



BRITISH MASTERS ATHLETICS FEDERATION

President: Paul Dickenson
Chairman: Arthur Kimber
Honorary Secretary: Bridget Cushen
Treasurer: Danny Herman

Affiliated to: World Masters Athletics
European Masters Athletics

Website: bmaf.org.uk

Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of British Masters Athletics Federation held on Saturday 17 September 2016 in the Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LR at 18.30.

Present: Chairman Arthur Kimber (SCVAC), Honorary Secretary Bridget Cushen (SCVAC), Honorary Treasurer Danny Herman (NMAC), Cross-Country Secretary Mel James (WMAA), Race Walking Secretary Ian Richards (VAC), IT Manager and Asst. Manager Peter Kennedy (VAC) and Alex Rowe (NMAC). Co-Opted Track & Field Secretary Maurice Doogan (VAC),

Member Attendance: As per Attendance Sheets.

Apologies for absence received from SWVAC, Walter Hill Road Running Secretary and Harry Matthews, NEMAC

1. **Welcome and Opening of the AGM**

The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting.

2. **Adoption of the Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held on 25 July 2015.**

Item 2, amend Barry Roberts to read Barrie Roberts. Delete Harry Matthews substitute Archie Jenkins. At 4e delete "Nuneaton" and replace with "Long Eaton." After these amendments, Barrie Roberts proposed, seconded by Archie Jenkins that the Minutes be signed.

3. **President's address**

The President, Paul Dickenson, had to return home early. His Report was read by the Hon. Secretary. He said he was honoured to be the President of the BMAF, the work done in its entirety year after year whether the Championships are Road Races, Walking events, Track & Field etc. etc. are an ever-ending story of superb administration. We have to rely on so many volunteers and we must never take them for granted, always admire the way they run the sport. Thank you very much to the Executive.

4. **To Adopt Reports from the following Officers:**

a) **Chairman, Arthur Kimber**

The Chairman congratulated all the athletes on their successes. 589 members entered the World Masters Athletics Championships in Lyon last August. The team did well to finish third in the medals table behind USA and Australia.

During the Indoor season three main events were held at Lee Valley in February and March, the BMAF Indoor Pentathlon, South of England, EVAC and VAC Championships, the EAMA Inter Area Track and Field Challenge and the BMAF Championships. At these meetings and others three World records, a European record and several British records were set. The world records came from W60 Carole Filer, a 4568 pentathlon and the 60m hurdles with 9.96, M70 Glyn Sutton 8.12sec for an M70 60m and M80 Tony Bowman set the European record for 60m hurdles, in 11.13sec. The final event in the Indoor season was the European Masters Championships in Ancona. Glyn Sutton lowered his earlier 8.12sec performance to 8.09 and the W75 4x200m team of Mollie Mills, Eva Osborne, Betty Tracey and Dot Fraser set a new World record time of 3:03.14sec. Four European records were set. Glyn Sutton featured again in the 4x200m team of Terry Bissett, James Smith,

Glyn and Vic Novell with a European record, 1:55.41sec, Caroline Marler a W65 400m record, 63.57sec, W55 Susan Frisby 60m hurdles, 9.80sec and Joe Appiah, M45, in the same event, 8.35sec. The European Non-Stadia Championships were held in the very attractive venue of Monte Gordo in the Algarve in Portugal in May in very warm weather. 98 athletes represented Great Britain and took fourth place in the medals table behind Spain, Germany and Portugal. The race walkers stood out with M65 Ian Richards winning four gold, 10k, 10k team, 30k and 30k team, M55 Francisco Reis two, 10k and 30k and M75 Ed Shillabeer two, 30k and 10k team.

David Heath, who ran in the M50 800m in the IAAF Championships in Beijing, was awarded World, European and British Best Male Master Athlete of 2015 and Caroline Powell the British Best Female Master Athlete award. The 2016 IAAF Indoor Championships in Portland, Oregon introduced an M60 800m won by David Wilcock, with Karen Brooks taking a bronze in the W50 400m.

