

Meeting	Northern Athletics Annual General Meeting
Date	November 12th 2022
Venue	Longfords, Trafford

Present	M Fletcher – Barnsley AC, C Daniel – Bingley H & AC, G Davies – Blackburn H & AC, B Edwards – Bury AC, P Baxter – City of York AC, N Orr – Darlington H& AC, T Bailey – Doncaster AC, S Parsons – East Cheshire and Tameside AC, C Betts – Gateshead H & AC, B Breen – Holmfirth H & AC, M Belk – Kendal AC, S Linsell – Leeds City AC, L Riches – Leigh H & AC, A Williams – Liverpool H & AC, K & D Brown – Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H & AC, N Owen – Longwood H & AC, P Atchison & H Hilier – Manx Harriers, A Ward - Middlesbrough AC, S Gaines – Rotherham AC, Salford Met, G Agar - Skyrac, R Pegg – Steel City Striders, A Johnson – Trafford AC, M Stone – UTS RC, A Brimmage – Wallesey AC, M Grayston – Wigan & District H & AC, D Edwards – Wrexham AC, J Temperton – Northern Athletics, T Wood, Northern Athletics, S Grime – Northern Athletics, M Tallon – Northern Athletics
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Chairman, Tony Wood, opened the meeting at 11:00 and thanked all those in attendance at what is the first face to face Northern Athletics AGM since Cleckheaton in 2019. Mr Wood noted that in the past twelve months as we have moved out of the pandemic, it has been great to see the return of the sport, with a slightly lower number of officials, but with ever increasing participation numbers, which will be discussed later in the meeting in the relevant report areas.

Item	Obituaries
1	It was sadly noted that the following friends and colleagues had left us in the previous twelve months: Ramson Hewson, Mike Gledhill, Diedre Clayton, John Howley

Item	Apologies for Absence
2	K Mundell – Border H & AC, Ken Smith, Northern Athletics, J Van-Iterson – Carlisle Aspatria, M Brooks – Northern Athletics

Item	Minutes
3	Minutes of the previous AGM held on November 13 th 2021 were approved as a true record with no items raised.

Item	To receive and consider Annual Reports
4	The chairman introduced the annual reports section, mentioning that reports were available in print and had been made available during the week on the website and via e-mail. The board members for the individual competition areas were invited to present their reports. <i>The following comments are in addition to the report documents:</i>

I. Cross Country – Board Members Steve Gaines & Arwel Williams

From the Cross County area report for the previous year, Steve Gaines highlighted disappointing attendance figures at the Northern Cross Country Championships at Pontefract, an event which experienced very trying weather conditions due to the high winds on the day.

At the Cross Country Relay Championships in October, participation in the junior age categories was slightly down on previous years, whilst both senior categories showed record entry figures.

Mr Gaines spoke about the issues of finding venues for Cross Country Championships which are large enough to include a 6k lap and accommodate 3,000 cars. Cost was also highlighted as a major issue, with the Harewood House edition of the Northern Cross County Championships incurring staging costs of £66,000. Local Safety Advisory Groups are also making events extremely complicated to organise with their ever increasing requirements.

The 2023 Northern Cross Country Championships had seemed to be heading to Bolesworth Castle, but after Harewood House became unable to host the National Cross Country Championships. This caused the National to move to Bolesworth, which would in the end have been too expensive to host a Northern Championships, and Northern Championships for 2023 to move to Witton Park, Blackburn, with our thanks going to Blackburn Harriers & AC for their support.

The AGM was asked to be forthcoming with any ideas on venues for future events, as Northern Athletics are trying to support all areas of the region, and are willing to look into any options with the current shortage of venues.

II. Road Running – Board Members Bob Brimage and Ken Smith

In the past year a full programme of Road Championships has taken place, with the 6 & 12 Relays and Young Athletes 5k at Birkenhead and the 6 & 4 Stage Relays and Young Athletes Relay at Sport City. While Birkenhead saw a slight reduction in entries, Sport City saw record entries in both senior categories.

The last three 12 & 6 stage relays have been held at Birkenhead, so if any clubs are able to offer venues for events, they should please contact Northern Athletics.

In the coming year, the 12 & 6 Stage Relays will be held at Redcar, with the 5k, 10m and 10k championships being held at Sunderland, Thirsk and Ribble Valley.

III. Track and Field – Board Members Elaine Williams and Malcolm Fletcher

Last year the Senior and Junior outdoor championships were held at Wavertree, having been held at Leigh and Hull the previous year, with the Inter-Counties being held at York. Entry figures were almost up to pre-pandemic levels. The senior championships were notable for a number of athlete drop-outs before the day, while the junior event faced extreme temperatures in August, causing a water station to be introduced and 1500m races to be run as time trials.

Northern Athletics are constantly looking for venues capable of holding championship events which will allow the events to be spread across the region. Next year the Senior Outdoor Championships will be held at Sport City, and the Junior Outdoor Championships at Middlesbrough. A date and venue for the Inter-Counties is yet to be finalised. The Inter-Counties is fully funded by Northern Athletics with no athlete entry fees.

This year Northern Athletics has also invested in technology for officials, most notably cameras for long jump and triple jump take-off boards.

