

IT Manager report for the BMAF AGM 2025

General

The devices and platforms used remain the same as at the time of the last AGM. The plans for a new look and feel to BMAF on the website and social media have not been actioned due to the lack of people to perform this activity. Also the following web and social media sections are only covered as part of oversight of the technology BMAF uses.

Website

www.bmaf.org.uk is main source web site in use by BMAF after consolidation work of Adrian Essex. Adrian continues to add content when available. Age group records are still being maintained by Courtney Gunn who makes them available via the website.

Facebook/Meta

On Facebook MastersAthleticsUK group is still accompanying the website as a place for BMAF and championship promotion, this is maintained by Adrian Essex continues to be a top contributor.

Another British Masters Athletics was set up as part of marketing. This was operational from 1/10/24 to 31/12/25 and remains dormant.

Insta

BMAF's presence was supposed to gain a new look as part of marketing but this has not happened.

X/Twitter

BMAF has a presence but there is no active posting by or for BMAF is taking place and it continues to be less active in terms of BMAF than Facebook MastersAthletics. A decision needs to be made if this account should remain.

YouTube

BMAF also has a YouTube presence with a small number of videos. The annual T&F championships are usually accessed via the website.

Web hosts

As recognised at last years' AGM costs were growing, and as part of reducing ongoing costs for website and emails, these have been moved from Team Blue (formally Namesco). This coupled with the change to monthly billing is expected to reduce costs by approximately 20-25%.

Communications

BMAF continues to use GetResponse to communicate with its members/athletes, again for several large email shots including this AGM notice. GetResponse was made available to VAC and now Eastern Masters has access to it.

OpenTrack

Membership details for members are held via OpenTrack. John Fenton is monitoring membership data quality. Ensuring that when athletes enter competitions, their data provides the required detail for the meeting organiser, and also ensures accurate profiling for statistical analysis and reports to area clubs.

BMAF continues to heavily use OpenTrack for most championship entries. Currently there are no plans for further development.

The meeting provider for the OutdoorT&F championships expanded use of technology by using tablet devices in field events to feed round by round data to OpenTrack.

Other providers of chip timing also interface with Opentrack to provide BMAF with a results service, for example the BICCI in November.

BMAF worked with Opentrack early last year to develop an international validation checker to check the currency of National registration, area club membership and nationality. This one off development cost has saved a lot of time with it being used for to validate athletes for Gothenburg (556), Bangalore (5) in 2024, and for Gainesville (181), Meduno (42), Jyväskylä (9) and Madeira (552), Mexico City (1) and Bengaluru (2), over 1300 athlete entries. It will be used for Torun and Daegu in 2026.

Payment System

Stripe continues to be the payment system for national and area club championship entries made through OpenTrack. BMAF and OpenTrack have oversight of each area clubs payments should any major problems occur.

IT Hardware

Three laptops and two ipads, some 10 years old, were sold to recover some residual value. This has been re-invested in one Windows laptop and one Chromebook. These have been used at several meetings this year. There is some 10 year old networking kit that while functional is not needed these day because Wi-Fi is present at all venues BMAF uses. The current plan is to sell the remaining equipment to again recover some residual value.

International

The international team managers phone has been used for Gainesville and Madeira as a way of athletes reaching the team managers by text and/or WhatsApp, again with sub groups for the individual stadiums or event groups. This is in addition to an email account which is created for each championship. It is used as a way to contact all athletes entered in the championships and is deleted after the competition.

One of the international team managers for the WMA championships in Gainesville, USA, Stuart Lynn, was involved administration of the Facebook group for that championships in March. And Stuart then became more pivotal in setting up the Facebook group for the EMA Championships in Madeira, Oct 2025. It is hoped that the arrangement can continue for Torun and Daegu in 2026.

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