

Amateur Athletic Association



Annual Report 2021

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
President:
Chairman Walter Nicholls

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Mrs J. Lindsay
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W. Nicholls	Chairman
G. Durbin	Honorary Secretary
M. Welford	Treasurer
R.H Float	Director
S. Deaves MBE	Director
L. Orbell	Director
I. Byett	Director (Cross Country)
J. How	Director (Road Running)
J. Gandee	Regional Director
S. Barnes	Regional Director
T. Wood	Regional Director
A. G.Bunner MBE	Co-opted as Events Manager

Index	Pages
Management Board Report	3
Northern Athletics Association Report	3
Midland Counties Athletic Association Report	5
South of England Athletic Association Report	6
English Cross Country Association Report	7
English Road Running Association Report	8
Fell Runners Association Report	8
Race Walking Association Report	9
Tug of War Association	9
AAA Development Initiatives & Legacy	10
Athletics for the Young (Charity) Report	11
Standards Scheme	11

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

Yet another year has passed under the shadow of Covid, restricting Competition and frustrating in a number of ways, progress in some of our projects.

Three full Board meetings were held [by Zoom], in January, March following the AGM and in July.

Nevertheless, the Officers together with the invaluable input of Philip Andrew, [Head of Heritage] and Jane Ainsworth, [Heritage Research Assistant] met either in person or via video conferencing with interested parties in pursuance of our Heritage project [The Athletics Museum] including a site visit to Alexander Stadium where the Commonwealth Games will be held in 2022.

As the Stadium will effectively be out of bounds until the end of 2022 our plans for a museum site and AAA presence have of necessity been placed "on hold" until 2023.

The Association continues to co-operate and join in with England Athletics in the Hall of Fame and presentation of AAA historic trophies at England Championships where appropriate.

In 2022 the Association is making plans for a Centenary celebration of the foundation of the Women's Amateur Athletic Association in October 2022.

As usual I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow officers, the Management Board, the individual contributors to this Annual Report for their encouragement and enthusiasm in all of our endeavours throughout the past year.

Finally, not to forget also sincere thanks to Carolyn Newton for her hard work in administration for the Association over the year.

Walter Nicholls
Chairman

NORTHERN ATHLETICS

President: Ron Needham **Chairman:** Tony Wood **Treasurer:** Nigel Orr
Secretary: Judith Temperton **Executive Board:** Malcolm Fletcher, Steve Gaines, Elaine Williams, Arwel Williams, Bob Brimage, and Ken Smith

2021 became a year of hope and anticipation for our sport which eventually bore fruit in the summer for Northern Athletics with the holding of our Northern Track and Field Championships. We can only hope now that the momentum continues to bring us back to some sort of normality.

However, the impact of the pandemic has been difficult to take and our sport has taken a considerable hit. The number of athletes re-joining their clubs has been below par and has affected the ability of clubs to compete as before. The administrators who run our clubs, leagues, counties and areas have not only had to make difficult decisions but then to ensure their personal energy levels are high enough to re-start the motor once competition has been able to begin. Sadly, some have had to say goodbye after many years of dedication to the task. These vital cogs within our sport are volunteers after all. We need to constantly remind ourselves of this and value them.

It could have been so easy to fail to see what had gone on at the clubs and how hard the clubs worked to ensure the athletes stayed connected with each other and with their coaches during the pandemic. The fact that many have started to come back to competition in great shape is testament to the work of

those clubs and especially their coaches. We have witnessed that within the fabulous competitive spirit in our Northern Championships so far.

Momentum on our return is needed more than ever around our officials. Without them, as we know, we are unable to keep the sport going. We have probably the most diverse sport out there, track and field, on the road, over the country and on the fells. As with our voluntary administrators, our officials, some not in the first flush of youth, have found it difficult to consider returning with all the risks that entails. At club and county level the sport is short of qualified officials week in week out. Practical projects working on the ground will help and Northern Athletics, through our Officials Project Group, has re-started its work to recruit, support and mentor new officials. However, to be positive, John Driscoll, secretary of the Northern Tri-Regional Officials Group, reports that the total number of active officials affiliated to the Northern Group is 1428 (Oct 2021). This is 79 more than a year ago. The total includes 331 trainee officials (those who have completed a L1 course but not yet achieved the qualifying experiences) and 91 Assistant Officials with the number of trainee officials up more than 50% on last year. This is encouraging news

