	Northern Athletics Annual General Meeting
Date	**November 8th 2025**
Venue	**Brighouse**

Present	T Wood – Northern Athletics, N Orr – Northern Athletics, M Tallon – Northern Athletics, S Grime – Northern Athletics, E Williams – Northern Athletics, B Brimage – Northern Athletics, M Hill – Northern Athletics, G Hall – Northern Athletics, P Schofield – Northern Athletics, J Simpson – Northern Athletics Trustees, K Binney – Barnsley AC, G Davies – Blackburn Harriers & AC, B Edwards – Bury AC, P Wilson – Chesterfield & District AC, K Readfern & Grace James – City of Sheffield & Dearne AC, P Blakey & D Reid – Derby AC, T Bailey – Doncaster AC, S Parsons – East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC, M Belk & R Belk – Kendal AAC, J Brant – Kingston Upon Hull AC, B Copper & D Copper – Leigh Harriers & AC, D Timmis & T Timmis – Lincoln Wellington AC, A Williams – Liverpool Harriers & AC, M Thorley – Macclesfield Harriers & AC, D Hall – New Marske Harriers, W Carter – Pontefract AC, S Gaines, B Allan, D Allan – Rotherham Harriers & AC, D Brown & C Brown – Sale Harriers Manchester, K Aspindle – Spenborough & District AC, A McCurdie – Wakefield & District H & AC, A Brimage – Wallasey AC, B Wright – West Cheshire AC, M Grayston – Wigan & District AC

Chairman, Tony Wood, opened the meeting at 11:00 after a short silence in respect for remembrance weekend.

Item	Obituaries
1	It was sadly noted that the following friends and colleagues had left us in the previous twelve months: Christine Bellamy, John Capenerhurst, Malcolm Grainger, Barry Parker, Patricia Green, Gordon Wright

Item	Apologies for Absence
2	Salford Met, Blackpool Wyre & Fylde, Brian Heywood, Malcolm Fletcher

Item	Minutes
3	Minutes of the previous AGM held on November 9th 2024 in Trafford were approved as a true record with no items raised.

Item	To receive and consider Annual Reports
4	The Chairman presented his report for the previous year, which is available in the annual report document, before handing over to the discipline representatives.

I. Cross Country

Board member Steve Gaines pointed out that the cross-country reports are in the annual report for all to read. He highlighted the wind storms around the 2025 cross-country championships at Tatton Park as a big challenge in January 2025. It was also noted that entry numbers were slightly down which was surprising given the more central location compared to Sedgefield in 2024.

This year's Cross Country Relays in October in Sheffield had a 26% rise in entries. It was suggested that maybe the very visible social media that Northern Athletics produces helped the increase in entries.

AW noted that finding venues is very difficult. The 2026 Northern Championships will be held at Pontefract, and the National XC will also be held in the North at Sedgefield this in 2026.

II. Road Running

Bob Brimage, board member for road-running, added to the published report saying that the 12 & 6 Stage Relays suffered with wind at Redcar, and that entry numbers were slightly down. Thanks were given to everyone at New Marske Harriers for hosting the event at Redcar. Travel to the North East and the event being held on mother's day might have contributed to the slightly lower than usual entry figures.

At the 6&4 stage relays in Leigh, the weather became extremely wet and cross-country like. The event was hosted extremely well by Leigh Harriers & AC with a good infrastructure around the athletics arena, although the course did have challenges due to how muddy it became. It was also noted that exiting the carpark was extremely slow.

The 5k, 10k and 10 mile championships were noted as excellent events organised by Northern Athletics affiliated clubs (Sunderland Harriers, Blackburn Harriers & Border Harriers) which will all take place again this year. All results can be found on the website and in the report.

It was noted that host venues are becoming more and more difficult to find. Clubs were asked to contact Mark at the Northern office with any concerns, worries or feedback regarding venues.

III. Track and Field

Sue Grime and Elaine Williams, Northern Athletics Track & Field board members, introduced the report in the published booklet. Elaine expanded on the venues for outdoor championships, saying that the general atmosphere was good, and that the introduction of Roster had had a positive effect with results available immediately at events. The Inter-County Championships at York was highlighted as always being a tremendous event due to the great atmosphere created by the attendees. The senior championships were held at Derby where the Club was very accommodating and helpful as ever. The Junior Championships were held at Liverpool where the weather was terrible. Thanks were given to Arwel Williams for all of his background work at Liverpool. Elaine Williams also mentioned that Roster tutorials were completed after field briefings at this year's events to help officials with their use of technology.

It was noted that there are sometimes complaints about venue locations, but Northern Championships need to move it around the area and there aren't many central venues.

