

the reduced subscription for BMAF athletes is continuing. MMU Professors Jamie McPhee and Hans Degens made a presentation on their recent research work, which was very well received, at the November Council meeting. The Chairman has been distributing copies of their very interesting, informative and useful brochure at fixtures throughout the year and athletes have shown a strong interest.

Our athletes are now taking part in new research projects with Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University.

He thanked all those who have worked with him and supported him over the last decade.

3. Adoption of Officers' Reports.

Ian Richards OLY, Vice Chairman (Policy and International Affairs).

Policy

At the 2017 AGM I announced that an in-depth review of the BMAF constitution was to be undertaken. At the 2018 AGM I advised that the initial review indicated that serious consideration should be given to switching the BMAF from an unincorporated organisation which has no standing in law to an incorporated body, such as a company, a charity or a trust which is how most sports governing bodies are now set up. In athletics, a company by limited guarantee is the most common form being used. That AGM approved the following amendment to the Constitution:-

“7j. The Council shall have the power to appoint committees to investigate particular problems or organise specific events. The Council shall also have the power to authorise the Executive to establish such incorporated organisations as deemed appropriate to organise and administer the work of the Executive including IT, events and finance. The incorporated organisation may include a company limited by shares, a company limited by guarantee, charity, trust or other such body that is or may become an incorporated organisation.”

Following further review by the Executive and the Council, the Council approved the establishment of a company by limited guarantee to provide services to the BMAF primarily focusing on event management and finance. BMAF Services Ltd has been duly set up with other reports about the company being made separately to the 2019 AGM. The effect of this change can be considered as a significant legal and financial improvement to the way that the BMAF operates but does not alter the way that it is governed and in particular the control structure between Area Club members, Area Club Committees, the Council and the Executive. A review is now underway with plan to bring recommendations to the 2020 AGM after a full consultation process.

Having moved the key areas of finance and event management into a company it could be argued that the remainder of the BMAF could remain as an unincorporated body which could mean that all that would be required would be some changes to the Constitution. That may be appropriate in the short term but the anticipated growth and breadth of services being offered is likely to mean that moving the remainder of the BMAF into a company by limited guarantee would be more appropriate. UKA, England, Scottish and Welsh Athletics as well as many other athletics bodies are constituted in this way. The Fell Runners Association is possibly one that has historically had a not dissimilar structure to that of the BMAF. They have switched to become a Company. We are now gaining experience of what is necessary to run a company successfully through BMAF Services Ltd which will be of considerable help as we decide what recommendations we should be making next year.

The benefit of being a company is that there is a legal structure that needs to be adhered to with greater transparency and processes that have to be followed in the way that it is governed. One disadvantage compared to a federation is that ultimate control rests with the owners of the company. A company by limited guarantee has no shareholders but instead has guarantors who underwrite the liability of the company. It is normal for non-profit companies to limit the liability of the guarantors to £1. We need to find a practical way how we can involve members and Area Clubs in key decision making rather than inviting all members to become guarantors who are then entitled to a vote at the Company AGM. That is what the Fell Runners Association has done but there are plenty of other options that can be considered.

As well as reviewing the structure currently set out in the Constitution, we will also be reviewing what else needs to change to reflect today's circumstances and what needs to be added such as disciplinary, appeals, complaints, and safeguarding procedures.

Members are invited to make any suggestions that they might like to be considered to me, other members of the Executive or to the officials at their area Clubs.

Apart from this work there have been no other significant issues of policy that have needed to be looked at.

International

BMAF members have continued to perform exceptionally well at international events and their success is reported elsewhere. We are very fortunate as a sport that any member of a BMAF affiliated Club is able to compete in the World or European Masters Championships without having to attain any specific performance standard. Taking part in such a Championship at least once in their career should be on the bucket list of every athlete and it will be something that will become a highlight of their career. Inevitably this 'no Standard required' approach does put a considerable strain both financially and organisationally on those city's Organising Committees that choose to host these Championships. They are the biggest athletics events that take place in the world. In Malaga there were around 8000 competitors. In the men's 100m alone there were over 500 athletes which required no less than 74 first round heats. Every Championship has a new organising committee. There is no organisation travelling around the world managing these events. There will always be mistakes many of which get repeated time after time. GB has one of the most envied Team Management set ups of any other nation that seems to work pretty well for most people thanks to the efforts of the Team Management who have years of experience and are not frightened of making a nuisance of themselves to get improvements. Our Track and Field Secretary is formidable in this respect although he does not get the credit he deserves for the successes he has had. We will continue to give our advice to Organisers in advance of meetings, at Team Management meetings during events and afterwards. Much of it may fall on deaf ears but we will persist. Championships are unlikely to ever be perfect but the downsides should never put anyone off attending.

Mention must also be made of the services provided by the BMAF Medical Team which are second to none. This service is not part of the formal BMAF set up but a group of professionals who give their service free. Most are self employed and give up income to attend while those who are employed have to use holidays.

There have been changes at the top in both the WMA and EMA but as the key individuals who have taken over have been in different posts before and no change of direction is

expected. GB currently has no one in any major post. Dr Steve Peters is Chair of the Anti-doping and Medical Committee and Carole Filer is the TUE coordinator on that Committee.

GB is entitled to 5 votes at WMA Assemblies and always participates in discussions using its votes in a way that has been agreed at a BMAF Executive Meeting where a Motion is known in advance or at the meeting between the GB delegates.

