**BRITISH MASTERS ATHLETIC FEDERATION**

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|  | **President: Arthur Kimber Affiliated to: World Masters Athletics**  **Chairman: Walter Hill European Masters Athletics**  **Hon. Secretary: Bridget Cushen**  **Hon. Treasurer: David Oxland, FCA, CTA**  **Website: bmaf.org.uk** |

**Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting held virtually on Saturday 22 August 2020 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Attendees by Zoom:**

Officers: Chairman – Walter Hill (SCVAC)

Vice Chair, Policy & International Affairs & Race Walking Secretary - Ian Richards (VAC)

Hon. Secretary & Minutes Secretary – Bridget Cushen (SCVAC)

Hon. Treasurer – David Oxland FCA CTA (MMAC)

Cross-Country Secretary – Mel James (WMAL)

Road Running Secretary – Walter Hill (SCVAC)

Track & Field Secretary – Maurice Doogan (VAC)

IT Manager – Peter Kennedy (VAC)

Alex Rowe – (NMAC)

Dr. Michael Hausler, EMAC, Company Secretary of BMAF Services Ltd

President Arthur Kimber, by telephone link.

159 Members pre-registered their intention to attend with Zoom. 98 registered at the AGM.

IT Manager Peter Kennedy addressed the Meeting on voting and operational procedures.

1. The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the AGM.
2. The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved.
3. Ian Richards took the Chair for the approval of the final draft of the Constitution.

After he received the agreement of the 2017 AGM to undertake a complete review of the Constitution, he has held consultations with all relevant Bodies and with all BMAF Clubs. BMAF Services Limited, a Company Limited by Guarantee, was formed to run alongside the BMAF, it takes responsible for our Championships.

He informed the AGM that this is stage 1 for a new Constitution to start us on the journey we want to go.

He invited questions from the attendees. After several questions and explanations, a vote was taken at 11.58.

**In favour: 83%. Against: 17%.** **Proposal carried.**

1. **Chairman’s Report,  *Walter Hill***

When I was elected in August last year I anticipated a challenge but not of the kind we have faced and will to continue to face when social distancing is still in place.

Fortunately Covid-19 has not stopped me with my main objective of working towards a brighter, bolder and better BMAF.

For this to be achieved I had to hear the views of those who are affiliated to the BMAF.

Firstly I posted a mail chimp to all, inviting them to volunteer to join discipline groups called “What went well even better if” [WWWEBI.](https://wwwebi./) We formed one for road, one for XC, and two for T&F one representing the North and one for the South and all have been busy and productive.

The four groups then feed into a Steering group that collates their thoughts.

The next step was essential, to hear the views of all paid up members of the 11 Masters Clubs and this was achieved by posting a Customer Satisfaction Survey to all paid up members taking less than 5 minutes to complete. We had over 2,600 responses which exceeded my expectations.

This survey was supported by the interviews of 20 key stake holders by two of the [WWWEBI](https://wwwebi/) group. Both interviewers have significant experience in the field of marketing and communication and have volunteered their expertise at no cost.

To the best of my knowledge the BMAF has never reached out to ask what members think of the service we provide. At a total cost of £151 I think it is money well spent as the responses will feed into what I believe is essential a 3 possibly 5 year development plan for the BMAF.

Another first.

However, we must never forget that when an athlete pays to enter one of our Championships they become a customer and it imperative they experience the best service possible. However, we must not stop there as we serve Masters across the UK and as Chairman I want to provide a holistic package that meets your needs:-

* To have in place an improved web site that meets the needs of constant change.
* A social media site that is informative and educational.
* Approval and recognition from UKA.
* Stronger links with all 4 National Federations.
* To drive a coordinated approach to coaching for Masters across the UK.
* To seek out active volunteers for the future who will take on key responsibilities through a process of induction.

I am delighted to record that all these bullets points are in hand and I am confident they will be achieved by 2022.

Finally I am very much a team player and I have to record my thanks to Helen Allen, Arthur Daley, Adrian Day, John Harris, Dr Michael Hausler, Peter Kennedy, Nick Lauder, Giuseppe Minetti, Kay Reynolds, Alex Rowe and all who have signed up to the [WWWEBI](https://wwwebi/) groups who have assisted me on my journey of laying the foundations of building a better service for the future.

