

## **Report from the Chairman, *Arthur Kimber***

### Competition news

Following the 2015 AGM a large British team of 589 travelled to Lyon, France for the World Masters Championships in August. Four widely spread venues for track and field and unreliable shuttle buses did not make it easy for athletes to get around, but the Metro was very reliable and efficient. The team did well to finish third in the medals table behind USA and Australia.

Back home on the road the autumn started with the BMAF Road Mile races in Cardiff in October and the BMAF Cross Country Relays at Long Eaton. At the BMAF Race Walking Championships at Leicester, M55 Francisco Reis was the overall winner followed by M65s Ian Richards and John Hall. At the BMAF Marathon at Newcastle the fastest time came from M50 Nigel Rackham with 2:41:09. In November the British and Irish Cross Country Championships were held again in the ideal Santry Park venue in Dublin, but not as ideal as we hoped, appalling conditions with persistent rain turning much of the course to mud. In the women's race Claire Martin took her first W40 title to add to her five as a W35 and gain her sixth consecutive gold, while Angela Copson took the W65 title to reach her eighth consecutive gold. Ireland's Carmel Parnell, W60, won her eleventh consecutive gold. In the men's 35-49 race M40 Chris Greenwood won his third consecutive gold, as did M45 Tim Hartley.

Moving to the 2016 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 8.12 for an M70 60m and M80 Tony Bowman set the European record for 60m hurdles, 11.13.

The final event in the indoor season was the European Masters Championships in Ancona. Glyn Sutton lowered his earlier 8.12 performance to 8.09 and the W75 4x200m team of Mollie Mills, Eva Osborne, Betty Stracey and Dot Fraser set a new World record time of 3:03.14. 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, 1:55.41, Caroline Marler a W65 400m record, 63.57, W55 Susan Frisby 60m hurdles, 9.80 and Joe Appiah, M45, in the same event, 8.35.

Back at home the outstanding performance in the BMAF Cross Country Championships in March at Bath came from super star W65 Angela Copson in the W35+ race to take 25<sup>th</sup> place overall. The overall winners were W40 Nicola Brookland and M50 Ben Reynolds. Moving into the spring the BMAF 10k. Championship took place in the Olympic Park in London.

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 golds, 10k, 10k team, 30k and 30k team, M55 Francisco Reis two, 10k and 30k and M75 Ed Shillaber two, 30k and 10k team.

The BMAF Road Relays have been held for many years in Sutton Park, Birmingham, but with Midland Masters unable to continue this year the BMAF stepped in to take over the

organisation. There was a large entry and very competitive races in ideal conditions. The fastest legs were run by Claire Martin in the W35 race, 17:05, Mandy Vernon, 17:45 in the W45 race and Barbara Brown, 22:11, W55. In the men's races fastest legs came from Peter Newton, M35, 14.31, Mark Johnson, M45, 15:20, M55 Martin Rees, 16:20 and Robert Taylor, M65, a course record of 18:36. A team course record was set by M35 Morpeth Harriers, 1:31:55.

In the BMAF/EAMA Horwich 5k races the race walkers again stood out with M65 Ian Richards taking third place overall in the men's with 25:13, a CBP and the highest age graded score, 97.11% and W45 Lisa Kehler with 25:58, also a CBP, and an age graded score of 85.17%. The winning runners were M35 Chris Smith in 15:32.8 and W40 Leslie Chisholm, 17:47.7.

In the EAMA Inter Area Challenge at Solihull MMAC won the men's match and SCVAC the Women's and combined. Ten CBPs were set, two by Carole Filer, one British record in the high jump by M50 Steve Linsell with 1.77 and a British Best Performance by W50 Anne Wheeler in the 2000m walk, 11:31.86.

In the BMAF Outdoor Pentathlon Championships at Oxford, 1 June, four British records were set, W60 Carole Filer 4305 plus a 13.92 80m hurdles, W55 Susan Frisby 4090 and M80 Tony Bowman 3040.

#### Other news

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 BMAF/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.