Bridget Cushen, Honorary Secretary

Since we met here 12 months ago when changes were made to the Constitution to enable the Executive better manage the legal liabilities of the BMAF and its Officers, and to improve the governance and efficiency of the organisation and administration of the BMAF, the thrust of that work has been borne by your Vice-Chair, Policy & International Affairs Ian Richards, your Hon. Treasurer David Oxland, Peter Kennedy and Alex Rowe. We are deeply indebted to them and the others involved in the formation of a Company Limited by Guarantee, for their professional guidance and commitment whilst also carrying out their other BMAF work, and in the case of David and Alex, they are still working for their living. I cannot stress strongly enough the amount of work involved and how fortunate the BMAF is in having such professional and committed Officers on board. I know you will all wish to join in recording a huge Thank You to these hardworking Officers.

We now welcome here, and on to the Executive, Dr. Michael Hausler, EMAC, Company Secretary of BMAF Services Ltd.

You will understand therefore what a busy year it has been for the whole Executive. We normally have four Executive Meetings during the year but an extra Meeting was needed this year to cope with the overload. This was in addition to the normal spring and autumn Delegates Meetings to which all Clubs are entitled to send a Delegate.

After eleven years as your Chairman, Arthur is not seeking re-election. Arthur, as you are well aware was very much a “hands on” Chairman who in addition to Chairing all our Meetings, organised the Indoor and outdoor Inter-Area Challenge as well as the League finals, he is a Team Manager and Delegate at the European and World Masters Championships as well as being a competitor. He has done, and is still doing, a tremendous amount of work not only for the BMAF but also the SCVAC and Dartford H. Fortunately he is prepared to become our President, a less arduous role, and we will still benefit from his lifelong experience and knowledge.

Track & Field Secretary, Maurice Doogan and our Statistician Brian Owen, have indicated that they may not seek re-election next year and the Editor of Masters Athletics, Paul Smith, had to relinquish his Editorial job due to pressure of work.

Normal admin work continues to increase. We are affiliated to other Governing Bodies with whom we have good working relations. England Athletics are very supportive and work closely with your Chairman, Harry Matthews and Alex Rowe. I attended their AGM in October and their EGM in January. Walter Hill and I went to the Sport & Leisure Alliance’s House of Commons Reception in June where we were able to network with other sports and organisers. Winston Thomas is a member of the IAAF Masters Group and maintains a close link with World Masters Athletics. I also help them and EMA with publicity etc. Professor Stephen Peters Chairs their Medical & Anti Doping Committee. Otherwise, we currently

have no direct representation on their Executive despite being one of the largest and strongest countries.

Peter Kennedy got us involved again in the high profile Vitality Mile races in Westminster in May where Alyson Dixon NEMAA, Clare Elms VAC, Angela Copson MMAC, Mark Symes SCVAC and Nigel Gates SWVAC all won their age group titles. Clare, Angela, Ros Tabor VAC, Mark, Nigel and Anthony O'Brien NMAC were awarded Best Age Graded Trophies presented by Westminster Council.

There was international recognition for Angela Copson again and Evaun Williams SCVAC both voted World Best Masters in Long Distance running and Throws respectively, and also winning Best Europeans Masters of the Year Awards. Jane Horder MMAC was runner-up to the great Canadian Carol LaFayette who was voted Best Overall Female Masters Athlete of the Year. We congratulate Team Manager and Official, Lynne Marr NEMAA, who was voted England Athletics Top Official.

Sadly, during the year the following long time members passed away Hugh Barnfather MBE, EMAC, Hazel Bradley SVHC, prolific race walker Doug Fotheringham aged 88 and Jack Rutherford VAC.

The BMAF has for some years been regarded as the most successful section of British Athletics, a quick glance over the past 12 months achievements by all our members, not only reinforces that fact, but proves that we are now leading by a huge margin.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all my fellow Officers for their help and dedication during the year.

David Oxland FCA CTA, Hon. Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report & Accounts for the year ending 31 May 2019, appended, was circulated and accepted.

He said 2018/19 has been a year of change. Business was normal until 4 March when from that day forward we had BMAF Services Limited.

Championship losses amounted to about £5k and in order to get the Services Company going we gave it £5k and all the medals; all South of England and North of England medals, total receipts about £12k.

The cost of forming the Services Company was about £1k.

Huw Roberts (WMAA) is dealing with all form filling, filing with Companies House, tax issues etc. Any member will be able to have an audit of the Accounts at Huw's Cardiff Office. The facilities are there. Huw did this work for nothing, but there will be a cost next year.

Our Partnership with AW continues. Our budget for marketing cost is £5 per annum, mainly to cover AW, but the actual cost in the year was a fraction of this. They gave us 1,000 free copies for our Road Relay and 800 here for distribution, we get plenty of coverage.

We have BMAF and the Services Company insured with UKA's Insurer.

The 300 Club Membership was down to about 100 members and as it involved a lot of work we took the decision to discontinue it. A Donor continues to make his donation.

We now have £59k in the Bank, down from last year because of setting up the Services Company.

Peter Kennedy, IT Manager.

Peter Kennedy confirmed that at the end of 2018 there were 5071 confirmed members of BMAF area Clubs, with a total of 5223 memberships between them. This represents an increase of some 243 members over 2017. Membership has continued to grow in 2019 except in the smallest Clubs.