It is with sadness that we heard of the deaths of some of our members in the last year. Two pioneers and stalwarts of the Veterans/Masters movement, Sylvester Stein, aged 95, and Keith Whitaker, 85, died after very successful athletics careers and long and dedicated service to the BVA/BMAF. Sylvester served as both Chairman and President and was honoured as a BMAF life Vice-President, Keith served as Treasurer, Chairman and President, and was also honoured as a Life Vice-President. Anne Darby and sprinter Alasdair Ross have both died at the very early age of 62. We have also lost hammer thrower Hamilton Thomas, 78, sprinter and jumper, Geoff Feast, 82, and hurdler Nanette Cross. I was shocked to hear of the death of my Irish friend Jim McNamara, who seemed in fine form in the British and Irish Masters Cross Country last year taking fifth place in the M75 race. Jim represented Ireland in the European Championships in 1966 and the Olympic Games in 1976 and won the M45 1500m in the European Veterans Championships in Brighton in 1984.

Report accepted.

b) Vice Chair, Policy & International Affairs.

Questions were raised from the floor on the Vice-Chair's Report and his reference therein to the problems we encountered with our kit suppliers.

In Kevin Dillon's absence, the Chairman confirmed that we do not have a record of how many complaints we received about the athletic apparel. We have no proof of what the then Supplier may have initially invested. The design is BMAF property.

Complaint made that Sports Creative Ltd did not offer a refund for faulty clothing. The Race Walking Secretary showed an example of some poor quality vest and shorts he had purchased. He had requested either a refund or be told when he was going to be supplied with new kit.

The Supplier had been given a written warning; the Contract has been cancelled.

Request from the floor that we put a link to the new Supplier, Ridgeway Textiles, on our website as soon as possible.

The Chairman said vests/shorts supplied by our initial Supplier, Bourne Sports, can be worn at the next international Championship in Perth in October. Sports Creative Ltd can still sell other athletic apparel, i.e. bags, etc.

Our new official supplier, Ridgeway Textiles, is here at the Championships where athletes can buy or order clothing.

c) Honorary Secretary, Bridget Cushen

The year under review has brought our members and the BMAF many successes tinged with much sadness as we lost three of our early pioneers. Keith Whitaker (NMAC), Treasurer for eleven years, Chairman, President, lifelong participant and who only ever missed two of our AGMs. Sylvester Stein (VAC) was also our Chairman in the Nineties, later our President and the instigator of Veteran Athletics, the forerunner of Masters Athletics. Ron Blastland (VAC) was also a committed veteran runner whose business career restricted his Committee involvement. We also sadly saw the departure of four hardworking members, John Perrett, Secretary of the SWVAC, Ken Croke, SCVAC, Scottish Walker/Official Ken Munro and Southern Official ultra-distance runner Ron Hopcroft at the great age of 98. They will all be sorely missed.

Following the golden trailblazing set by Sally Read-Cayton, Virginia Mitchell and David Heath at the IAAF World Championships in Beijing last August, we were delighted when the IAAF again included a Male and Female Masters 800m race at their Indoor Championships in Portland, USA, in

March this year. W/M60 Karen Brooks (MMAC) and David Wilcock (SCVAC) competed with distinction in the 800m with a win for David and bronze medal for Karen. UKA again supplied their uniform and most of their travel expenses. However, UKA made it clear that they would not be continuing this policy as their funds are clearly ring fenced and this “one-off” payment came from another budget.

We responded to a Dept. Culture Media & Sport Consultation Paper “Sporting Future: A new Strategy for an Active Nation”. The findings have been published with the main focus on social inclusion and trying to get the non-active active and no reference whatsoever to helping existing Sports Clubs etc. who are finding it increasingly difficult to get volunteers, finance or suitable venues. You are referred to another Survey currently on our website asking users for their suggestions on future funding of Public Parks. You are encouraged to respond.

Masters Athletics went digital but a small percentage of our members still prefer to pay separately for a hard copy. We are indebted to Peter Kennedy, Paul Smith and Brian Owen for their hard work in this field.

