BMAF AGM 2026 IT report

General

There has been no change to IT infrastructure since the last AGM. 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 remains the primary source for all desemination of BMAF information. The work of Adrian Essex has now been added to by Kevin White and Phillip Whettlock. Age group records are still being maintained by Courtney Gunn who is looking for somebody to take over that work.

Facebook/Meta

The Facebook page and group MastersAthleticsUK is still accompanying the website a as place for BMAF information. Again those mentioned abover are the main contributors. The other page British Masters Athletics remains dormant.

Insta

While active, this is not actively used by the BMAF.

X/Twitter

There is no active posting by BMAF is taking place.

YouTube

BMAF also has a YouTube presence with a small number of videos. There is an increasing number of annual T&F championships on another channel, Both should be consolidated.

Mass Communications

BMAF continues to use GetResponse as a mass email communication tool, the annual cost remains the same.

Web hosts

It was expected to move web and email hosting to a new provider after the last AGM to reduce costes. This has not happened for the website due to incompatibilities. While these were resolved, with the unknown direction and date of incorporation, and possilbe organisation name change, it was decided to change to monthly billing rather than commit to a two year deal as before. Annual billing for Outlook emails was reduced from 29 to 22 monthly accounts, providing an approximate saving of 20%. This allows flexibility to create emails for short term use rather than holding unused licenses, e.g. international support.

OpenTrack

The membership database is held by OpenTrack. John Fenton continues to monitor data quality. BMAF continues to heavily use OpenTrack for most championship entries. It is noted that European Masters Athletics is now using Opentrack for different types of competition, e.g. T&F, Mountain Running, Marthon. Currently there are no plans for further development.

The meeting provider for the OutdoorT&F championships continues to use tablet devices in field events to feed live round by round data into the results. Other providers of chip timing also interface with Opentrack to provide BMAF with a results service, for example the BICCI in November.

Held by Opentrack, the international validation checker continues to be used as a way of quickly validating National registration, area club membership and nationality, specifically, Zagreb (16), Croatia (16), Ames (4), Rasnov (16), Daegu (152), Catania (51), Torun (391) and New Delhi (1).

Payment System
Stripe continues to be used by the majority of area clubs for new and renewal of membership. Payments for championship entries made through OpenTrack also follow this route. Where BMAF had management oversight of area clubs payments, this has been removed because BMAF should not have access to area clubs money.

IT Hardware
A third laptop has been purchased. The two existing laptops have been deployed at indoor and outdoor meetings as part of general IT support.

International
The international team managers phone continues to be used for text and WhatsApp. The WhatsApp groups are noted as attracting larger use in Torun, Catania and Daegu. The later also deployed an eSIM. All championships also have their own email account. As indicated last year, independent of BMAF, Stuart Lynn is supporting BMAF with a Facebook group posts relating to championships. Costs remain constant for the mobile with comparible eSIM costs.

AI
The BMAF Services has puchased licences for ChatGPT which have been used to assist in formulating Articles for the ongoing incorporation. There are no plans at this stage to use AI elsewhere.

Glen Reddington
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