BMAF OpenTrack System

80% of all confirmed members have now used BMAF OpenTrack, an increase of 8% over last year, but in five Clubs it is at 94% or higher.

With so many more people accustomed to using OpenTrack for their membership renewals and competition entries, and the Membership Secretaries experienced in supporting new and existing members with their usage of OpenTrack, we have now closed down the user support team. He thanked everyone who has helped during the past three years. He and Alex Rowe will continue to support BMAF Open members in using OpenTrack (until we get a volunteer to take on the role) and to provide additional technical support to the Membership Secretaries when they need it.

During the past year, we have implemented the use of OpenTrack CMS for handling results from BMAF road races and the British and Irish Cross-Country International. This means we do not need to depend on third parties to deliver our results in most of our events but instead we have had to work very closely with the chip timing providers to ensure they can deliver the raw results promptly and accurately immediately a race is finished. When this works well, the presentations of medals to both individual and team winners can be done with only a short delay and hence they are much better attended. OpenTrack also provides the results to everyone's Smartphone/Tablet.

OpenTrack CMS has also been used by VAC and WMAA for the results recording of their track & field championships and it is planned to switch to using this in place of Hytek for BMAF Track & Field Championships, in February 2020. Together with photo finish for the track events and electronic recording of field results, we will be able to publish results on the Internet almost instantly each race or field event finishes.

Based on his advice, England Athletics have taken the lead in revising the way UKA registration can be checked by competition providers and we have held back on implementing mandatory registration in the Opentrack system until these developments were ready. Next year, England Athletics will be changing to a rolling system of registration, which will make it easier for athletes, Clubs and competition providers to ensure registration at the date of competition and incidentally take away one of the big demands on his time over the past three years.

BMAF Communications

We have increased the communications with our members on all the BMAF events via the BMAF website, mass emails and social media. We are now also promoting Masters athletics to people who are not yet BMAF members with the support of Athletics Weekly and England Athletics. This is helping to raise the numbers in the road and cross country championships. Gary Leek stood down as the BMAF Communications Manager due to pressures of work and he has been replaced by Sam Amend, who is now publishing news items on the BMAF website and giving the BMAF an active presence on Facebook and Twitter.

We have now changed the front page of the BMAF website to make it simpler for newcomers to find the information they need, but the next stage is to bring in more dynamic sources of news and pictures, rather than expecting the BMAF Officers to provide all the content.

Paul Smith has also decided to stand down as Editor of Masters Athletics magazine for work reasons and the magazine is once again on hold until we find a new Editor.

British Masters Records and Rankings

There is significant IT effort required for the management and publication of British records/best performances and combined event rankings, he thanked Brian Owen, Bruce Hendry and Tom Leeson for this work.

Walter Hill, Road Running Secretary.

Venues and dates for Road Races in 2019 were:

07 Apr: British Masters 10K Blyth Northumberland.

18 May: British Masters Road Relays Sutton Park, Birmingham.

26 May; British Masters 1-mile Westminster, London.

02 Jun: British Masters 10 Mile Dorking Surrey.

16 Jun: British Masters 5K Horwich Manchester.

30 Jun: British Masters Multi-Terrain Gravesend Kent

07 Jul: British Masters Half Marathon Ashbourne Derbyshire

07 Oct: British Masters Marathon (York)

All Road Race Championships so far promoted in 2019 have been a success

The number of BMAF entrants entering Road Races continues to grow with the 10K at Blyth and the 1 mile at Westminster being significant highlights so far this year.

He is anticipating one of the highest turnouts in recent years at this year's BMAF Marathon in York in October which is shared with England Athletics.

The project of raising the profile of Masters running by England Athletics has been a great success and he is delighted to record that the BMAF has been instrumental in that success.

He is in the process of planning next year's Championships and is aiming to spread them where he can to ensure even distribution. A draft calendar is recorded below. All of the above is only possible due to the assistance he gets from Maurice Doogan, Robert Fox, Archie Jenkins, Peter Kennedy and Alex Rowe. A small Team, but a very effective Team.

Race Distance	Date and Location
1 mile	Westminster London 24/05/2020
5K	Horwich 14 or 21/06/2020
10K	Falkirk Scotland 19/04/2020
10Mile	Lytchett Minster near Poole 16/02/2020
Half Marathon	TBA
Marathon	TBA
Trail 30K NDR	Gravesend 28/06/2020

Relays Sutton Park Birmingham 16/05/2020

Maurice Doogan, Track & Field Secretary.

1. The first Championships of the year were the Outdoor Pentathlon at Horspath in Oxford, which included both the 10K Run and Walks Track Championships, where the 10k Run's are back from alternate years in the North East. This is to help us spread the Championships around the UK, where we can, as our two major Championships are, due to the facilities required, limited to Lee Valley for the Indoors and Winter Throws and Alexander Stadium for the Outdoors.

These Championships are specialist events, so has limited appeal, but we still had 41 competitors for the Pentathlons and 56 runners/walkers in the 10,000m track run and walk. These numbers resulted in a small loss, with the minimum numbers of Officials. In agreement with the Treasurer, he has in the main kept the entry fees for Championships as previous years and it is your money we have in the Bank after all. So in effect athletes are subsidising themselves.

