

REPORT OF HONORARY TREASURER

The financial accounts for 2015-16 represent the ninth year of activity of Northern Athletics. The income and expenditure account shows a net deficit for the year of £13,842, which is a significant improvement compared to the deficit of £27,352 in the previous year. The balance sheet shows that at the end of the financial year the net assets of Northern Athletics had reduced to £223,295

The income and expenditure account provides details of the sponsorship income from Start Fitness, an internet and retail-based sportswear supplier and manufacturer, who provide support of £12,000 for the track and field and cross-country championships, which remains a valuable and much appreciated source of funding.

A concerted effort has been made over a number of years to review and reduce running costs where appropriate. As a result, savings of £6,020 (21%) have been made on the annual running costs of the Northern Athletics office in 2015-16.

A full range of championship events were promoted during the year. Notably, in 2015-16 there was an increased surplus to £9,289 from the Cross Country Relays and Championships, the one Road Relay event held within the financial year generated a surplus of £7,914 and the aggregate deficit of £2,703 on all Track and Field Championships is the lowest deficit for many years. The improved financial returns from these Championship events has been achieved through the great efforts by teams of organisers who monitor and control costs of running the events and also promote them to generate increasing levels of entries.

A surplus of £5,396 was generated from organising a number of Open Indoor events during the winter, and is shown in Track & Field Teams & Matches.

There is one important issue to note in relation to the accounts, which is the line showing expenditure of £6,895 against Track & Field Leagues. Each year of accounts for Northern Athletics has included an amount in relation to funds held by the Northern Track & Field Leagues, which was included on the basis that the Leagues are part of Northern Athletics. As at 31 March 2015 the balance included was £24,895. A query was raised about the independence of the Leagues and the impact on this balance. A number of meetings were held between officers of Northern Athletics and the Leagues and subject to agreement by the Leagues, the outcome was that the balance to be paid to Northern Athletics should be £18,000. On this basis, the difference of £6,895 has been included in the accounts for 2105-16.

The level of annual operating deficit has reduced progressively and significantly over a number years, from £63,575 in 2011 to £13,842 in 2016. This progress is expected to continue in 2016-17 when a break-even position is estimated. However, further changes are necessary to ensure the long term provision of athletics competition in the North. In 2015-16 England Athletics have contributed £37,000 towards the costs of providing competition, but have not committed to future funding beyond 2016-17. Discussions have been held over a number of years and are continuing with England Athletics to determine the options for securing an appropriate level of funding to help secure the future provision.

Once again, my personal thanks and appreciation go to Judith and Pat and a team of volunteers throughout the North who contribute hugely to the smooth running of the financial activities of Northern Athletics.

Nigel Orr