**Vice Chairman, Policy and International Affairs *Ian Richards* OLY**

**Policy**

Work on reviewing the Constitution has continued throughout the year with a new draft to be put to the members of the Federation at this year’s AGM. Following discussions with the Council, which is made up of delegates from each of the Constituent clubs and associations, it was decided to adopt a two stage approach to any amendments that might be considered appropriate. Rather than look to a complete restructure plus the many necessary changes to ensure good governance, it was agreed that the best approach was to initially just bring the Constitution into line with current practice, make changes to improve transparency and good governance and to bring clarity to many of clauses while bringing in a small number of additional aims so that the desired changes could be implemented quickly. The new draft is not considered contentious and has been agreed by the Council after close scrutiny and a number of amendments. The next stage is to decide whether to move to becoming an incorporated organisation, such as a company by limited guarantee which now seems to be the preferred approach by most sports governing bodies. This will involve a major restructure and much discussion will be needed to work out what might be best method for the future. The existing structure has served Masters exceptionally well since the BMAF was formed in 1975 but much has changed in athletics and over-riding legislation. The plan is to complete the second stage in order for it to be agreed at the 2021 AGM or possibly an earlier EGM.

**International**

BMAF members once again performed exceptionally well at the European Masters Championships in Jesolo in 2019 and their success is reported elsewhere. Unfortunately, however, all future events have been hit hard by the Covid-19 Pandemic necessitating a complete cancellation/postponement of all future Championships for 2020 and possibly into 2021. It is hoped that normality can eventually be achieved but both the WMA and EMA face major challenges in reorganising calendars and being able to find hosts for future Championships because of the severe impact on economies around the world. Currently the expectation is that Tampere will change from being a European Championships to a World Championships with Edmonton (indoor) moving to 2022 and Gothenburg to 2023. It expected that Daegu in South Korea will be awarded the World Track and Field in 2025.

This will cause disruption to the European calendar and we still await decisions and what will happen then. The Non-Stadia is still scheduled for Madeira at the end of October and Braga is still scheduled for January, but a final decision cannot be made until nearer the time. Many athletes have been inconvenienced and left out of pocket by the cancellations and postponements. Unfortunately, neither the WMA or EMA employ administration staff and it is often necessary to wait for volunteers and/or local organising committees to deal with refunds and queries. There is very little that the BMAF can do in these circumstances but I should like to thank Pete Duhig for all his hard work in trying to get answers and it goes without saying his regular work in ensuring BMAF members get their entries to Championships accepted.

**Honorary Secretary’s Report, *Bridget Cushen***

Welcome to our first ever virtual AGM; never in the thirty three years that I have been Honorary Secretary did I envisage it would be a virus and not advanced technology that would opportune all our nationwide membership to be able to attend our AGM at the click of a button.

It is exactly twelve months since we met in the Alexander Stadium after the first day’s track and field competition. From there some of you would have gone on to compete in the popular Inter-Area or the England v Celtic Half/Marathon, and over 400 members travelled to the biennial European Track & Field Championships in Jesolo in early September where, despite some heavy rain and having to travel some distance between three tracks, we were incredibly successful again, winning a total of 247 medals, finishing 3rd on the medal table from the 50 competing countries.

All our 2019 Championships were completed and we are indebted to Maurice Doogan, Walter Hill, Mel James, Ian Richards and their team who worked so hard to find venues, Officials etc. and to Peter Kennedy and his IT team who were able to bring you the results, in most instances, on the spot.

Up in the North East, Archie Jenkins NEMAA coped with a field of 67 members taking part in the BMAF track 10,000m at Jarrow in September, a record entry for that one discipline, a fantastic effort. Mel James took the Cross-Country Championships to a very popular course in North Wales.

World Masters Athletics will now dictate the international programme post COVID-19, their Regional Championships will follow. Such is the uncertainty that no venue can yet be confirmed. The Local Organising Committee in Braga has done their best to sort out refunds etc, but at a huge financial cost to them.

World Best Masters Awards for 2019 went to W80 Evaun Williams, SCVAC, and our hard working Vice-Chairman Ian Richards, was voted World and European Best Race Walker and runner-up to Earl Fee, Canada, for the Overall World Best. Clare Elms VAC, got two runner-up spots in the W55 Middle and Long Distance category, and European M55 Best, Donald Brown MMAC, in the Sprints category. We congratulate them.

Away from competition, there are Executive and Delegates Meetings to organise; the need to help hands-on at our Championships and correspondence to deal with, now mostly by email. Despite the cessation of all competition on 23 March due to the COVID-19 virus, work behind the scenes continued apace. We have held two face-to-face and a further two virtual Executive Meetings, a Delegates Meeting in Birmingham last November plus three virtual Meetings since.