Report accepted.

d) Honorary Treasurer, Danny Herman

Addressing the Meeting, the Treasurer said this is his last Report as he is resigning after 22 years. He is happy to say that although this is his last Report, he is leaving on a positive note.

Referring to the Income & Expenditure Account, it shows a surplus of £2,709 for the year ended 31 May 2016 compared with a large deficit last year of £12,788.

Travel expenses increased by £650 partly because our IT Manager had to travel nationwide to visit most of our Clubs to explain the workings of the new On-Line system and Executive members have to travel extensively on BMAF business.

Medals and Trophies cost us £300 and telephone, postage and stationery costs have doubled.

We did not bid for any international Championships this year saving approx. £580.

The most significant saving has been on Capitation Fees to fund Masters Athletics which this year are almost £6,800 less than last time.

Dealing with the Income side of the Account; Affiliation Fees increased by about £2k as a result of increased membership numbers. An extra £219 of donations and £113 sponsorship helped to boost the total income to £23,700.

On the downside we still incurred overall net losses on our various Championships, although they were £7,400 lower than last year. Track & Field showed a surplus and the Indoor halved their losses as did the Multi Events. Total losses were reduced by £10,400 despite the profits in total £3,000 less than last year. Fixed Assets remain the same subject to a little more depreciation.

We no longer have a PayPal account. All receipts from Entry Fees etc go straight into our general Bank A/C hence the much larger credit balance.

Debtors and Prepayments have increased mainly due to the increase in overseas debtors. They are good but notoriously slow payers.

Under the Income & Expenditure Account for Masters Athletics and the 300 Club, a new item of income appears this year, namely, Subscriptions of £1,719. Most of you now receive the magazine On-Line but we do offer the option of a hard copy on a £10 p.a. subscription. About 160 copies are printed, resulting in a dramatic fall in printing, mailing and production costs.

As far as the 300 Club is concerned the net revenue (after prizes) has halved. This can be attributed to the drop in membership. Chris Jager is doing a great job in running the Club but he needs the help and support of our members who need to renew their subs and new members need to be persuaded to join.

In conclusion, I am pleased to be able to hand over to my successor Dan Upton, subject to your approval of his nomination, a healthy Balance Sheet. I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with the BMAF. I have worked on the Executive since 1984 with many interesting, industrious and totally committed volunteers. Let’s face it, we are all volunteers. If you elect my successor, the first thing he will be responsible for is lowering the average of the Executive!

Suggestions from the floor that the Agenda be published well in advance on the website and that there should be a full description of each volunteer's job. Meeting agreed.

Offers of help received from Kevin Burgess and Giuseppe Minetti (SCVAC) offered to help the Hon. Secretary with advertising and getting sponsorship.

Meeting informed that neither the Executive nor Team Managers at International Championships get paid. Discussion on how Team Managers might get funded.

Vote of thanks from the floor and from the Executive for the outgoing Hon. Treasurer.

e) Cross-Country Secretary, Mel James.

Report discussed and circulated. Mel James updated the Meeting on the first Inter-Area Cross-Country meeting being organised by the VAC on Wimbledon Common on 8 October.

f) Road Running Secretary, Walter Hill

Report circulated and accepted. Peter Kennedy spoke on keeping races at set venues or moving around the country and asked for comments. No comments.

There was an increased entry in the popular Road Relays in Sutton Park. The MMAC could not organise it this year; the Executive took it on and made an amazing team effort. Walter thanked the volunteers who made this happen and the MMAC for running this so successfully for years.

g) Race Walking Secretary, Ian Richards.

Ian Richards reported on participation. It is a highly technical event because of changes to the Rules. We are like pole vaulters. Younger walkers are not coming through. Report circulated and accepted.

h) Track & Field Secretary 25 July-March 2016, Maurice Doogan.

Maurice Doogan reported that despite more entries and a slight increase in entry fees, losses are substantial. The Official only get basic pay; you cannot get them, we have to bring them in from Scotland etc. they need overnight accommodation.

