we will do from now to 2032.

The England Athletics Board, through consultation with its Council network, is suggesting some amendments to its own Articles for member approval at the 2021 AGM.

An initial review of the Articles was carried out by Governance Committee in June, in which they considered a collection of changes to the Articles which have been proposed at various times in recent years with a view to determining, firstly, whether these changes were appropriate and, if so, whether all or any of these changes should be proposed formally at this year's AGM or postponed to a later time. The substantive changes suggested to the Objects section of the Articles have been driven by the positive and broad-ranging consultative work which has been undertaken by the sport, including around clarification of roles and responsibilities and collaborative working with Home Country Athletics Associations.

These potential changes were subsequently discussed by the Board in July and by the England Council in August and they both agreed that the proposed changes should be actioned at this year's AGM. The proposed changes have also been shared with UKA.

These are amended in the Articles draft and are visible via track changes: The purple track changes to the Objects are to clarify the role of England Athletics as the governing body for athletics and running in England and how it works with UKA to align with the Home Country Athletics Associations and the recent changes within UKA. (The blue track changes are purely administrative).

For further information specific to the 2021 England Athletics AGM and to access the meeting paperwork visit www.englandathletics.org/AGM

England Athletics

Athletics and running, for everyone, forever

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