I am in constant touch with other sporting Bodies. England Athletics are very supportive of Masters athletics and we have had very productive meetings with senior UKA personnel, resulting in a link now on their website to BMAF.

Over 50% of our total membership took the time to complete our recent independent Survey, unusually high in statistical terms. The results are reassuring for the Executive to know that we are largely meeting your needs. We are all volunteers. Thank you all and I have no doubt you will join me in paying a huge tribute to Peter Kennedy and his team who worked so hard to compile this first ever such Survey and analysing the results.

Thank you also to all who entered the Virtual 5km and donated over £11k to the Macmillan Nurses Charity. Peter Kennedy has received a Thank You letter from them.

Brian Owen is retiring as our Statistician in September. Brian has done a huge amount of painstaking research work to establish a comprehensive and reliable Records system. He was probably better known to many of you as the popular Editor of the hard copy Masters Athletics. He now leaves us after years of dedication and I know you will all join me in wishing him and his family a happy and healthy retirement. As we say good bye to Brian, we welcome Courtney Gunn EMAC, Bruce Hendrie and their group who now take over.

Sadly the following members departed during the year, Peter Chapman EMAC, prolific race walker Len Creo SWVAC in his 97the year, John Freebairn SVHC, Terry Hall SCVAC, D-Day Veteran James Johnson NEMAA received full Military honours at his funeral in Amble, Northumberland, M45 Nick Jones NMAC, John Kirkham VAC, Jill Langford MMAC, Mike May VAC, Yvonne Miles SCVAC, Peter Mulholland SCVAC, Olympian Don McGregor SVHC, Jack Maclean and James Munn SVHC, and Gary Negus SCVAC. We shall miss them.

In conclusion I would like to thank all my fellow Officers for their support during the year, particularly Ian Richards who has spent hours working on updating the Constitution, and Team Managers who devote so much of their time to help at international Championships.

**Hon. Treasurer’s Report & Accounts, plus Management Accounts of BMAF Services Ltd. *David Oxland* FCA CTA**

I have pleasure in producing my fourth annual report as Hon. Treasurer. I was expecting around a break even position for the year but owing to Covid-19, which meant all meetings since March have been held virtually, and also Athletics Weekly was suspended so that no advertising cost was incurred, in fact we made overall a surplus of £9,637. This was after making a subsidy or grant to BMAF Services Limited of £6,000. However I am expecting Services to make a modest deficit and so the consolidated surplus will be a lower figure. A request was made at the 2019 AGM for us to produce a consolidated financial statement. At the time of publishing these accounts I have not seen the statutory accounts of Services which are prepared independently by a professional firm. Furthermore they will cover an initial period of nearly 18 months but we should be able to provide a useful consolidated summary of the results by the time of this year’s AGM.

Another request made at last year’s AGM was for a greater amount of analysis in these accounts which I have been happy to do by providing some analysis of expenditure plus commentary in note 8 to the accounts.

It will be seen in the balance sheet that I have closed down the Masters Athletics Fund. This follows both the closure of the 300 Plus Club last year and the cessation of the Masters Athletics magazine. We are grateful to many subscribers to the paper versions of the magazine for donating their unexpired proportions of their subscriptions to the Federation.

The cumulative deficit of £11,490 which has been deducted from General Funds is historic, dating back to when four paper copies per annum of Masters Athletics were provided free of charge to every member of the area Clubs, a substantial cost.

The small deficit on the Overseas Fund is explained in note 3a). However our loss in terms of not getting the Braga administration fees is to the gain of our athletes who had entered Braga. However by now all have been reimbursed by European Masters Athletics although this has been a big task for the European Treasurer to perform.

As a result of a detailed review by our Vice Chairman we have ceased our Directors and Officers insurance on the grounds that, via our affiliation to UKA, a similar type of cover is provided. This explains the lower charge in the Accounts this year.

The affiliation fees charged to area Clubs were £5 per head, compared with £6 the previous year. The affiliation fees for the year ending 31 May 2021 were, in accordance with the Consultation, determined and approved at the 2019 AGM. As a result it could not have been predicted that we would not need a significant proportion of the fees owing to the effects of COVID-19. Strictly speaking the fees could not be reduced, having been agreed but the Council (not surprisingly) have accepted my proposal to apply a special 50% discount so that the fees now charged are £2.50 per head. Despite this discount, we may well make another good surplus in 2020/21 and we are continuing to benefit, financially speaking, from holding virtual meetings (and in the future some meetings are likely to be held virtually even when life returns to a greater degree of normality).

In view of this year’s surplus and anticipating some surplus for the current year, the AGM is asking to approve fees of £4 per head for the year ending 31st May 2022.