2. The second Championships were the South of England Masters which was his first successful attempt [to hold one] to replicate the very successful Indoor version which we have been holding for years. This fixture was in fact too successful, in as much that the entries outstripped the facilities at Battersea Park and the Officials that were available. We therefore had difficulties all day. With hindsight this event should have been cancelled earlier [as we had to do for the 2019 version], but at that juncture we were too deep into financial commitments to do that. We had 233 entries and made a substantial profit.

3. The third Championship of the year was the Decathlon/Throws Pentathlon weekend incorporating the second North of England Masters Outdoor held for the second year in Sheffield. However the promised publicity for this event is still lacking, so entries for this NoE version is well below par, compared to the SoE version. There were no entries from Open athletes, 31 athletes from outside of the Northern Athletics area and so only 94 NoE Athletes. This could be due to possibly the Sheffield facilities being very limited in 2017 [which were even worse in 2018], hence the move to Hull in 2019.

The three Combined Events Championships were successful although we made a substantial loss on the weekend. This was mainly due to the low NoE entry and shortage of Northern Officials, so we had a large hotel bill for the Southern Officials, we had to import.

4. The fourth Outdoor Championship, the Main Outdoors at Alexander Stadium, drew the second highest entry ever of 830 athletes, which has to be due to the 703 British athletes entered for the World Masters Track & Field in Malaga. The Timetables were all completed ahead of schedule thanks to the magnificent efforts of the 'at times' stretched Officials, and the encouraging co-operation of athletes who now realise that without Officials there would be no Championship. However despite that the event made a slight loss.

5. Our fifth Championship of the year, the Indoor Pentathlon, incorporating the South of England Masters, is now in its sixth very successful year and had an entry of 44 Pentathletes and a staggering 309 athletes in the SoE Masters.

A very tight programme was achieved inside the scheduled time by the superb efforts of the hard pressed small band of Officials with the full co-operation of all athletes. This despite appearing to have not read the note on the foot of the Timetable, stating that later Pentathlon events timings, are only indicative. The event made a substantial profit.

6. Our final Championship of the year, the Main Indoors had a record 633 athletes entered [with nearly 400 going to the Worlds in Torun within two weeks]. Again another event that ran to schedule and finished ahead of time, despite the Registration Desk being run by a small dedicated group of volunteering athletes for most of the two days. The event made a small profit for the first time, indicating that keeping entry fees as previous years was not such a gamble as forecast by some.

So over the year, with large entries for most Championships, especially both South of England Masters Championships, it indicates that we have to treat the North of England Masters as 'work in progress', but we do need a publicity push on this, and on all events for that matters, as it appears we are not getting through to all Masters athletes especially Open athletes. Overall we made not a significant loss for the year, which could be cancelled out by just an improvement in North of England Masters entries, which in reality is giving more competition opportunities to the community we were allegedly set up to serve.

On the International front, we started the year as No. 1 Masters Athletics nation in Europe, having beaten Germany at the European Indoors in Madrid in March 2018 [albeit we were second to the Spanish, but being the host nation, they had four times our numbers, and they have never beaten us when both away from home].

We had huge British entries at the three International Championships in this period, to the extent that we became World No.1 in September. However both Germany and the USA fought back at the World Indoors in Torun by greater funding and financial rewards for their athletes, but although finishing ahead of us, the USA by a whisker, it was good to see them both be 'panicked' by our self funded team.

Finally, due to shortages of Officials, which I have warned about for years, I pushed through an initiative to get Masters Area Clubs to promote FREE Officials Level 1 Courses for their athletes, so that BMAF can address this problem by our own volition. Unless we get more Officials, we will be cancelling Championships at all levels. This initiative has been successful with EMAC, SCVAC and VAC, where about 30 athletes completed Courses over the winter, and VAC are about to repeat this. NEMAA had already put this into operation and were successful in getting volunteers for these. This needs to be replicated in all areas, as the situation is now desperate, to the effect that I have moved our major Outdoor Championships into August and September next year to avoid the packed mid-summer season and the possibility of cancelling Championships that I had to do this summer. So athletes need to join this initiative and Officiate when they can, and we are not asking them to Officiate every week, because unless they do, then their SPORT – Track and Field Masters will be gone, and some of us will no longer be around to pick up the pieces.

Mel James, Cross-Country Running Report.

Once again, it was a great season of Cross-Country events.

The first event, the EAMA Inter-Area Challenge, was contested at Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds on the 29th September. With seven Regions competing, the victorious Region was EMAC. By winning the men's section and finishing second in the women's section, their combined total was enough to relegate VAC into second place. The Inter-Area Challenge will again open up our Cross-Country season returning to Nowton Park, with the date set for Saturday the 28th of September.

On October the 27th, we promoted the BMAF (Open) Cross-Country Relays, returning to Long Eaton for our 4th consecutive visit. West Park is the ideal venue for our National Championships as it is a 3k flat course and is also great for spectators. This is confirmed by the growing record number of teams entering each season, with a final entry total of 140 teams last season. With chilly, but dry conditions, the course was very firm under foot, resulting in some very quick times, conducive to team and individual course records being broken. In the four women's team age groups, there were wins for Vale Royal (35+), Dulwich (45+), Bingley (55+) and Westbury (65+) In the Men's team age groups, Notts (35+), Leeds (45+), Sheffield (55+), Oxford (65+) and Bingley (75+) Individual course records went to Clare Elms (45+) Elizabeth Bowers (65+) Andrew Grant (45+) and Stan Owen (65+)

The Long Eaton club annually host this excellent event under the guidance of Rob Fox and the results from Sportsoft are produced within minutes of the races finishing. With entries already open within our BMAF Fixtures website, we are expecting another high team entry for this year's visit to Long Eaton on the 26th October.

