

	Northern Athletics Annual General Meeting
Date	November 9th 2024
Venue	Trafford

Present	<p>T Wood – NA Board, P Schofield – Incoming President, D Allen – Outgoing President, K Smith – NA Board, M Fletcher – NA Board, T Hood – NA Board, S Grime – NA Board, M Tallon – NA Administrator, K Binney – Barnsley AC, C Daniel – Bingley H & AC, G Davies – Blackburn H & AC, H Vaughan – Bury AC, P Blakey – Derby AC, S Parsons – East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC, J Brant – Kingston upon Hull AC, S Linsell – Leeds City AC, B Copper – Leigh Harriers & AC, D Copper – Leigh Harriers & AC, A Williams – NA Board, D Brown – Sales Harriers, K Brown – Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H & AC, D Brown – Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H & AC, P Atchison – Manx Harriers, B Atchison – Manx Harriers, P Booth – Oldham & Royton H & AC, W Carter – Pontefract AC, B Allen – Rotherham H & AC, S Gaines – NA Board, G Agar – Skyrac AC, K Aspindle – Spensborough & District AC, A Brimage – Wallasey AC, R Brimage – NA Board, M Grayston – Wigan & District AC, J Simpson – Greater Manchester, M Belk – Kendal AAC</p>
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Chairman, Tony Wood, opened the meeting at 11:00 after a short silence in respect for remembrance weekend.

Item	Obituaries
1	<p>It was sadly noted that the following friends and colleagues had left us in the previous twelve months:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judith Temperton, John Irwin, Geoff Clarke, Alan Johnson, Edwin Bellamy, Elizabeth Guite, John Driscoll, Alan Simpson</p>

Item	Apologies for Absence
2	<p>N Orr – NA Treasurer, E Williams – NA Board, Salford Met AC, Ilkley Harriers & AC, Wakefield & District Harriers & AC, B Heywood – Past President, R Needham – Past President, J Kaufman – Gateshead, J Van Iterson – Carlisle Aspatria, M Randall – NA Board</p>

Item	Minutes
3	<p>Minutes of the previous AGM held on November 11th 2023 in Brighouse were approved as a true record with no items raised.</p>

Item	To receive and consider Annual Reports
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The chairman presented his report which is available in the annual report document, but highlighted the positivity around improvements to Northern Athletics events in areas such as social media and technology. The feedback from athletes regarding these developments has been outstanding.

I. Cross Country

In addition to the written annual report, Steve Gaines, board member for cross country, highlighted lower entry levels to Northern Championships this year and the corresponding financial impact. Steve reminded the AGM how that 2023 cross country relays were cancelled by Sheffield City Council and posed the question whether that had effected entries in 2024. Steve also highlighted a slight increase in costs for the relays in 2024 due to the introduction of chip timing, which had a great positive impact on the speed of results or presentations. With regards to the cross country championships, Steve suggested that events in the far corners of the region, such as Sedgefield in the North East, might be unpopular for Athletes. Sedgefield has however expressed an interest in holding the National Championships for the 2026 edition of the event. Arwel Williams, board member for cross country, added that the 2025 Northern Championships will take place at Tatton Park. Chairman Tony Wood highlighted the challenge in sharing events around the area to be fair to all athletes and clubs in the North.

II. Road Running

In addition to the written annual report, Ken Smith, board member for road running, summarised the Northern Road championships across the previous year. The Ribble Valley 10k will continue to host the Northern 10k Championship. It was highlighted how Leeds City AC currently have very strong men's road relay teams, winning both Northern and National events in 2024. An 11% increase in entry numbers at the 6 & 4 Stage Relay and Young Athletes' relays in Blackpool was highlighted, and Blackpool was noted as a popular venue along with Sport City in Manchester, which was not used due to building work in 2024. Ken highlighted the speed of results since the introduction of chip timing, and explained a new system for selecting U20 athletes from Northern Athletics events for representative teams. Bob Brimage, board member for road running, thanked Dave Rogers at Sale (12 & 6 Stage Relays) and Stan Taylor at Blackpool (6 & 4 Stage Relays) and mentioned that the 2025 12 & 6 Stage will be held in Redcar. Bob issued a plea for clubs to come forward to host events.

Helen Bourne Bury AC asked if numbers can be made smaller to fit crop tops.

The chairman thanked Ken Smith and Bob Brimage for their work liaising with clubs over the previous 12 months.

III. Track and Field

In addition to the written reports, Malcolm Fletcher, board member for track & field, highlighted the positives around event entries and officials' expenses being processed online now, with much work from Tim Hood, board member for track and field. Malcolm also noted the rising hire costs of venues. Malcolm spoke about the Inter-Counties and what a popular meeting it is with all ten counties taking part, but again, that it is becoming very expensive for Northern Athletics. Malcolm mentioned that Middlesbrough has good facilities but was lacking with the warmup area. The junior championships were held at the other end of the region in Derby, where warmup areas are also an issue. It was noted that entry numbers have been steady for a few years in track and field. Northern Indoor championships continue to be at Sheffield, where many athletes from outside the area are trying to enter Northern Championships due to a lack of facilities in other areas.