We look forward now to the inaugural EAMA Inter Area Cross Country Challenge at Wimbledon, the BMAF Half Marathon and the British and Irish Masters Cross Country, both in Glasgow, and two World Championships, in Perth, Australia, in October/November, for which we have 288 British entries, and the Indoor in Daegu, South Korea, in March 2017.

Lastly I would like to thank the wide range of people who help to make our masters athletics movement a success, our President Paul Dickenson, for his knowledgeable support and advice, the members of the BMAF Executive Committee, who work so hard throughout the year as a group and in their individual capacities. Thanks also at international championships to the Overseas Coordinator, the Team Managers who give up so much of their time, the Assembly Delegates and Paramedical Staff who look after our injured athletes; and at home

to the Regional Delegates, who maintain and develop the BMAF liaison with the area clubs, the Officials and other helpers and all the thousands of athletes who support our championships and make them such competitive and enjoyable occasions, to Photographers and our Rankings and Records Officers and Magazine Editors who keep us up to date with results, achievements and other developments. We are very grateful to England Athletics and its continuation of financial support.

#### **Vice Chair, Policy & International Affairs. *Kevin Dillon***

Since my report for the 2015 A.G.M., it has been an interesting fourteen months, to say the least, dominated, in particular, by two issues.

Firstly, however, I was asked, by Peter Kennedy, to draft a contract for I.T. services. Peter had experienced some difficulties in the past with computer service providers. He subsequently got an agreement with a company called ReportLab Europe Ltd., to provide us with our I.T. requirements. Given the previous problems, Peter was keen to put the present arrangement on a formal footing, with a legally binding, written contract. The challenge for me was to select a document, which would best suit our requirements, from literally, hundreds of precedents. Once I had found the most appropriate blueprint, it was a comparatively simple matter to modify the draft, so that it met our needs. The document is now ready for execution, whenever required.

There was also a membership issue, raised by Peter, in which an athlete had described himself as "unattached", even though England Athletics held a registration for him with an affiliated club. This matter did not cause us any difficulties.

Many of you will be aware of the problems we encountered with our previous kit suppliers, Sports Creative Ltd. This company had replaced Bourne Sports as our official suppliers of the G.B. team strip. Unfortunately, we received numerous complaints from members on issues such as poor quality, late delivery, incorrect goods supplied etc. and the Executive decided that something had to be done about the situation. We had the right to cancel the contract with Sports Creative, with immediate effect, in the event of a breach. Furthermore, each party had an unconditional right to cancel on provision of six months' notice to the other party. We took the decision to cancel, albeit reluctantly and used the six months option, so as to provide Sports Creative with an opportunity to clear as much stock as possible. The contract terminated in April and we now have a new supplier, Ridgeway Textiles, a company which has bought out Ron Hill Sports.

#### **Hon Secretary's Report, *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.

As you will see from the various Reports here, there is a tremendous amount of work and worry involved for all Officers who volunteer their time and energy to ensure that Race criteria is met and the Federation continues to be so successful despite the difficulties in finding suitable venues and volunteers.

I am grateful to all Clubs for their co-operation and support and we enjoy good working relations with associate organisations. In conclusion, I would like to record my thanks to all my colleagues for their loyalty and support during the year.

### **Cross Country Secretary’s Report, *Mel James***

For our first event of the season, the BMAF Cross Country Relay Championships, we visited West Park, Long Eaton on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. The decision to move to Long Eaton from our previous successful venue of the Moorways Stadium, Derby, was prompted by a date clash and the very sad fact that the Leisure Centre at Moorways is slowly being run down, sadly leaving Derby AC with limited facilities at this venue. On receiving two new offers to host the Championships, I chose West Park for its very accessible central location. Entry numbers were up on the previous season and the course provided very good racing and viewing for both spectators and athletes. My thanks are conveyed to Robert Fox and his Long Eaton club team for their excellent effort in hosting and organising this enjoyable and successful event. Full results from this fixture are available on our BMAF website and we have decided to make a return visit to Long Eaton on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, our second event of the autumn season was the British and Irish Cross Country International hosted by our friends across the water, the IMAA. The venue for this was Santry Demesne Park, Dublin. Unfortunately the weather during the whole weekend was very unkind to us and the meeting was conducted amidst terrible conditions with torrential rain throughout the whole programme of races, making the course very demanding for the athletes. England continued their dominance of the event bringing home the Men’s, Women’s and Overall shields, but Ireland on their home soil probably gave them their biggest test to date, winning eight of the seventeen age groups. Similarly to the relay report, full International results are viewable on our BMAF website. Our thanks are expressed to the IMAA for their excellent organisation of this event, despite the trying conditions.