**AGM agreed to a Fee of £4 per head for year ending 31st May 2022.**

BMAF full Accounts attached.

**BMAF Ltd Management Accounts to 31 May 2019**

Report and Accounts appended.

**Track & Field Secretary’s Report, *Maurice Doogan***

The first Championships of the year were the Outdoor Pentathlon at Horspath in Oxford, which this year only included the 10K Walks Track Championships as well. The10k Run returns in alternate years to the North East. This is to help us spread the Championships around the UK where we can, as our two major Championships, due to the facilities required, we are limited to Lee Valley for the Indoors and Winter Throws and Alexander Stadium for the Outdoors.

These Championships are specialist events, so have limited appeal, but we still had 44 competitors for the Pentathlons but only 14 walkers in the 10K’s, but with the minimum numbers of Officials.

The second Championships of the year were to be the South of England Masters, which I had moved to Lee Valley for the better facilities to those at Battersea Park.

However with just seven weeks to the event, we only had 4 confirmed Field Officials and the minimum number of Officials elsewhere. This was due to the now extremely congested national Fixture List, and the likelihood of getting sufficient officials on the day looked unachievable.

This also indicated that trying to hold a Masters Championship of any significant size in June and July in future years is going to be impossible.

The third Championship of the year was the Decathlon/Throws Pentathlon weekend incorporating the third North of England Masters Outdoors. This fixture was moved to Hull, due to the facilities for both Athletes and Officials at Sheffield being inadequate.

However the promised publicity for this event was still lacking, so entries for this NoE version is well below par, compared to the SoE version. There were only 86 Northern Athletics area entries, plus 4 Open Northern Athletics area entries and 25 athletes from outside of the Northern Athletics area.

Despite that, the three Combined Events Championships were successful although we made a substantial loss on the weekend. This was mainly due to the low NoE entry and shortage of Northern Officials, so we had a large hotel bill for the Southern Officials, we had to import.

This fixture therefore needs a further re-think.

The fourth Championships of the year were the Main Outdoors at Alexander Stadium, was to be our last visit for some time, due to its reconstruction for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, and will be hard to replace. The entry was down on recent years to 783 athletes, which in the main appeared to be due to a reduced entry of British athletes for the Europeans in Jesolo [Venice]. The Jesolo Championships were not that enticing, due to being spread over three Stadiums up to 25 miles apart with questionable transport provision between the stadiums. This together with the lack of clarity in most areas, the event was rightly perceived to be a ‘risky adventure’ so athletes voted with their feet.

However, even if the facilities in Birmingham were not perfect, due to its coming demolition, a good event occurred, overseen by a large and experienced in Masters events contingent of Officials. This ensured that the hardy souls going to Jesolo, at least had a meaningful warm up event, prior to those and time to tweak various aspects of their final preparations.

The fifth Championships of the year were the 10K Track Run Championships were back in the North East at the Monkton Stadium in Jarrow. Archie Jenkins and his team got a remarkable entry of 67 athletes, which meant splitting the field into four races for ages groups up to and including 80 year olds.

However, although expectedly Northern heavy, it does show that we have to continue spreading or Championships around the country were possible, although our options of venues are continue to reduce.

The sixth Championships [first Indoors] of the year were the Indoor Pentathlon, incorporating the South of England Masters, now in its seventh very successful year, had a very healthy entry of 58 Pentathletes and a staggering 340 athletes in the SoE Masters.

A very tight programme was achieved virtually on time by the superb efforts of the hard pressed but impressive band of officials together with the full co-operation of all athletes.

The final Championships of the year were the Main Indoors, had yet another record, 652 athletes entered. The most staggering thing was that the increase was in the main due to more throwers who then entered even more competitions. This presented us with problems as our Outdoor time was restricted by lack of daylight.

So thank you to all of the Throwers in events where the extreme numbers were against us, and for working with the officials regarding the reduced and variety of the number of throws would offer you.

Again another event that ran to schedule and finished ahead of time; the track by nearly a hour on the Sunday. The OpenTrack Seeding and Results System is clearly the way forward, as it also includes the Field Cards on a Tablet setup, that Mick Frazer [Field Referee] and I had been looking for, for some time.

To summarise: Over the year, with large entries for most Championships, especially the South of England Masters Indoor Championships, it indicates that we have to treat the North of England Masters as ‘work in progress’, but we do need a publicity push on this, and on all events for that matters, as it appears we are not getting through to all Masters athletes especially Open athletes.