The British and Irish Masters Cross-Country International was hosted by Wales at Singleton Park, Swansea. Exceptional sunny weather for November greeted the athletes on their arrival for competition on this undulating course. Although England dominated the men's and women's team awards and once again took home the Overall Shield, there were many individual winners from the other four Nations. Of the 17 age group category winners, England achieved 8, with Scotland 4, Ireland 3 and Wales and Northern Ireland one each.

This season's hosts are England and the competing event will take place at Aintree, Liverpool, with the accommodation and Presentation evening based in Southport. To reduce the number of athletes within the first race, it has been agreed to have a separate race consisting of men and women 65+ and within this race we are also introducing a new category for women aged 75+, with individual medals only awarded. With a maximum of four to represent each country.

Our final major event of the season took us to Belfast for our BMAF Championships. Our entry numbers were lower than in previous Championships, but what a great venue the visiting athletes discovered on arrival. The races, organised by NIMAA, were held within the undulating, picturesque grounds of Stormont with first class administration/presentation facilities at the Civil Service club, with excellent changing and food facilities.

In the 6k race, Chelmsford's Rebecca Luxton was first home for her 35+Gold, with local athlete Amy Bulman also 35+, finishing just six seconds behind. Evergreen Stan Owen finished third overall, competing in the M65+ age group, with Shileen O'Kane finishing close behind the younger athletes for her 50+ age category win. In the 8k race, the first four over the line consisted of four different age groups. Shettleston's Jethro Lennox 40+, Derry's Steve McAlary 35+, Thames Hare & Hound's Ben Reynolds 55+ and North Belfast's Eamon White 50+.

It was a pity that more athletes couldn't have witnessed this great event organised by NIMAA. He recorded his thanks to them for this excellent organised Championship.

He reported that we are returning to Wales for our next Championship, on the 14th March 2020. It will take place at the beautiful country estate of Rhug, Corwen. To learn more of

the venue, please look at Rhug.co.uk for a video and general info on the estate. Entries and travel details will follow on our website soon.

None of last season's events could have taken place without the assistance of Harry Matthew his assistant Cross-Country Secretary, plus Peter Kennedy and Alex Rowe for compiling the OpenTrack results. He recorded his thanks to them.

Ian Richards OLY, Race Walking Report.

There is no change in the state of the event in the UK. On the men's side the few newcomers that have appeared are not sufficient to replace those leaving. On the ladies side it is more encouraging with some growth in the 40 to 60 age range. There are probably less than 100 Masters in the UK, men and women who are prepared to walk in Championship races held under full judging IAAF rules. There are less than 50 in the senior category so there is little prospect of growth from Seniors reaching age 35. There are no initiatives from the Race Walking Association to grow the numbers of Senior walkers. Everything is geared towards youth and the few elite. Most of the youths will leave the sport when they finish education unless they manage to make it through to the elite level. There are, however, glimmers of hope that the IAAF is going to review the definition of Walking changing the straight leg requirement which could make a big difference. He is also involved in discussions with one of the members of the WMA Race Walking Committee about the possibility of the WMA making a change for older walkers who are the group who have the greatest difficulty in meeting the requirements.

International Championships

35 Walkers attended the WMA Championships in Malaga, winning 10 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal. 8 Walkers were in Torun for the WMA Indoor Championships winning 3 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal.

BMAF Championships.

The most popular and well attended Championship was the 5km in Horwich, held alongside the 5km run. 24 men and 10 women took part. An International Match between England, Scotland and Eire was held within the race which England won. The first 3 men and women from each country on an age graded basis were used to determine the result.

The 10,000 Track Walk was held at Oxford and attracted 4 men and 6 women, while the 10km road held in Leicester 2 weeks later, attracted 20 men and 8 women.

20km and 50km are the two Olympic Walking events and always used to be the key races in the UK calendar. Sadly the straight leg Rule has killed both events domestically. At the BMAF 20 km held in Coventry only 3 men and 5 women finished. 7 Walkers were disqualified and 2 failed to finish. To illustrate just how things are, in the British/England/Race Walking Association/Southern Area combined 20 km Championship there were only 2 Senior British men and 3 under 23, no Masters. In the ladies race there were 4 Senior ladies and one 35 year old.

Our 2019 Long Distance Championships is a 20 mile race being held within a 100 mile race in the Isle of Man on the 18th August. It is being held under the softer no need for a straight leg Rules, but at the time of writing this report there are only 5 entries.

Brian Owen, Statistician's Report

First of all, let's look at the statistics of the role, and August to August 2018-2019 has been an extremely good year. The following Records and Bests have been ratified, and accepted by British Masters, European Masters and World Masters.

World: Track and Field 9 Outdoor and 8 Indoor, Non Stadia 1. Total 17

European: Track and Field 10 Outdoor and 22 Indoor. Total 32,

British: Track and Field, 54 Outdoor, 46 Indoor, 11 Road Race Bests and 4 Road Walks bests. Total 115

That's a total of 164, or if you like three every week!

In the later part of 2018, he was asked to undertake an exercise of analysing the performances of some 113 athletes to determine our nomination for the World Best Masters of 2018 Awards. It led to three members receiving World Best Athlete Awards, and four athletes receiving European Awards. He did receive criticism from just one athlete who disagreed with his nomination; however it was possible to prove to his satisfaction that his performances were not as good as the nominated athlete.