The venue for this season's International (2016) is Tollcross Park, Glasgow on November the 12<sup>th</sup>; SVHC's planning is well in advance for this, with the presentation/banquet booked for the Crowne Plaza hotel situated on the Clyde waterfront. Future International dates are confirmed as Derry City, N Ireland, in 2017 and pencilled in awaiting confirmation, Singleton Park, Swansea, in 2018.

Our third and final fixture of the season took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016; the BMAF Cross Country Championships at Bath University. Despite clashing with the Bath Half Marathon our entries were still comparable to previous championships and the feared possibility of travel problems, we were able to adhere to the planned timetable. Although we had overnight rain the course drained well to give good running conditions on the day. The overall winners were, for the women race, Nicola Brookland (Bristol & West) and for the men's race, Ben Reynolds. (Thames Hare and Hounds) A comprehensive result is available on our BMAF website. Once again the BMAF would like to thank the SWVAC for hosting the fixture. We are looking to visit the North West of England, in March 2017, for our next BMAF Championship.

This autumn, England Masters are introducing a new cross country event to the calendar. It is entitled the Inter - Area Challenge; the first hosting of this event will take place on Sat, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at Wimbledon Common, London and is promoted by VAC. Please support this new venture as we are hoping this event will grow and become as successful as the T&F Inter-Area Challenge.

My thanks are expressed to all the athletes that participated and supported the International and Championship events and to the BMAF executive for their continued support throughout the season.

### **Road Running Secretary, *Walter Hill***

The first BMAF road race championships of 2016 started in Lychett near to Poole with our 10 Mile Championships on the 14/02/2016 . On what is best described as a challenging course and with the help of excellent weather, we all witnessed a top quality masters field compete, with BMAF athletes filling many of the top places.

Less than two months later we arrived at the Olympic Park in Stratford for the 10 K Championships. Thanks to Peter Kennedy and VAC all was good on the day and we need to look to similar venues to add status to our events.

We then moved to Sutton Park in May for the highly regarded Road Relay Championships. Again we witnessed an increase in entries which ensures a vote of confidence for 2017. Thanks must be recorded to so many people who made this happen under what could be best described as difficult circumstances. **An amazing BMAF Team Effort.**

In a similar light the 5K at Horwich saw stability in entries and the recommendation of chip timing ensured we avoided the difficulties in 2016.

The multi terrain championships on Sunday the 26/06/2016 moved to the North Downs 30K and thanks to Trevor Edgley who assisted me 24/7 the event was an outstanding success.

Next year we return to the same venue and this is one race you need to think about entering. It is best described as a first class experience.

All 4 races had excellent coverage in Athletics Weekly which we all appreciate.

The final Championship I can report on before the AGM was the Isle Of Man Marathon on the 14/08/2016 .BMAF members dominated this event and I can only recommend it for the

future. In my opinion it is one of the best Marathons in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Thanks once again to Peter Kennedy who assisted me on the day.

Looking to the future:

On October 1st we have once again been invited by Welsh Athletics to compete over the classic one mile distance on traffic free roads around the City Hall close to Cardiff Castle. Plus I can recommend making a weekend of it and running the open half on the Sunday. Finally we finish the year with the Half on the 9/10/2016 which is close to Glasgow. The Neil Mc Cover Half promoted by Kirkintilloch Olympians is a true club event and worth travelling to. Please allow me to record my thanks to SVHC before the event as I know the day will be A1.