	Sue Grime noted that Roster has made big improvements last year and the entry system is well used too. The 2025 open meetings this year will use Roster for seeding too. The upcoming age group changes were also discussed at this point. With U12s there is currently no specific direction from EA/UKA. At present, from April 1st 2026, Northern Athletics will host championships for the U14 and U16 age groups together, then the U18, U20 and Sen age groups. Northern Athletics will be staying with the current odd numbered age groups for the 2025 / 2026 indoor season. Bob Brimage added that as the secretary of the English Road Running Association, they were not consulted on age group changes at all by England Athletics. In a more detailed discussion about U12s, Steve Gaines stated U12 should still be seen as development athletes who should be encouraged to try everything. Dave Brown of Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton asked if area level competition appropriate for U12s? The Chairman noted that Northern Athletics is "damned it we do damned if we don't" with regards to adding U12s to Northern Championships and that more guidance is needed from England Athletics. Richard Belk of Kendal suggested sports hall style competitions for U12s, with The Chairman then highlighting the timing constraints and number of officials needed. Arwel Williams stated that listening to England Athletics, it is clear that they want U12 competitions to be run by clubs and counties, which will be very difficult with the time constraints under which everyone is working. Michael Thorley of Macclesfield asked what influence Northern Athletics has on upward pressure to the governing bodies. Arwel Williams told the AGM that there is a working group for off track endurance, apart from which there are few bodies providing upward pressure. It was noted that Northern Athletics suffers little impact from England on a day to day, competition basis. The annual report was approved by all.

Item	To receive and consider Annual Accounts
5	Nigel Orr presented the accounts, reporting on a positive year to 31st March 2025. There was an £8,031 surplus and net assets valued at £253,617. The affiliation scheme is still well supported with income of £56,406, which is slightly higher than the previous year. Sustainable source of income. After many years of support, Start Fitness ended their sponsorship with Northern Athletics in September 2024. An alternative arrangement came in for Start Fitness to pay 20% commission on sales at events – estimated at £5,000 instead of £12,000 sponsorship, plus £3,000 value of race numbers provided. Mark has made technological improvements and increased introduction of technology, along with getting accommodation booked far in advance for officials to increase cost savings. The office relocated to Darlington in March and is now much smaller in size Funds have been invested in raising the profile of events with marketing social media and branding. Feedback for this has all been very positive. Event returns were more positive than in previous years, due to cost savings. Venue costs are still increasing, so the positive returns are more pleasing. Officials Development Project – Funds have been invested in tablets over the past year.

	Summary – Very positive financial position thanks mainly to the support from the clubs via the affiliation scheme. Michael Thorley from Macclesfield was surprised to see how large the Northern Athletics financial reserves are and asked how this fits with any accounting and investment policies and strategies and suggested that maybe Clubs could choose not to support the Affiliation Scheme. NDO explained that reserves provide a degree of financial independence, can fund one-off budget deficits such as staff handovers and also allow for investment in new and replacement equipment, which helps to improve our Championship events. A cash management service is used to spread the Northern Athletics reserves over four cash accounts up to the £84,000 advised limit – these are purely cash accounts to gain interest - £12,500 interest was earned on these reserves last year. One account is instant access to make sure that we can access it for cash flow purposes. 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	The AGM voted unanimously in favour of the election of the proposed Northern Athletics Board for the coming year: Chairman: Tony Wood Honorary Treasurer: Nigel Orr Cross Country: Steve Gaines Arwel Williams Road Running: Bob Brimage Mick Hill Track & Field: Malcolm Fletcher Sue Grime President: Graham Hall An award was presented to outgoing President Pat Schofield.

Item	Discussion on the plans for Northern Athletics for 2025/26
8	Dave Brown asked about opportunities for seniors in Track and field. AW mentioned struggles finding place in the calendar. MH mentioned how road and XC inter-area competition tends to be independent of EA. Brian Wright suggested tagging inter-area matches on to Northern Masters Inter-Area events. Jean Simpson asked about the Welsh U20 International and it was explained that EA no longer invites the areas. SG mentioned EA should receive representations that there is no team pathway. Steve Parsons noted that all meetings need L2 starters now but that the development pathway is not clear. SG spoke about development needs being met in in endurance. SueG stated that the Northern Athletics board now appoints officials for Northern events. This allows them to look at what levels officials are at and have a broad mix of experience to be able support and mentor lower levels at Northern events. Everyone who puts their name forward will get at least one appointment. Denise Read, mentioned people are often busy doing many jobs for their clubs, and need the confidence to progress. Brian Copper suggested that the YDL decentivises becoming a qualified official: Parent Helpers with no qualifications gets the same points as level 1 M Belk thanked the NA board for all of their hard work.
	AGM was closed by The Chairman at 12:35