Our financial situation is secure with over 160 clubs again supporting our now established and accepted affiliation scheme. This enabled Judith and the team to hold our first championships since the pandemic with the senior and junior track and field championships in the summer at Leigh and Hull. Both events gave us days of much missed exciting competition with athletes, coaches and supporters alike showing great enthusiasm to be back in the track and field arena. Feedback from all was overwhelmingly positive with much appreciated thanks for re-introducing our championships after a difficult period of absence for everybody.

Our autumn road relays were held in September in the North East at Redcar on a sunny day by the sea. Excellent numbers made the journey up there with the senior men's championship won by Salford and the women's title by Leeds. In October the 11th running of the Northern Athletics Cross Country Relays took place at Graves Park Sheffield. Congratulations go to Hallamshire Harriers (men) and Sale (women) for their senior success and particularly to the Sale first leg runner – Olympic Gold medallist Triathlete Georgia Taylor-Brown, who set a very impressive sub 11 minute clocking for the hilly 2 mile leg.

Our Northern team managers led by Rob Cameron have ensured there has been a resumption of representative opportunities both on the road and cross country. In particular a new venture at the Brownlee Centre, Leeds in August where there was held an International and Inter Area 2 mile road relay event won by an England team. Of note was the appearance of Jess Judd fresh from her Olympic 5000 and 10000 performances in Tokyo. Renewed efforts are being made by team managers from all three areas to encourage the staging of and travelling to events that include opportunities for representative vests. A superb way to develop a pathway to national and international success.

Let us all now hope that 2022 gives us all a fresh start without hinderance to ensure a brighter future for our sport.

Finally, Northern Athletics would like to extend condolences to the families of friends and colleagues who have passed away during 2021 including Ron Hill, Graham Davies, Derek Nicholson, Alan Domleo, Roger Everton and Jim Smith.

Tony Wood
Northern Athletics Chairman

MIDLAND COUNTIES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

President: Lyn Orbell

Hon. Secretary (Acting): Keith Brackstone

Chairman: Stewart Barnes

Treasurer (Acting): Stewart Barnes

The summer of 2021 saw the resumption of the Area Track and Field Championships, with restricted entries at Nuneaton's Pingles Stadium for the Seniors and Under '20s, over the weekend of Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June. Naturally, entries were lower than we would normally expect but good competition was had by all. We did have a little issue where the cage for throws had not been refurbished at that time, therefore that event was held as a level 1 licence whereas the remainder was a level 2, as should be at Area Championships.

The Age Group Championships were held at the same venue on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd August. Another successful weekend where the Entry 4 Sport seeding system was implemented for the first time. After an initial minor glitch it proved more than a useful tool for Championship competitions. Another successful promotion for the Association with further reduced COVID restrictions.

The Track and Field League resumed in June with three fixtures instead of the regular four for each division. For this year only the whole league was restructured into localised divisions to reduce travel which went down with mixed feelings as top-ranked clubs were pitted against those from the lowest level. 2022 may look a lot different as there are efforts to introduce a different scoring system that meets differing thoughts from some involved.

The Autumn Road Relays at the end of September brought higher entries than prior to pandemic levels at Sutton Park. Good racing was had across all races, age groups, and genders.

October brought the start of the cross country season with the Annual Relays at Wolverhampton's Aldersley Sports Village. Almost back to normal regarding COVID, no restrictions but hand sanitiser available. Good racing throughout the day with medals spread across the area.

Our Women's 5 miles and Men's 7 miles Cross Country Championships were once again held at Bulwell Hall Park in Nottingham on Saturday 30th November. This is the smallest of the Midlands Championships where entry restrictions apply with winners over the past five years are ineligible for medals. It always produces good competition and did so this year.