Asked from the floor why he does not try to get local Officials. Maurice said letters went out to 300 Midland Officials.

Question from the floor asking if Maurice Doogan is the Track & Field Secretary this weekend. The Chairman said Maurice is currently Co-opted on the Executive.

i) Overseas Entries Co-Ordinator, Peter Duhig

Report circulated and accepted.

Request from the floor for more information on the procedure if asked to attend an Anti Doping test. Executive agreed to make this information available.

j) BMAF IT Manager, Peter Kennedy.

Peter Kennedy summarised the move from AREG to ReportLab; the new membership and competition entry system called BMAF OpenTrack, the cost of which represents a considerable saving to the BMAF and its Clubs over the cost of using AREG for all Clubs or continuing the inconvenience of only some Clubs using the system. Seven of the area Clubs also now allow their members to pay their membership online by debit/credit card and four of the Clubs use it for online entry to their major championships. There were some teething problems with payments in the first month due to communications problems with the banks, but since then there have been no lost/duplicated payments or other issues.

The system has now been in operation for nearly nine months and although all the major functions are in place, there is still a long list of improvements to address. We have to be patient with this, since we share the development resources available rather than having any dedicated support staff. This is a consequence of paying for IT services on a usage basis, rather than as bearing the costs of development. In the remainder of the year we will address the following key changes:

- Automated checks on UKA registration and enforcement of the UKA rules of competition for registration
- Enhanced checks on British nationality due to revised WMA rules on eligibility.

Report circulated and adopted.

k) 300 Club, Chris Jager.

Report circulated and adopted.

5. **To Re-Elect the following Officers:**

President:	Paul Dickenson
Chairman:	Arthur Kimber, SCVAC
Vice Chairman, Policy & International Affairs:	Kevin Dillon, NMAC
Honorary Secretary:	Bridget Cushen, SCVAC
Cross-Country Secretary	Mel James, Welsh Masters AA
Road Running Secretary	Walter Hill & Asst. Secretary David Beattie, SCVAC
Race Walking Secretary	Ian Richards, VAC
Publicity/Advertising	Bridget Cushen, SCVAC

Proposed by Pat Stanley, seconded by Peter Duhig that they be re-elected en bloc.

Voting: Unanimous.

6. **Proposal from the NMAC that Daniel Upton, SCVAC/VAC, be elected as Honorary Treasurer**
Alex Rowe proposed; Brian Owen seconded, that he be elected.

Voting: Unanimous.

7. **Proposal from VAC that Maurice Doogan be elected Track & Field Secretary.**

Peter Kennedy proposed, seconded by Mike May, that he elected.

Voting: In favour 25. Against 4. Abstentions 3. Proposal carried. MD elected.

8. **To confirm the appointment of:**

Overseas Entries Co-Ordinator:	Peter Duhig, EMAC
BMAF Statistician:	Bob Minting, Bruce Hendrie (Relays).
Hon. Legal Adviser:	Walter Nicholls
Independent Examiner of the Accounts:	To be appointed

Proposed by Pat Stanley, seconded by Alex Rowe that they be confirmed.

9. **To Co-Opt the following Officers to the Executive:**

IT Manager	Peter Kennedy, VAC
IT Assistant	Alex Rowe, NMAC

Proposed by Barrie Roberts, seconded by Courtney Gunn that they be Co-opted.

10. **Proposed by the Executive that Arthur Kimber, SCVAC, be nominated a Life Vice President for his voluntary services to the BMAF.**

Voting: Unanimous.

11. **Proposal from the SWVAC**

That the 17 September 2016 Annual General Meeting of the British Masters Athletics Federation mandates the committee to devise and introduce clear procedures related to freedom of information, discipline and the handling of grievances in accordance with best practice in other sporting bodies.

It was agreed that we should continue to adopt the UKA/England Athletics Grievance Procedure Guidance.

12. **Date of next Meeting.**

To be held on the first day of the Track & Field Championships next year.

Meeting closed at 20.30

Signed: Date: