BMAF : Acting Chair's Report

Although I joined the BMAF Executive only recently as an interim officer and Acting Chair, I have followed developments throughout the year. I am pleased to say that BMAF is in a considerably stronger position as we approach this year's AGM than it was at the conclusion of last year's meeting.

Despite a number of internal and operational challenges, Masters athletics across the UK and internationally has continued to flourish. BMAF, the BMAF Council and BMAF Services have delivered and supported a full programme of events, which have received excellent feedback from members. The recent Track and Field Championships and the BMAF XC Team event were particular highlights, reflecting the commitment and hard work of everyone involved in organising and delivering our competitions.

BMAF has also continued to support athletes with their international competition preparation and provide team managers for those representing Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Highlights included the European Indoor Championships in Toruń, the World Masters Championships in Daegu, and the World Masters Marathon Championships in Zagreb, where our athletes delivered excellent performances and achieved notable success.

Looking ahead, planning for the 2027 calendar is already well underway, with a programme of notable stadia and non-stadia events being developed and distributed across the UK and Ireland.

Alongside these sporting achievements, it is important to recognise the organisational challenges that have needed to be addressed over the past year. Following last year's AGM, the Executive was left without a quorum and was consequently unable to conduct its business effectively. In response, the BMAF Council convened a formal EGM, at which members approved the granting of temporary authority to the Council to appoint interim officers and restore the Executive's ability to function. This was an important step in providing the organisation with the leadership and continuity needed to move forward.

The Council also established a working group to review the previous incorporation proposals and identify the most appropriate way forward for BMAF. Having recently seen the group's work, much of which is reflected in the supporting information provided to members ahead of this year's AGM, I am encouraged by the professionalism and thoroughness of the work undertaken. The resolutions members will be asked to consider and vote on at the AGM have emerged from this process and are intended to establish a sounder, more sustainable foundation for the organisation's future.

Ultimately, our objective must be to put BMAF in the strongest possible position to focus on what matters most: serving our members and supporting Masters athletics. During my time on the Executive, I have been particularly encouraged by the growing goodwill and spirit of cooperation between the BMAF Executive, the BMAF Council and BMAF Services. Despite the challenges we have faced, there is a shared determination to work together in the best interests of the organisation and its members.

While there is still work to do, I believe we have a genuine opportunity to build on this progress, strengthen our governance and establish a more secure platform for BMAF's future. By maintaining this spirit of collaboration and keeping our members and athletes at the heart of our decisions, we can direct our collective efforts towards the continued growth and success of Masters athletics in the years ahead.

Stuart Lynn
Acting Chair, BMAF