### **Planning for 2017**

I am very close to completing the calendar for 2017 and as always I wish to avoid a conflict of interest.

As in the past I will aim to distribute the events across GB and spread them over the year.

The relay and the 5 K will remain in situ and the dates will be similar to this year.

The 10 Miles Championships will return to the Nertherhall 10 in Cumbria on the 26/02/2017.

The 10K, Half Marathon and Marathon dates will be published very soon and all relevant information will be posted on the BMAF web site.

### ***Race Walking, Ian Richards***

It has been another year of excellent achievement by a small band of race walkers who have attended international masters championships while the programme of domestic championships has continued to provide good age group competitions over all distances to enable every walker in the UK over the age of 35 to compete against their peers. Overall numbers of masters walkers has not changed much over the year with very few 35 to 50 year olds. Meeting the technical requirements of the event remains the biggest deterrent. Before the introduction of the straight leg from point of contact to the upright position, runners would often switch to walking when they started to encounter knee problems. Today it is not uncommon for walkers to switch to running!

Following the WMA championships in Lyon in 2015 where one of the walkers collapsed at the end of the 20km walk which everyone put down to fatigue and the very hot conditions, including the medics, when in fact he had suffered a stroke, steps have been taken in order to reduce the risk for the future. These include (i) all walkers being briefed in advance of overseas non-stadia events of the need to ensure they mark the back of race numbers with brief details of any medical background and contacts, especially if they are unaccompanied. (ii) if the event is in a location where high temperatures are expected advice is also given on steps that can be taken to reduce its effect (iii) Ian Richards, who is normally the walks team Manager has obtained Sports First Aid qualification.

### **International championships**

#### **European Indoor – Ancona**

Although this was not the best organised championships from the walkers perspective with un-safe numbers racing in the track races (40 in one race) and poor seeding. A team of just 11 (9 men, 2 ladies) won 9 individual and 2 team medals. Medal winners:-

#### **3000m**

M55 1<sup>st</sup> Francisco Reiss      13m 59

M65 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Richards (ECR)   15m 09

3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Boszko 16m 22  
M85 3<sup>rd</sup> James Farah 26m 17

### **5000m (road)**

M55 2<sup>nd</sup> Francisco Reiss 23m 57  
Team 2nd – Francisco Reiss, Malcolm Martin, Steve Allen  
M65 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Richards 25m 30  
3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Boszko 27m 37  
Team 1st – Ian Richards, Peter Boszko, Dave Kates  
M80 3<sup>rd</sup> Norbert Will 35m 58  
W50 3<sup>rd</sup> Wendy Bennett 29m 23

### **European Non-stadia – Monte Gordo**

It was another team of just 13 who took part in the 10km (men and women), 30km (men) and 20km (women) winning 11 medals in very difficult conditions because of the heat.

### **10km men**

M55 1<sup>st</sup> Francisco Reiss 50m 20  
M65 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Richards 54m 41  
Team 1st – Ian Richards, Roger Michel, Dave Kates  
M70 1<sup>st</sup> Colin Turner 60m 02  
M75 Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Arthur Thomson, Ed Shillabeer, Norbert Will  
M80 1<sup>st</sup> Arthur Thomson 64m 49

### **10km women**

W60 2<sup>nd</sup> Cath Duhig 1h 03m 58

### **30km men**

M55 1<sup>st</sup> Francico Reiss 2h 44m 07  
Team 3<sup>rd</sup> Francisco Reiss, Ian Torode, Norbert Will  
M60 Team 1<sup>st</sup> Malcolm Martin, Steve Allen, Ed Shilabeer  
M65 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Richards 2h 59m 45  
Team 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Richards, Roger Michel, Dave Kates  
M75 1<sup>st</sup> Ed Shillabeer 3h 37m 17  
M80 2<sup>nd</sup> Norbert Will 4h 07m 03

### **20km women**

W55 1<sup>st</sup> Marie Jackson 2h 04m 32  
Team 1<sup>st</sup> Marie Jackson, Anne Wheeler, Fiona Bishop  
W60 2<sup>nd</sup> Cath Duhig 2h 20m 04

### **World Track and Field – Perth**

Cost has meant that there are only 10 GB entries (6 men and 4 women). Nonetheless that small team is capable, if everyone walks to form, of at least 8 individual and 4 team medals.