IV. Tri-Region Officials' Group – John Driscoll (Outgoing) & Cath Hickey

The Chairman gave a recommendation to the AGM to read the Tri-Region Officials' Group report.

Terry Bailey added to the report, that there is now a Northern Athletics Mentoring scheme for officials, but as ever, the problem is getting people to attend fixtures. **Arwel Williams** noted that from Endurance courses, the conversion rate from course attendance to qualification is around 65-75%. People do not realise that simply marshalling for their clubs can count as experience towards a level 1 qualification.

Recent officials' availability requests have asked the question "do you require mentoring". Endurance events have used this to plan extra resources at events to ensure mentoring is available, and track and field plan to introduce this system too.

Gordon Agar raised, that he finds it very difficult to contact England Athletics, and highlighted that then new safeguarding courses are effectively charging people to volunteer in our sport. **Byron Edwards of Bury** expressed that the qualification system is perhaps difficult to follow, which was backed up by **Steve Parsons of East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC**. **Terry Bailey** stated that the course materials explain the qualification process for all course attendees. **Alan Johnson of Trafford** stated that clubs can apply to the Northern Track and Field League to have course costs covered, as the league is given money by England Athletics for this purpose. **Arwel Williams** added that charging for courses has benefits as people are more likely to attend if they've paid.

Moving forward, each competition area has a co-opted board member: Marc Randall for Cross Country, Mick Hill for Road, and Sue Grime for Track and Field.

The area reports were accepted and the Chairman thanked all of the Northern Athletics Board Members.

Item	To receive and consider Annual Accounts
5	<p>Treasurer Nigel Orr presented the accounts for the financial year ending March 2022, which appear on pages six and seven of the published Annual Report. The financial year ended with a surplus of £9,409 and left Northern Athletics with £286,210 in net assets.</p> <p>Over the year, track and field had a deficit of £8,148, including making £3,385 from the indoor opens. Road events had produced a surplus of £5,775 and cross country a surplus of £1,074.</p> <p>The affiliation scheme brought in an income of £53,591, which was less than in previous years. The current budget accounts for £52,000 of affiliation income, which today is just less than £50,000.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Start Fitness, whose sponsorship resumed in January 2022 after being suspended during the period of reduced competition.</p> <p>Bob Brimage noted that the grant mentioned on page seven of the report came from ERRA and not EA. This grant is being raised from £2,000 to £3,000. This grant is to be used towards representative teams. At this point, The Chairman thanked Rob Cameron, not present at the meeting due to managing the</p>

Northern Team at the Home Countries International at Milton Keynes, for all of his work managing Northern representative teams. Representative teams are recognised as a great chance to give athletes their first chance to wear a regional vest. This year the Welsh International was also restarted in Swansea, with a Northern Team managed by Mark Tallon.

At this point, new Administrator, Mark Tallon was introduced to the AGM.

The accounts were accepted, and The Chairman thanked Treasurer, Nigel Orr for completing the accounts for another year.

Item	To appoint an independent reviewer of Accounts
6	The Treasurer proposed that Northern Athletics continue to work with BEVAN VAT as their independent auditor. This was accepted by the AGM.

Item	To Elect the Executive Board of Northern Athletics	
7	<p>The first position nominated was that of Northern Athletics President. The Chairman thanked outgoing president Margaret Brooks for all of her hard work juggling the presidential duties with officiating at our championships throughout the year.</p> <p>The new president of Northern Athletics was announced, with Judith Temperton taking the presidential chain for the next year. The Chairman announced that Judith represents everything that Northern Athletics stands for and more, and how loved she is by everyone who has anything to do with the organisation. Judith stated that she felt a little embarrassed to be given the position of president as an employee, when volunteers do so much work for Northern Athletics, but added that it was a great honour after twenty-five years with Northern Athletics, and thanked the board for their support, especially over the last two years.</p> <p>With no further nominations, the Northern Athletics Board was re-elected as Chairman – Tony Wood, Treasurer – Nigel Orr, Road – Bob Brimage and Ken Smith, Cross Country – Arwel Williams and Steve Gaines, Track and Field – Elaine Williams and Malcolm Fletcher.</p> <p>Margaret Belk thanked the board and office on behalf of the clubs, for all of their hard work over the past year.</p>	

Item	Discussion on the plans for Northern Athletics for 2023	
8	<p>In 2023 the board will continue to have a co-opted member in each area – Mick Hill for Road, Marc Randall for Cross Country and Sue Grime for Track & Field.</p> <p>Northern Athletics has recently purchased cameras to aid decision making on long jump and triple jump and also a series of measurement gauges for throwing implements. Through the coming year, programmes will be implemented to train officials with this equipment, along with training more people to use TESS (The Electronic Start System).</p> <p>As mentioned in previous sections of the minutes, new venues for championships are always being looked for, and Northern Athletics will continue to move championships around the region to be as close to as many people as possible.</p> <p>Steve Gaines noted the recently introduced event feedback questionnaires which are now being used to ensure incremental improvements are made in all areas of our events.</p> <p>Richard Pegg of Steel City Striders asked about reducing affiliation fees for larger clubs in the future. The Chairman stated that this issue can be looked into in the future. Gordon Agar added that clubs do not get enough for the £16 they pay to England Athletics.</p>	
	AGM was closed at 12:40	