The final Championships of the Cross Country Association, the Area's were held in Berry Hill Park, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire on Saturday 29th January 2022. The weather was the main talking point with extremely high winds resulting in club tents being blown down and where twice an official was propelled into the crash barriers around the finish area, although not seriously injured she was driven home to save her from having to do so and in the interest of her own safety. The ten races produced more good races and sports. There was further use of the first aider when a 73-year-old male in the Senior Men's race collapsed in the wooded area from a heart attack. Paramedics were with him within minutes and it is believed his heart stopped for half an hour before it was restarted. The air, as well as land ambulances, were attended, before the man was transferred to the hospital by road.

Results from all competitions appear on the new MCAA website – Midland-athletics.co.uk

Away from competition, the Association continues to run with only Mrs. Val Day as an employed member of staff. It is hoped to take another paid colleague shortly. We do have a volunteer assisting at the present time which is a great help.

The Association will leave our current office before the middle of April this year to enable the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee to occupy the whole of the ground floor of the East Stand at Alexander Stadium. The only option at the stadium we have from April will be desks within the open plan England Athletics office, despite the offer we were given last September.

Both the Midland Counties Athletic Association and the Midland Counties Cross Country Association wish to thank the clubs that have promoted or assisted our events and Championships over the past year.

Stewart Barnes
MCAA Chairman

SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION LIMITED

President Judy Oakes OBE
Chairman Mike Winch

Honorary Secretary Linda Whitehead
Honorary Treasurer Don Turner

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the activities of SEAA Competition Limited for the year up to 31 March 2021. SEAA Competition Limited receives limited financial support from England Athletics to provide a range of championships across all disciplines topped up with support from our parent company. However, the year under report was effectively wiped-out competitively by the Covid-19 epidemic. Praise must be given to those who worked to put on events only to have them cancelled - sometimes at very short notice. A detailed report for each discipline follows:

Track and Field DWG (Chairman Susan Deaves)

The Track and Field Discipline Working Group is responsible for the organisation of the Association's Track and Field Championships.

As the year started, it seemed the world had stopped turning. We were in the second week of a national lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We had already made our plans for the season and published our prospectus with the statement that we intended to hold whatever Championships we could within the relevant Covid restrictions pertaining at the time. It very quickly became apparent that our June Championships would not be possible, and as time went by, we had to abandon our plans altogether. We did treat each Championship separately in the hope that at least one could be salvaged, but it was not to be.

However, by July we began to plan for a one-off promotion within Covid restrictions, and this eventually took place at Chelmsford on 29th /30th August. It proved to be a most difficult meeting to organise but we were determined to provide some worthwhile competition for athletes in our area.

We had a very strict entry protocol at the venue with temperature checks, and health declarations provided by each person attending. This was appreciated by many of the attendees. The venue staff were very helpful and worked hard to implement one-way systems, social distancing, supplied sanitiser sprays etc.

At that time there were serious restrictions on the numbers allowed into the stadium, and also limits on how the races should be configured – ie athletes in alternate lanes only on the straight; field athletes competing in “bubbles” etc. We did not issue bibs in a further effort to control infection. EA's Guidance Notes did relax the numbers somewhat a fortnight before our event, which enabled us to allow more entries, but we could not accommodate the change in the instructions in the last few days leading up to the event.

We offered just five events across the whole age range, from U15s to Seniors: 100m, 300/400m, Long Jump, Shot and Discus. Sprinters had two runs, but the circular events only had one. We actually had some 730 entries – the permitted numbers in each event were quickly taken up, particularly in the younger age groups.

We did feel that the occasion had gone well and judging by the comments we received from many participants on the day, was much appreciated.

As the autumn approached, we planned our usual Indoor season – Combined Events before Christmas and the two individual weekends in January and February. Again we published a statement that we would do all we safely could to provide these Championships, but as had happened in the summer, one by one, they had to be cancelled.

As the final lockdown ended, there was a proliferation of Open events appearing throughout the Southern Area and we did not consider it viable for us to stage a one-off event. Instead we looked

forward to the 2021 Outdoor Season which would hopefully enable us to provide Championship competition for the athletes in the South.

We are indebted to Linda for all she does to ensure the smooth running of our Championships, and to all the Officials who ensure that the high standard we have come to expect in our events is maintained.

Endurance DWG Report 2020-21 Season

Southern Road Relays

Six, Four & Three Stage Relays

Cancelled due to COVID19.