### **Domestic Championships**

Eight championships have been held over the year (6 in the Midlands, 1 in the South, 1 in the North West) in order to attract walkers from around the country. In practice few walkers from the North travel outside of their area but they were very supportive of the 5km at Horwich, the 10<sup>th</sup> year of this event. Particular thanks must be given to Eric and Pam Horwill who initiated the event and have been responsible for organising ever since. Their enthusiasm and hard work has seen it develop to become the best supported BMAF championship attracting from the South right through to Scotland.

BMAF Indoor 3000m – Lea Valley (March 18 walkers)  
BMAF 5km road (with BMAF 5km run) – Horwich (June 46 walkers)  
BMAF 20km and 30km – Coventry (July 18 + 13 walkers)

BMAF Track 10km – Birmingham (July 11 walkers)

BMAF Road 10k/ Jim Sharlott – Leicester (September 23 walkers in BMAF race)  
BMAF Track and field 3km and 5km – Birmingham (September 14 + 10 walkers)

### **IT Manager, *Peter Kennedy***

#### BMAF OpenTrack System

Last November it was agreed that the BMAF would setup a new membership and competition entry system called BMAF OpenTrack, with the services of Reportlab, a small IT services and publishing company now focussing on the development of IT for grassroots athletics both in the UK and internationally. This replaced AREG and before the system went into operation all the area clubs agreed to use it as their membership system as well.

The cost of operating OpenTrack is 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

Masters Athletics magazines can now be read online in OpenTrack and as a result there are less than 200 subscribers to the paper copy, who pay £10 per year, which has cut down the largest source of BMAF losses in recent years. The online versions will have more content, including photos and videos in future.

All BMAF championships for track & field, road and cross-country requiring membership confirmation are now entered online using OpenTrack. Open championships can also be entered online via the online system of the race management service provider. A standard competition file is provided to each competition manager and we have now also resumed production of a programme for the track and field championships, of which you should all have a copy. The only cost for this is the printing, which is covered by the small charge to athletes.



Before committing to OpenTrack we explored the options for using the EA membership system but it does not meet the BMAF requirement for an integrated competition and membership management system and UKA-IT department who support the EA system are not willing to develop the required interfaces for athlete data which would enable us to use their membership system in conjunction with our own competition management system.

UKA are now beginning to wake up to need for real-time UKA registration checks which cover all the home country athletics associations and Reportlab are cooperating with them to expedite this.

#### BMAF Membership Data

Total BMAF area club membership now stands around 4,800, with a further 200 open members, which is an increase of 300 from a year ago.

We have set up email communications with all members using the Mail Chimp service. This will be integrated in Opentrack eventually, but for now this is done separately – the BMAF notify competitors directly in respect of the competitions they are entering or have entered in the past. All other communications are routed through the area clubs. Increased use of Mail Chimp and other modern communication technology (not just one method) by more of the area clubs would help raise numbers of competitors in BMAF championships. More resources with the right skillset are however needed in the area clubs if this to be done to the same level across all clubs.

Members are expected to manage their own data if they have online access, but five traffic lights provide an instant measure of data quality. Later this year, we will enforce the data quality by blocking membership applications/renewals whilst there are any RED lights.

As a non-profit-making organisation we are not required to register with the Information Commissioner and there is no reason to do so, since I am fully conversant with the data protection act and the athlete data is managed in accordance with the principles of data protection and best practice for maintaining data quality. This is however an area of ignorance and fear in the athletics world in Britain, which handicaps the sport.