We continue to have a good relationship with European Masters as far as Record applications are concerned, whilst his contact with World Masters is of a vastly improved nature. His relationship with the UKA Chief Statistician and UKA Chief Official is good.

On the downside, the situation generally regarding Athletics in this Country is far from satisfactory with shortages of Officials. Availability of correct and working equipment, the state of Tracks and generally run-down Stadia is a problem that is unlikely to change.

On a number of occasions during the year he had been unable to ratify performances, including European Records, for various reasons the main one being the non-availability of a working wind gauge. Others include times stated by a single Stopwatch, a track race time with only transponder timing.

He would like to continue with this role until September 2020, when he intends to retire from the sport.

Peter Duhig, Overseas Entries Co-ordinator Report.

Championships in the last year: Malaga, WMA T & F Championships, 4-16 September 2018. This proved to be a popular venue with a massive record GBR 704 entries. 221 Women, 483 Men. A total of over 8100 entries are reported to have been received. This means that WMA paid €7040.00 for the levies due to the BMAF.

I completed all the verifications and dealt with a massive number of queries which goes well over the 1100 mark.

Please note: For Championships I am now verifying Officials on a separate entry list. We are allocated 5 Team Managers, 5 Medical Staff, and 3 Media/Coaching Personnel.

Torun, Poland. World Masters Athletics Indoor Champs. 30th -24th March 2019

We had 393 Athletes male and female entered. All athletes were verified. €3930 paid to the BMAF.

Venice, Italy. European Masters Athletics Track & Field Championships. 5-15 Sept 2019.

The closing date has been extended again to the 3rd August 2019. 150+ entries were made within 7 days of the advertised closing date of the event. The extra few days will add more.

At the time we have 276 Men & 147 Women entered, a total of 423. More than I expected.

With far too many accompanying persons, that I cannot verify and get off the entry display!

Officials etc are yet to be allocated and verified. This is also an issue. Fees: 55 € (Registration

fee) including 1st event. 20€ Each additional event. This includes the Half Marathon, and Road events. 60€, Combined Event. 25€ additional combined event. 10€ BMAF Admin Fee

The Overseas Entries Co-ordinator made a plea to athletes to constantly check their emails, his preferred communication method. He does use BMAF Facebook to make general announcements about opening/closing dates etc. But entry queries should be sent to his email address, which is readily available on the BMAF website.

Last year I made the suggestion that the Marathon should be added to the Road Championships, giving a full week of competition with a 1/2M at the beginning of the week, 10k middle of the week, and Marathon the last weekend. With Race Walks being sandwiched either side of the 10k run. This suggestion seemed to have been received fairly well by EMA.

Next year – 2020. Indoor Stadia Championships - Braga, Portugal. - 15th – 21st March.
EMA Non Stadia Champs – Madeira 2nd – 5th April. www.ema-madeira2020.com
World T&F Champs 2020, Toronto, Canada. 20 July–1 August. <http://wmatoronto2020.com/>

Bridget Cushen, Press & Publicity

Getting any publicity for Masters athletics on the back pages of the broadsheets or tabloid is an uphill struggle, unless it is controversial. Nevertheless, I was contacted by a Journalist from The Times last September for a feature they were running on the benefits to older people of an active lifestyle, and requesting some over 65 athletes to interview. Six contacts sent to her.

A journalist from The Guardian also in contact as he had seen Alex Rotas' Exhibition, but the article they would be publishing was linked in to an advertisement for Votrol. Barry Ferguson, Moira West and Glyn Sutton were contacted. Barry was chosen and it resulted in a lovely shot of him clearing a hurdle with a smile on his face being published on the internet.

We had a Publicity Stand at the Vitality Westminster Mile in May and official BMAF banners and flags are used at all our road and cross-country events.

We nominated Jason Carty (SCVAC) for various Awards after his remarkable performance in Malaga so shortly after losing a lung to cancer. He won the M45 100/200m and got another gold medal in the relay. The Helen Rollanson Award at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year is not open to public nominations. However, I took the liberty of writing to the Head of Sport at the BBC.

We also put his name forward for the London Sport Newsletter Sports Stars Awards. There were 135 nominations for the Most Inspirational Award. The Awards Secretary took the trouble to write back stating that their Judging Panel, which include some well known people, were fascinated by this remarkable story and to learn about what we do.

All Reports were accepted with a vote of thanks to the Officers.

4. The past year's structural changes involving the setting up of BMAF Services Ltd.

a) The Hon Treasurer, David Oxland FCA CTA, introduced and explained his Report "Incorporation of Championships Function/Affiliation Fees" covering a summary of action taken during the past 12 months.

The Treasurer reported that when he took over 2½ years ago the position had been vacant for some months and it still involved writing out cheques etc.

He realised that the Officers of the Federation might be open to legal issues. We have no members; you are a member of a Club. By having a separate Company the BMAF would have more focus, and for these reasons we formed a Company Limited by Guarantee, British Masters Services Limited, each Member Guarantees £1. The Company was formed in December.

- b) He introduced Dr Michael Hausler to the Meeting as Secretary of British Masters Services Limited.