Twelve & Six Stage Relays

The event was due to return to Milton Keynes on 22 March 2020 but was cancelled in line with COVID19 restrictions.

CROSS COUNTRY

Although planning for events went ahead, due to Covid19 restrictions no events were held. The National Cross-Country scheduled for Parliament Hill in 2021 was postponed and after negotiations has been deferred for a year and will now be held at Parliament Hill in 2022. As a result the SEAA Main championships will have to be held at an alternative venue.

Plans are in place for a full programme of Road Relay and Cross-Country fixtures in 2021-2022.

John Gandee

Chairman SEAA Competition Limited

ENGLISH CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

The Pandemic overruled everything planned during season 20/21 as one by one events were cancelled during a sad period for Cross Country running. The National, planned to be staged at Parliament Hill, London was one of those that could not be held. The eventual cancellation after attempts to reschedule had failed, meant that this was the only time since the first in 1876 that this had happened, apart from when two World Wars had stopped the Championships taking place. The Relays at Mansfield were also cancelled in the end despite efforts to try and hold a scaled down version. At the time of writing prospects for the season head look a lot more promising with Mansfield and Parliament Hill back on the schedule in their usual slots.

During this period of inactivity running wise, other things came about that caused the Association to focus its ideas on the sport. The claim that distances that athletes both male and female run when undertaking cross country running should be equal has featured before with the Association carrying out its own survey a few years ago. Then and now the ECCA had gathered opinion that the current distances staged were the most popular and the campaign to equalise by a very vocal small group in comparison to the majority was not required. Despite the ECCA and the English Areas supplying facts and figures to UKA, that organisation decided to also hold a survey with questions very much slanted to equalisation of distances run. Both the English Areas and the ECCA were incensed by this attempt to suggest something was needed to be done when the sport has been going through a very successful period of numbers competing. Several zoom meetings were held by representatives of the Midlands, North and South as well as the ECCA to oppose any changes to distances and cross country and runners up and down the Country were encouraged to give their views on the survey. Large numbers took part and as result UKA were forced to declare that it was up to Event Organisers to decide the distances of races to be run, as per current rules. The co-operation between the Areas and the Association being deemed as a success and to be continued when required in the future.

It is also clear that the current Committees of the ECCA are occupied by members who are well past retirement age and although very experienced will at some time in the future have to stop doing the heavy lifting so to speak. In the not-too-distant future new younger Committee members and Organisers will be required to carry Cross Country running onwards. The General Committee is very

aware of this and would appeal to anyone interested in becoming a committee member and join the team of organisers of the great Championships the ECCA holds to get in touch via Admin@ECCA.co.uk

Finally, a great thanks to our sponsors Saucony who have stood by us despite the problems and will continue support the Association for another 3 years.

Ian Byett
ECCA Honorary Secretary

ENGLISH ROAD RUNNERS ASSOCIATION

Not received

Bob Brimage

FELL RUNNERS ASSOCIATION

At the beginning of the year, living under lockdown 3, it was difficult to foresee how fell racing would pan out in 2021.

The racing year began tentatively on 3/4/21 with a delayed Pendle Way in a Day in the Pennines, with 72km/56km options, organised by the FRA's Covid coordinator Jamie McIlvenny, who had tirelessly navigated the ever-changing rules and recommendations providing clear, timely guidance to runners, race organisers, officials and spectators during the year. To comply with the Covid guidelines, the most noticeable difference was a phased start, in effect providing a time trial.

This was followed on 11/4/21 with a repeat of the 27/12/20 Hoppit's Hill race in West Yorkshire for both seniors and juniors, which had ended the 2020 season. Again, a phased start with online pre-entry, the latter becoming universal for most of the year.

The first mass start event was Clough Head in Cumbria on 24/4/21, with prebooked times for registration, with all competitors setting off in masks until socially distanced. Subsequently the race calendar was gradually rolled out with some of the races from the first 3 months of the year being held later, inevitably resulting in a few clashes.

Eventually a few races were held with entry on the day, on the day prize giving was reintroduced, even post-race refreshments, a very popular provision, began to reappear. One English Championship event in the first quarter of the year was missed with an alternative race being provided later in the year, whilst another was cancelled but replaced, resulting in the full complement of championship races.