#### BMAF website

Alec Rowe is now providing a small amount of programming support and Simon Fennell can be called upon to help if there are hardware or infrastructure issues. The cost of the website is minimal because the work that Simon Fennell and I have done is not being done on a chargeable basis. Little development work has been done on the website this year because OpenTrack has taken almost all of our time. We agreed last year that it would be good to simplify the front page and hand it over to a news editorial team to manage. This team should consist of the two editors supported by news feeds for each club. We need volunteers for this to step forward and share the news of what is happening in their clubs with the BMAF as well so that it reaches a wider audience. This is still the plan for 2017, and the system changes would include better integration with OpenTrack, such as a single fixtures page. We should also be able to offer a setup service for a new website to the area clubs, who either have a site with very limited facilities or which is under the care of a single expert who has to load all content on behalf of the club committee and other new providers.

#### Acknowledgments

My thanks to the assistance I have received this year from Alex Rowe, Courtney Gunn, Brian Charlton, Bruce Hendrie and all the membership secretaries in helping us through the transition to the new system and its initial limitations.

### **Overseas Entries Co-ordinator, *Peter Duhig* Lyon – World Champs August 2015**

- 1 These championships had their entry open for over a year and consequently ended up with a large entry as expected from a World Champs in such an accessible place. The

entry site was very good and information has been regular. The worry about the event having 4 stadiums didn't seem to cause too many problems.

- 2 I expected Lyon to be a big championship. And there was over 8000 athletes competing from all round the world. GBR had a team of 587 Athletes meaning the BMAF will be due €4109.00
- 3 As an example of what happens. I handled some 700+ emails to do with Lyon, not including ones that go between myself and other BMAF staff.

**Ancona - Italy. European Indoor Champs. 28th March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016**

- 1 We had 286 Athletes male & female entered, plus 19 accompanying persons. All were verified. I had been waiting for the new registration system to be up and running but things were not quite in place. So proceeded as usual without any problems.
- 2 €2860 would be due to the BMAF from the LOC.
- 3 Accommodation seemed to be a problem for anyone making their own way there as all hotels seem to have been ring fenced by the LOC's representatives. Potentially a growing problem as Masters Athletics gets more popular!

**Villa Real de Santo Antonio - Portugal. Non Stadia Championships (Road) May 20 – 22nd 2016**

- 1 This was probably the worst organisation of any championship I have been involved with. The entry system was rubbish. Communication was nearly non existent until the last minute, and timetabling of the events was not dealt with as expected. Arthur and Archie, as Team Managers, may have more to say about the inadequacies of this event.
- 2 99 athletes travelled to Portugal (33 Women) bringing €990.00 as being due to the BMAF.
- 3 Despite the problems the venue was well liked by athletes that went.
- 4 The new registration scheme was used for verifications which makes things much clearer for myself. Information is/will be readily available for this purpose. However, the spectre of having to repeat the collection of Passport ID information again rose up. Most athletes were happy to provide this without question. One or two questioned it but in the end understood and provided it.

**Perth – World Outdoor T & F Championships. October 26<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

- 1 Perth has proved to be more popular than I expected. Following only a year on from Lyon, and being a relatively expensive trip to the other side of the world, I only expected an entry similar to Brazil (137). However, in the end we had 283 entries (96 Women) verified, with just two technical entry issues that were resolved. Therefore a return of Aus\$4528.00 is due to the BMAF.
- 2 Communication with Perth has been good throughout. Thankfully an easy ride following on from Portugal ! Their promotion of the event has also been excellent, which is proved in the response of 4000+ athletes having entered.
- 3 Once again the issue of repeating Passport ID caused some discussion, shall we say! But on the whole people understood from my emailed letter that this was necessary and would be the last time of asking until their details changed. There were a couple of irate people, and one or two suspicious of my emails, due to my location in Spain, but only one instance of refusal to repeat the info. But, the new registration system set up does make, and when all info' is gathered, will continue to make, the verification of athletes easier to define.

