



### **The Way Forward**

We wish to thank you all for your initial yet important messages of support in our attempt not only to be a major self-funded competition provider covering the North of England but also to create an organisation that has the capability to be powerful enough to influence the way our sport is run.

Our Annual Open Meeting resulted in a large gathering of clubs in the North and on the 11<sup>th</sup> November a vote was taken which was in favour of our proposal to implement a club affiliation scheme based on a payment of £2 per England Athletics registered athlete for competition. This would be paid by each club based on their EA registered athlete list on the 1<sup>st</sup> October each year. Payment would be made between the 1<sup>st</sup> October and the 15<sup>th</sup> October. This would affiliate your club for the year and all athletes for your club would then be eligible to compete in any NA event throughout the next 12 months.

We have produced a booklet, to be found on our website, which seeks to justify the reasoning behind this proposal and the desperate state

of affairs that exists following the refusal of England Athletics to commit to funding beyond April 2019.

Many of you as clubs have already committed to the proposal by not only voting in favour at our annual meeting but both before and after that meeting passing the proposal through your own club committees and annual meetings.

The decision to back us, for many clubs, has been on the basis that unless we are backed then Northern Athletics will not be able to survive. You are correct in that assumption and with no grants from England Athletics from April 2019 the reserves we have would reduce rapidly and with closing down costs factored in, the end would probably be announced that year.

We know there are some clubs who are still considering this and need both time and possibly more information. You may also wish to ask questions and put forward ideas. As a result we would now want to enter into a period of discussion and consultation with you. We would invite you to ask questions of us to enable us not only to explain but in turn perhaps persuade you to come on board with us.

We know we need in total an annual figure of at least £35000 to £40000 to be able to balance the books and continue. We believe if enough clubs commit to us now we can get there.

**Could we now invite you to e mail your views and question by the following methods:**

**1. E-mail to [judith@northernathletics.org.uk](mailto:judith@northernathletics.org.uk)**

**2. Letter to Judith Temperton, 7a Wellington Road East, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. WF13 1HF**

**3. If you wish to telephone then please do so on 01924 457922 but the preferred option would be by letter or e mail especially as we need time to answer your queries or respond to your ideas properly.**

**4. Although we have a Facebook page, could we ask that this is not used for this process, as again, time is needed for consideration of, and any response to, your questions and queries.**

You may also wish to let us know if you are already committed to our scheme in which case we are very grateful. However please ask questions, or raise specific concerns regarding the proposed scheme so we have as much input from as many clubs as possible.

We hope to arrange a meeting of County representatives in January and if a club requests it we can try to arrange a visit to a club committee if this would help. Please give us as much notice as possible to help us.

We will close this consultation period on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. This should allow sufficient time for all clubs to discuss at their committees prior to any questions coming to us.

By the 15<sup>th</sup> February we will distribute a 'Frequently Asked Question' document and an overall synopsis of the issues raised.

We will then ask the clubs to indicate by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 if they will commit to affiliate to us with a view to affiliation payments on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. This commitment will allow us to judge whether we will have sufficient funds to continue.

Between these two dates we will have had our last payment from England Athletics which in itself is a reduced figure of £32000 from the grant this year of £41000. Once this money runs out we are on borrowed time. We need your commitment by April 2018 which is now only 4 months away. Please support us.

**Your support Our survival Your future**