The only inter counties event to be held in the athletic calendar this year was the Junior Fell Championships at Up the Nab in the Pennines at the beginning of June, which proved very successful and partly compensated for the reduction in Junior Championship races to 4.

The ever-popular English Schools Fell Running championships were held at Sedbergh in September.

The British Championships, which are not the responsibility of the FRA, though many members take part, had the series of 4 races cancelled, to be replaced by a one-off new race to decide the year's British Champions.

The 50@50 race series to celebrate 50 years of the FRA in 2020 (of which 6, not 4 as stated in last year's report, had been held in 2020), restarted on 17/5/21, with Blackstone Edge, a mid-week, short evening race, in the Pennines. Missed races and a few cancellations were replaced with alternatives. At the time of writing 47/50 races have been held with 3 more during December, the final one being Auld Lang Syne in the Pennines on 31/12/21 when the eventual 'top of the leader board' will be

decided, this having fluctuated in recent races. The series has proved very popular, so much so that a few runners have requested it as an annual event, but the amount of effort involved precludes this.

Committee meetings were held via Zoom, with the first face to face one being held in October following the AGM, which last year was a closed event with just the Secretary and Chairman meeting. The annual dinner and awards ceremony was held in Penrith in November.

Thus, at year ending fell racing has virtually returned to normal pre-pandemic levels

Wendy Dodds
FRA Liaison Officer

RACE WALKING ASSOCIATION

Not received.

Colin Vesty
Race Walkers Association

TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION

The Tug of War Association had to cease competitions in March 2020 because of the restrictions put in place by the Government due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The TOWA General Committee submitted a training and competition procedure to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, as was required for a sport to be ready to restart when it was allowed. This was a very frustrating time for the TOWA as it took 2 months for the Dept. DCM&S to approve our submitted Procedure, during which other 'Elite' sports were being allowed to restart.

The TOWA teams were allowed to restart team training in early April 2021 and restarted competitions in early May 2021. This meant our 2021 Outdoor Season was going to be restricted due to the late start of competitions, but we managed to rearrange our usual schedule and complete all of the TOWA Championship events and also compete in International Competitions.

The TOWA Outdoor AAA's Championships were held in June near Bristol where the Men's 640 kilos weight was won by Norton TOWC for the 13th year in a row. The Men's Catchweight title was won by Lincoln TOWC for the 7th year in a row and the Ladies / Juniors 520 kilos weight was won by Bedford Ladies for the 3rd year in a row.

The TOWA National Championships were held 3 weeks later than normal at Grove, Oxfordshire in July. Despite it being a rainy day that affected the ground conditions, these National Championships gave us some very close contests and controversial results. The six Men's weights were evenly split between two Clubs. Oxney Vines Cross TOWC from Sussex won the 560 kilos, 600 kilos & 680 kilos and Lincoln TOWC won the 640 kilos, 720 kilos & Catchweight. In the Ladies competitions one Club, Bedford Ladies, was dominant and won all four weights 500 kilos, 520 kilos, 540 kilos & 560 kilos. The Mixed 4x4 weight of 580 kilos was won by Lincoln TOWC in a very close contest.

Our final Outdoor Championships, Inter County Championships, were held near Bosley in Cheshire. The Men's 640 kilo weight was won by Lincolnshire (Lincoln TOWC) who beat Sussex (Oxney Vines Cross) 2-0 in the Final. Lincolnshire (Lincoln TOWC) again dominated the heavier 680 kilos weight beating Somerset (Felton Eccles) 2-0 in the Final.

The teams representing England in the Outdoor British & Irish Championships in Coleraine, N.Ireland and the Outdoor World Championships in Getxo, Basque Region, Spain all competed well and came back with plenty of Medals.

England won all of the Gold Medals in the Men's, Ladies & Mixed weight categories in the B&I Championships. In the Open Club competitions the following day English teams again dominated and won the majority of the Gold and Silver medals on offer.

The World Championships had been postponed from the previous year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and were very important as a finish in the top 6 of certain weight categories guaranteed participation in the World Games which are being held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA in July 2022.