- 4 Perth did not extend their closing date beyond the original date given, which was another plus for their organisation as far as I am concerned.
- 5 There is a useful, but unofficial, Facebook site for Perth (set up by Graham Lay, one of our participating athletes) for GBR athletes to share information on....  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1140867995970917/>

It would very much help if people read the information on the BMAF website before entering events. Many queries are not necessary if the information is read BEFORE entering!

Provisional Details are now available on the BMAF website for World Indoor Champs in Deagu, Korea, 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Entries site is under construction at <http://daegu2017.or.kr/eng/> Also on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/daegu2017/?fref=ts> European Stadia is in Aarhus, Denmark, 25<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Entries site is under construction at <http://www.emacs2017.com/> They are also on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/evacs2017/> The WMA Champs for 2018 are earmarked for Malaga, Spain 8<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September. That concludes my report for this meeting.

### **Press and Publicity, *Bridget Cushen***

Media-wise this was one of our best years ever.

A Press Release was sent out before we left for Lyon. An action photograph taken by Alex Rotas of the women 85-plus 100m in Lyon went viral and had 185,000 hits within three days. The Daily Telegraph's Digital issue featured two of her photos from Lyon. Some national newspapers published daily results. Athletics Weekly also gave good coverage on Lyon featuring excellent action shots supplied by our official Photographer, Tom Phillips.

I contacted all news channels on the first ever Invitation W/M50 400/800m Masters Races to be held in the main stadium during an IAAF World Championships. Three of our members Sally Read-Cayton (VAC), Virginia Mitchell (SCVAC) and David Heath, who are ranked in the top 8 in the world, were selected.

I lobbied BBC Sport beforehand to extend their coverage to these inspirational races. Their Head of Sport, Dan Roan, said it was a very interesting story and that they would film it. When it was not televised, he said if it was left to him he would have covered it. I then contacted Barbara Slater the Director of Sport, she replied explaining that there was not enough time and there are so many sports etc. However there was excellent live coverage and informed commentary by Steve Ovet and Catherine Merry who were covering for other Channels, and show in Canada, Holland and Australia. There is also an excellent IAAF video of both races. The three athletes got very good local Press coverage here. Men's Running also did an interview with David Heath.

Some of our female members contacted me complaining about comments on Eurosport on the W50 400m race as the competitors came onto the track. I did not see this but I sent a strongly worded letter to their Director of Sport asking what Eurosport and their American Parent Co's policy is on women in sport and ageism. He emailed back the next day explaining that the Commentator had "not read the day's schedule" He apologised and said the race was visible in the background.

There was a British winner of the prestigious European and IAAF Male Masters Athlete of the Year as David Heath's outstanding performance in becoming the first athlete aged over

fifty to run under four minutes for the 1500m in June last year. We also put forward Caroline Powell (SWVAC) as our nomination for the Best Female Award. We nominated our Chairman for a Sport & Leisure Alliance Award.

A series of action photographs taken by Alex Rotas at the BMAF and World Championships in Lyon, were exhibited at the Women's Sports Trust Imagery of the Year Awards. She got runner-up to the conglomerate Adidas.

Three TV Documentary makers were in touch. Channel 4 Health asked at very short notice to interview and film some aged over 70 athletes. They filmed some members running in Hyde Park.

Selah Hennessy, is a freelance TV Documentary Producer, she came to our Track & Field Championships and also did a lot of filming in Lyon.

Good Boy Wolf is the title of short video-type shots used by two Film makers. They were interested in featuring a sprinter aged 50-plus. Donald Brown and Dalton Powell were both interested in participating.

Oxford Science Films asked for sprinters, hurdlers and discus throwers to film in a Studio in Feltham, you may have caught a glimpse of Vic Novell, Barry Ferguson and Liz Sissons when this serious Documentary was screened earlier this summer. The main focus however is on our remarkable 96-year old sprinter Charles Eugster.

### **300 Club, *Chris Jager***

We currently have 115 members with a total of 172 shares. Six winning numbers are chosen each month through an online random number generator, and a list of winners can be found on the website.

We are grateful to Nigel Wray and Peggy Taylor who have chosen not to claim their winnings.