Paul Blakey of Derby AC added that Derby AC has recently opened a new warmup straight.

Tim Hood presented his report on Roster and highlighted the many advantages in terms of saving time and allowing multiple people to be trained on the platform. Again, this was in addition to the published report. Mark Tallon, Administrator, added that Roster is also useful for future proofing as it is already set up for the new age group rules coming in in 2026.

Gordon Agar of Skyrac mention technology producing incorrect results in the Cross Country relays, but Anne Brimage of Wallasey noted that in truth, this was down to athletes running in the wrong number, which is down to clubs and athletes, not the results system.

John Brant from Humberside spoke in favour of Roster and that Humberside would never go back to any other system.

MT thanked Ken Smith and Tim Hood for their work in introducing chip timing and Roster to Northern Athletics.

IV. TROG

A report from the Tri-Regional Official's Group can be found on page 25 of the published report.

S Parsons of East Cheshire and Tameside questioned if there are enough level 2 starters around for event licenses to be granted. David Brown of Sale Harriers and the Northern Tri-Regional Officials' Group highlighted that this is an EA licensing requirement. It was noted that L1 starters could work with a more experienced lead officials to gain experience towards applying for their L2 qualification.

Tim Hood noted that selectors will aid people to gain the experience to progress.

Gordon Agar also highlighted that there are too many event on in certain areas to be covered by the number of starters.

The annual report was approved by all.

Item	To receive and consider Annual Accounts
5	<p>Nigel Orr had given his apologies.</p> <p>The Chairman highlighted the financial report on pages 7 & 8 of the annual report, which showed a deficit for the year of £13,286, which was an improvement on the deficit in the previous year of £27,938. As at 31st March 2024 the value of the net assets of Northern Athletics was £245,586.</p> <p>The Chairman highlighted that some disciplines generate surpluses, which help to support the others financially., Notably, surpluses from Road Running helps the most to support the other disciplines. Subsidising the Track & Field Championships provides a significantly positive impact on young athletes, helping with achieving county vests at the Inter-Counties.</p> <p>Start Fitness ended their sponsorship agreement with Northern Athletics, but will continue to provide numbers and course marking tape, which has a value of £3,000 to £4,000 per year, and also pay Northern Athletics 20% commission on merchandise sold at events, which is currently agreed until the end of the</p>

2025 track & field season. Future sponsorship needs will be looked into. Exposure on social media is important for prospective sponsors to see what sized target they can reach.

The discussion moved on to the subject of the Northern Athletics Office and whether it is really needed, with rent and services charges coming to over £12k per year. The Northern Athletics Board will look at options for downsizing and relocating the office in the coming year.

During the year, bank interest of £8,212 was earned on a range of secure cash investments

Grants from associations such as the ERRA and ECCA have continued on the basis that NA commits to sending teams to events. S Gaines highlighted the honour in people getting Northern Vests as a stepping stone to higher level competition, after competing for the North in these road and cross country events.

Accounts were approved by all.

Item	To appoint an independent reviewer of Accounts
6	Bevan VAT was approved to continue to review the Northern Athletics accounts.

Item	To Elect the Executive Board of Northern Athletics
7	<p>The AGM voted unanimously in favour of the election of the proposed Northern Athletics Board for the coming year:</p> <p>Chairman: Tony Wood</p> <p>Honorary Treasurer: Nigel Orr</p> <p>Cross Country: Steve Gaines Arwel Williams</p> <p>Road Running: Bob Brimage Ken Smith</p> <p>Track & Field: Malcolm Fletcher Tim Hood</p> <p>President: Pat Schofield</p>

Item	Discussion on the plans for Northern Athletics for 2024
8	<p>Dave Brown of Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton asked if Inter-Area track & field events still take place. The Chairman highlighted that Track & Field Inter-Area competition has seemed to become less and less over recent years. The chairman also highlighted the number of clashes in the calendar where these meetings might take place. MT added that EA had stopped inviting areas to the Welsh U20 International.</p>

Gordan Agar highlighted EA raising membership fees and asked if NA should raise their fees by £1. The chairman highlighted the many road based clubs still affiliating yet knowing much of the funding goes towards Track & Field – 40% of affiliated clubs are not track and field based, and we need to be fair and retain them, so there needs to be a balance towards what is charged to clubs.

At the date of the AGM, approximately £50k of affiliation fees have been received in one month.

AGM was closed by The Chairman at 12:35