**To our Northern affiliated clubs**

We have had a successful introduction to our affiliation plans with almost 190 clubs and over 34000 athletes within those clubs now part of the scheme. Our clubs are an excellent mix across all disciplines and a true representation of our sport of athletics across the North.

Our clubs really did support us when it mattered and it has resulted in our immediate financial future being secured. We continue to talk with England Athletics but it is looking increasingly likely that all area funding by way of grants will be phased out in the next 12 months or so. Accordingly the other two areas are now being urged to follow the North and implement their own affiliation scheme. The South is already communicating with their clubs on this.

The North are discussing with England Athletics possible future projects in particular regarding recruitment, retention and support of officials which in turn could result in the release of funding for 2019/20 to the North for such a project. It would however require use of our resources over and above our current capacity. Funding from England Athletics may assist us to deliver such a project.

Of course our affiliation scheme is in its infancy and there are very narrow margins of comfort financially at present. We have calculated we can survive if the current scheme is maintained in October 2019 through to 2020 and this calculation takes into account the absence of an England Athletics grant as we have received before.

We now want to fulfil our promise to consult you early in 2019 so that you can give your input as to how we move forward over the next twelve months and beyond. We value our clubs and we will very much take into account your answers to this forthcoming survey.

We did indicate you might wish to give your input into the questions within that survey so to give you a flavour of some of the potential questions we have listed a few below.

1. The affiliation scheme has succeeded and raised more than the target £40,000 we needed to be sustainable. However, given the lack of further funding from England Athletics would you be in favour of supporting Northern Athletics by affiliating again in October 2019 on the same basis of £2 per affiliated athlete?

2. It looks likely, on the face of our accounts up to April 2019, we will have a surplus to add to our current reserves which in turn will create some stability for us. Given we are still in the early stages of the scheme would you wish us to use some of that surplus now or retain it for the present until the scheme has really established itself?

3. If you wish us to use some of it could you give us an idea how we should spend that surplus?

These are just a few questions that can be included. We are asking you to suggest a few more and then we will launch the survey.

Could you respond to us by the 1st May and we will then launch the survey by the end of May giving you all until the end of July to respond.

We look forward to hearing from you.