England gained Bronze Medals in two of the World Games categories, Men's 640 kilos and Mixed 580 kilos and in the Ladies 540 kilos England took the last qualifying place meaning England will be representing Great Britain in the 2022 World Games in the three weight categories being held.

English Clubs also had success in the World Open Club Championships with Lincoln TOWC winning the Bronze Medal in the Men's 720 kilos category and Bedford Ladies winning the Silver Medal in the Ladies 500 kilos category.

The TOWA held their Indoor TOW Season at a different venue this year in Bakewell, Derbyshire. The Indoor Season is only 6 weeks long and we only had four Men's teams competing this year.

The Indoor AAA's Championships were held in November and produced some very close competition. The Men's Catchweight title was retained by Uppertown TOWC for the 3rd year and the Men's 640 kilos title was retained by Bosley TOWC for the 2nd year running.

The Indoor National Championships were held on Saturday 4th December where there were six Men's weights and one Mixed 4x4 category to be contested.

Although the numbers of teams were low there was some keenly fought competitions. The lighter weight categories were dominated by Bosley TOWC who won the Men's 560 kilos & 600 kilos weight categories and the Mixed 4x4 580 kilos weight category.

Uppertown TOWC won three of the Men's weight categories 640 kilos, 720 kilos & Catchweight. Raunds Woodbine TOWC won the Men's 680 kilos weight category.

The Indoor B&I Championships are being held in Antrim, N.Ireland on 21st January 2022 and the Indoor World Championships are being held in Doetinchem, Netherlands in the first week in March 2022. The English Teams should be attending these Championships and will hopefully be competitive.

Michael Copper
TOWA

AAA DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES & LEGACY

The year 2020/21 has been a frustrating one beset with health problems.

Things got off to a bad start when Jack Miller- a key advisor to The Athletics Museum (TAM) project went into hospital for a routine procedure in November 2020; whilst in hospital he contracted Covid and died before Christmas. His ambition, ever since the legacy of London 2012 failed despite there being more than enough room in the Olympic Stadium for an athletics museum, was to start an athletics museum in Birmingham where the local authority shows more interest in athletics.

In addition, unfortunately, I personally also suffered three difficult months due to my own health problems.

In view of the covid restrictions hampering face to face meetings, it was necessary to introduce a more relaxed timetable for our development work but our objectives should remain.

We have continued to consult with the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), and the West Midlands Museum Development Organisation (WMMD), and be a 'Friend of Alexander Stadium'

Thus in 2022 we plan to:-

1. Work more closely with England Athletics by setting up a joint Heritage Liaison Team
2. properly celebrate the centenary of the WAAA,
3. incorporate TAM as a CIC
4. consolidate and expand the AAA standards scheme
5. continue to preserve and document the AAA silver trophies

Philip Andrew OBE
Head of Heritage AAA

ATHLETICS FOR THE YOUNG (CHARITY)

We continue to see a strong demand for grants each year and are happy to support as many athletes as we can each year.

Our current expenses relate to distributing the grants each year.

We continue to be advised by Brewin & Dolphin. We are pleased that we can continue to provide grants going forward but at a lower level to previous years.

The Dave Cropper award for 2021 has been awarded to Oliver Dustin and Eleanor Colborne for their performances.

We have continued to meet via zoom due to current restrictions but are looking forward to being able to meet face to face again soon.

Katie Dinsdale
Trustee

STANDARDS SCHEME

Despite the dearth of competition, due to the virus, there has been a continuous trickle of applications for badges, from both individuals and clubs in all regions. I could not set up stall at the major age group championships and the English Schools Championships. The Northern Inter-counties Championships and the annual 7 counties match for under 13's and under 15's, both events were relatively large numbers of badges are sold, were not held.

I am afraid that this will be my last Standards' Report as age and the onset of severe arthritis means that I am housebound and so unable to travel to athletic meetings to 'show the flag'. It is a disappointment as my wife and I have enjoyed meeting the athletes over the last twenty years or so.

What is to become of the Standards' Scheme? Talks are being held with England Athletics. It is to be hoped that the AAA name will continue to be used as part of our heritage.

Edwin Bellamy
Hon Standards Officer