

Chairman's report AGM 2025

Resourcing

We still need new volunteers who have the time, skills and energy to come forward to cover roles that are currently vacant:

- Head of Marketing & Communication
- Race Walking Secretary
- Company Secretary for the BMAF companies formed as part of Incorporation

As well as team roles in the following areas:

- Budgeting Analysts, Marketing Officers, Competition Secretaries for the various athletics disciplines
- Finance: Management Accounts Analyst
- IT analyst for inventory and access management of hardware/software
- Membership Support

Many of these roles are relevant to the area clubs, which they find arguably more difficult to resource. Thus, a larger BMAF Services team has the potential to be made available to provide the same services to the clubs.

If BMAF is to operate with the quality expected of it, the only means to deliver this if there are not enough volunteers to cover all these roles and replace them as necessary, will be to pay for external service providers. It is possible that eventually the organisation will be able to afford to obtain all these services on a commercial basis; in the interim however we are going to extremely dependent on getting the volunteers.

This difficulties of helping the various groups in BMAF to remain connected with each other and to be effective in their relations has become more difficult since the last AGM through the resignations of some members of the Executive :

- Dave Watson has Track & Field Secretary. His work commitments made it impossible to do justice to the BMAF role
- Harry Matthews, Cross Country secretary
Rob Lands kindly volunteered to take on the additional role of acting Cross Country secretary until a new person could be elected at the AGM,

Also Jon Clarke, Chair of England Masters AA has been having issues with his health which has made it difficult for him to attend many BMAF Executive meetings

I stepped down as BMAF Chair on 1st August since it was becoming too much trying to fulfil both the role of BMAF Chair and director of BMAF Services Limited and no replacement was found. I took the decision that BMAF Services needed me more than the BMAF Executive, which is barely functional at all at present because of all the resignations, and the atmosphere in the Executive is so toxic at present that it was affecting my health.

Finally Rob Lands is resigning his role as General Secretary at the AGM.

The remaining members of the Executive and officers of BMAF Services are likely to want to retire soon on grounds of age, if for no other reason.

The first priority therefore is to improve the structure of the organisation so that it can function in an efficient and pleasant environment and attract younger volunteers.

Support roles

Roles/tasks that I have been covering this year pending finding new volunteers have been:

- Coordination of the validation of all British entries to EMA and WMA championships, being handed over to Glen Reddington
- Competition secretary for Road and Cross-Country Championships
- Mass Email Marketing campaigns for Road and Cross-Country Championships
- Liaison with OpenTrack on their software issues/developments: in the process of being handed over to Stuart Matthews
- Membership support to membership secretaries, aided by Stuart Matthews VAC membership secretary and Rob Lands, EMAC, membership secretary. This work also includes a lot of direct support to potential area club members, but this needs to be handed over to the membership secretaries themselves.

Council Meetings

As far as I am aware, there has only been one “split” meeting of the Council in June of this year for which no minutes have been published. A Council Chair elected by the area club representatives is sorely needed if it is to function as intended by the Constitution and even more so post-incorporation.

British and Irish Cross-Country International

The BMAF declined to provide both the representatives expected at the event this year, but Rob Lands was attending in the role of BMAF cross country secretary and I was performing a support role managing all the results.

Liaison with UKA and home country athletics federations

This has been put on hold in the expectation that it would be addressed once incorporation was complete but the importance of doing this is even greater now as the England Athletics is increasing its involvement in master athletics and the importance that World Athletics now sees in Masters Athletics, for the simple reason that it has more spending power which is largely untapped throughout the world.

Peter Kennedy
Chair, British Masters Athletics Federation (until 1st August)

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