The Company is registered at Companies House. The Hon. Treasurer said that as a Chartered Accountant he dealt with it and the Articles of Association etc. The Federation itself does not run Championships; the Company will now ring fence the Championships. The four Officers of the Company are Peter Kennedy, Alex Rowe, Harry Matthews and Dr Michael Hausler.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that when the Council met to approve this, he was at the same time able to offer our Clubs a reduced Capitation Fee, the Clubs have benefited from affiliation fees.

- c) Presentation by Peter Kennedy, Director of BMAF Services Ltd

Peter Kennedy reported that the four Directors took on the challenge. The Company will set up the BMAF Championships; it is working well, we no longer handle cheques or cash, it is very low cost and very easy to share out.

The BMAF now has a clear focus. This is a cultural change and is working more like a business; we have more volunteers, we are expanding and more are needed.

5. **Hon. Treasurer's Report & Accounts plus first Management Accounts of BMAF Services Ltd.**

INCORPORATION of Championship Function/AFFILIATION FEE

Summary of actions taken during the past 12 months: This paper confirms the incorporation of our Championship function. This function was transferred to BMAF Services Limited from 4th March 2019. BMAF ("the Federation") remains in place as before to carry out all other functions and the relationship between the Area Clubs and the Federation will be unchanged. Any proposals to incorporate the Federation as a whole and to change the relationship with Area Clubs would be the subject of detailed proposals and approval of such changes at a Council/Delegates meeting followed by formal approval at the subsequent AGM.

A. Technical, structural and constitutional changes.

1. BMAF Services Limited ("The company")

Following approval at the last AGM and discussion lead by Ian Richards Vice Chairman at the then latest Council meeting (November 2018), BMAF Services Limited was incorporated on 20th December 2018; Company Number 11736307. The Company is Limited by Guarantee. Three Directors have been appointed Peter Kennedy, Harry Matthews and Alex Rowe and a statutory Company Secretary has also been appointed, Dr Michael Hausler, who has also been co-opted onto the Federation's Executive committee. All four Officers are also Members which means that contrary to a normal limited company, they do not hold shares but instead provide a guarantee each of just £1. However the Company is being properly financed, by means of grants from the Federation. Simon Ingall acts as Finance Officer.

2. Visibility of the Company

You can easily view free of charge the documents filed to date with Companies House using their Beta service. Any subsequent changes to the Company, e.g. in Officers or Members or amendments to the Articles, will be filed (usually they must be filed within 14 days of the changes). The Directors must also file an Annual Confirmation Statement (which gives information about the Officers and Members) and the annual accounts although the full

statutory accounts, which will be circulated to you, will not be filed. Instead advantage will be taken of a concession which allows “filleted accounts” to be filed for small companies. These provide basic Balance Sheet information but no profit and loss account. Nearly all small companies take advantage of this concession in order to maintain as much privacy as possible. However, full statutory accounts will be provided to AGMs. On this occasion the Company had not been in existence long enough at 31st May 2019 to prepare full statutory accounts and so management accounts have been provided. These have been prepared by Huw Roberts, a member of Welsh Masters and a professional Accountant, who has kindly agreed to act as external Accountant without charging for his services. Huw will file documents as required with Companies House.

3. Company Constitution

This is contained in the Articles of Association which you can view on the Companies House Beta web-site.

4. Control

The Company is controlled by the Federation via the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors will carry out certain operational matters and hold separate meetings (mainly via online conference calls to avoid travel costs) but they will be reporting to and under the control of the Executive.

5. Restrictions on distribution of profits or capital of the company

It is most important to ensure that the Officers and/or Members could not under any situation become entitled to the assets of the Company, notwithstanding our complete confidence in the integrity of the members. Article 3.3, which is a standard one for Companies Limited by Guarantee, provides that the Members will not receive dividends or other shares of profits of the Company. The Directors are entitled to claim out of pocket expenses, as indeed they are as Officers of the BMAF but in practice their expenses will continue to be met by the Federation.

Any Member, Officer or servant of the Company could receive remuneration. Whilst the present Officers have confirmed that they will not be receiving remuneration, it is getting harder and harder to get volunteers to carry out major roles within the BMAF and we left that standard sub-clause in the Articles in case it is necessary to offer stipends in the future to attract the right individuals.

Regarding the Capital of the Company, I drafted Article 3.4 which provides that upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Company, any capital surplus will not be passed to the members but instead would go to the Federation or, if the Federation no longer exists, the surplus would be paid to some other institution, having similar objects to the Federation, in other words the promotion of athletics for the over 35s, with the proviso that the institution shall prohibit the distribution of income to its members.

6. What the Company can do/will be doing

What the Company can legally do is set out in the Statement of Objects within the Articles of Association. Article 3.1.1 says “to promote and provide athletics championships for people over 35 under the guidance of the British Masters Athletic Federation (“The Federation”) and act generally as a service company to the Federation”. This is followed by a number of more general objects provided by the Company formation agents and it is standard practice these days not to be too restrictive what a company is allowed to do.

In practice the Company will be responsible for putting on championships, receiving entry fees and paying for venue costs, security, medical, traffic control when needed, hotels, officials’ expenses, medals etc. When championships are attached to races put on by third parties the Company will account to the third parties for entry fees received.

7. Why are we incorporating the championships/why are we only incorporating the championships at this stage?

A> We are transferring the promotion and operation of the championships to the Company to significantly reduce the personal risks of being Officers of the BMAF and also to make a start to modernise the Federation. A side benefit is that, by splitting the Treasury function, there are now several people involved in the accounting function, allowing greater attention to be devoted to achieving cost reductions as well as in the future making it easier to achieve succession in relation to the Federation's accounting function than it has been in the past.

B> There is much we first need to do to change our present Constitution before we incorporate the rest of the Federation. To try to make these changes at the same time as incorporating would be to take too much on at once and it could also be very confusing for everyone to understand. Anyway it could take at least year or two to incorporate the Federation but the benefits described in A above are needed now.

B. Operational matters

8. People

Whilst the Company has appointed 4 Officers, whose other roles within BMAF include IT and EAMA representative, they will of course need the services of the BMAF Secretaries, viz Track and Field, Road, Cross-Country and Walks along with all the people who assist the Secretaries in promoting and organising the 30 or so championships which the Federation provides each year.

9. Bank account

The Company has its own Bank account and appropriate financial controls have been introduced.

10. Web-site changes

A clear note appears on the BMAF web-site to the effect that the championships are promoted and operated by the company.

11. Starting date

The company took over all responsibilities for championships with effect from 4th March 2019.

C. Affiliation fees/Grant from the Federation to the Company.

12. Current charge per capita

The charge of £6 per member of area Clubs had been in force for several years.

13. Affiliation fees 2019/20

It was decided to reduce the affiliation fees to £5 per head with effect from 1st June 2019. This was approved at the March 2019 Council Meeting and the fees for 2019/20 have been invoiced to the clubs.

14. Initial grant from Federation to the Company

An initial grant of £5,000 from the Federation to the Company was approved by the Council and has been paid to the Company along with advance entry fees. The Federation's stock of medals at 4th March has been transferred to the Company at no cost. I consider the Company was adequately funded for the 2019 championships but, owing to some championships tending to be loss-making, I have budgeted for an annual grant of £5,000. It is our policy to try to achieve break-even on championships over the year as a whole and as I have said above, there is now more focus on this objective.

After questions from the floor, the Hon. Treasurer's Report and Paper was accepted.
The AGM passed a Vote of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer for his work.

6. Approve the Proposal to amend Section 6a of the Constitution by adding the following to the list of Officers of the Executive:

Chief Operating Officer
Marketing & Communications Manager
IT Manager

Proposed by Courtney Gunn EMAC and seconded by Graham Lamb MMAC that the amendment be accepted.

Voting: In favour: unanimous. Proposal carried.

7. To ratify the nomination of the Council that Arthur Kimber be appointed as President of the Federation with immediate effect.

Voting: unanimous. Proposal carried.

(Note: Arthur Kimber has stated his intention to act as an active President and to attend Executive Committee Meetings and Meetings of the Council in this capacity).

8. To Elect the following Officers of the Federation to serve on the Executive Committee

POSITION

NOMINATION

Chairman	Walter Hill, SCVAC
Vice Chair & Policy & International Affairs.	Ian Richards, VAC,
Honorary Secretary:	Bridget Cushen, SCVAC
Honorary Treasurer:	David Oxland, MMAC
Track & Field Secretary:	Maurice Doogan, VAC
Cross-Country Secretary:	Mel James, Welsh Masters AA
Road Running Secretary:	Walter Hill, SCVAC
Race Walking Secretary:	Ian Richards, VAC
Minutes Secretary	Bridget Cushen, SCVAC

Proposed by Irene Nicholls MMAC, seconded by Elke Hausler, Newmarket Joggers, that all nominated Officers be elected en bloc.

Proposal carried unanimously.

Irene Nicholls proposed a Vote of thanks to Arthur Kimber the outgoing Chairman.

9. To elect Officers of the Federation to serve on the Executive Committee if the change to Section 6a of the Constitution is approved

Chief Operating Officer
Marketing & Communications Officer
IT Manager, PK

As these positions are new and details have not previously been published, making a nomination 30 days before the AGM would not have been possible. Therefore, in accordance with 4i of the Constitution, the Chairman will accept nominations from the floor of the AGM.

Peter Kennedy (VAC) who holds the position of IT Manager as an Officer of the Executive has advised that he is willing to be nominated as IT Manager, Officer of the Federation.

Proposed by Courtney Gunn EMAC, seconded by G Lamb MMAC that Peter Kennedy be elected.

Proposal carried unanimously.

10. To acknowledge that the Chair, England Athletics Masters Association is automatically appointed as an Officer of the Federation to serve on the Executive. Currently the position is held by **Harry Matthews**.

Proposal carried unanimously.

11. To acknowledge that the following have been co-opted by the Executive onto the Executive Committee:

Company Secretary, BMAF Services Ltd, **Michael Hausler** (EMAC)
Assistant IT Manager/Information Processing Officer, **Alex Rowe** (NMAC)
Assistant Cross-Country Secretary, **Harry Matthews** (EAMA)

Proposal carried unanimously.

12. To acknowledge the appointment of the following as Officers of the Executive:

Overseas Entries Coordinator - **Peter Duhig**, (EMAC)
Records Coordinator - **Brian Owen**, (MMAC)
Records Data Management - **Bruce Hendrie** (MMAC)
Combined Event Rankings - **Tom Leeson**
Communications Manager - **Samantha Amend** (VAC)
Hon Adviser on Legal Matters - **Walter Nicholls**
Masters Athletics Editor (if appointed today)
Publisher of Masters Athletics (if appointed)

Meeting agreed.

Signed: Date