Overall we made a significant loss for the year, which could have been mostly cancelled out by a profitable SoE Masters Outdoors [cancelled due to lack of Officials not Covis 19] and an extra 100 entries for the North of England Masters Outdoors. This in reality is giving more competition opportunities to the community we were allegedly set up to serve.

However, Covid 19 will mean for possibly at least another year we will not be returning to the old normal, and Government requirements will cause additional costs to the hiring of venues, which will lead to rises to Entry Fees.

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

Our first fixture of the season was the relatively new EAMA Inter-area Challenge. Now in its 3rd year, the Challenge took place for the second successive year, at Bury St Edmunds on the 28th of September. The team scoring was calculated on age grading with a minimum of six athletes to score, (male and females mixed ages) the overall victors were EMAC with an average of 79.6%. Runners up were SCVAC with an average of 77.1%. Six clubs were represented within the competition, with Charlene Jacobs-Conradie (EMAC) the winner of the 6k race and Andrew Grant (NMAC) winning the 8k race.

On the 26th of October we returned to Long Eaton for the BMAF Cross Country Relays. It was down to the tremendous work of Rob Fox and his dedicated Long Eaton Club colleagues that the event actually went ahead. During the preceding days, the Midlands suffered continuous rain, resulting in severe flooding culminating with road and rail closures in the area and with West Park being very flat, they were also the victims of heavy water retention.

On arrival, a course inspection was taken and although being deeply flooded in parts, Rob’s team devised an alternative course to enable the fixture to go ahead although this meant that athletes still had to compete through minor flooding which became deeper in parts during the afternoon.

Final entries were lower compared to last season, but this didn’t detract from some great competition on the day. Bristol & West secured the Women’s 35+ age group title, with Winchester & District winning the W45+ team medals. Steel City Striders made it a double celebration by winning the W55+ and the W65+ titles.

Within this first race, for all women’s age groups, the older men’s teams also competed with Barnet & District 65+ winners and Bingley Harriers taking the 75+ honours.

Conditions were deteriorating as the day wore on and for the second race, (men’s teams aged from 35 to 64 year old) the course had become a quagmire. Salford Harriers proved to be most adaptable in the conditions by taking home the 35+ and 45+ team Gold medals and Leicester Coritanian’s were the successful M55+ Gold medallists.

Although the athletes and officials endured difficult conditions and we managed to save the fixture from cancellation, the resulting feedback from the athletes was amazing, most actually professing to have enjoyed their day’s competition.

In November it was EAMA’s turn to host the British &Irish Cross-Country International. The chosen venue for the competition was Aintree racecourse. England on home soil dominated the team categories, winning 12 of the 17 five year age group team awards. Ireland and Scotland won one apiece in the women’s age groups, England winning the other six age groups on offer. Within the men’s section, Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland took an age group each, with England winning the other six age groups. Introducing a separate race for men and women over 65+ helped to balance the race programme, and for the first time a women’s 75 + age group was introduced. The day’s competition was completed with the athletes enjoying an evening banquet/presentation at the Floral Hall, Southport. Our thanks are conveyed to the EAMA Committee for hosting a memorable event at such an iconic venue.

For the final cross-country event of the season, the BMAF (Open) Cross Country Championship we visited the Rhug Estate at Corwen, N Wales. The event was organised by the local Prestatyn Club and being scheduled for March, it was the last of our championships before the Government’s coronavirus lockdown. With 200+ entries competing over a real cross-country course (rugged and stream crossings) the event went very well. The Estate owner, Lord Newborough, was proud to welcome our Championships on his land and stayed on to present the medals to the successful athletes.

With no venue pencilled in to host the 2020 EAMA Inter-Area Challenge, it was requested to incorporate it at the Corwen Champs. With a new tweak of the team composition, each area now needing ten to score calculated on their age grading, it made it an exciting format. NMAC were the overall team winners within a very close contest, their combined average was 75.7%. Within the men’s section WMAL were the highest with 77.3% and the top women’s team was MMAC with 74.5%. The Trophies for the Best Age Graded performances went to Monica Williamson, MMAC ith 87.4% and Alastair Walker, NMAC with 83.6%. My thanks are expressed to the Prestatyn Club for hosting and providing an excellent event and Alex Rowe and Peter Kennedy for the compilation and results of the Championship and Inter Area Challenge.

Update on Fixtures.

Our BMAF Cross Country Relays are still planned for October 24th at Long Eaton.

The B&I Cross-Country International scheduled to take place on November 14th in Dublin is still under consideration with a final decision on procedure from IMAA expected on August 15th. With their financial implications taken into account, IMAA have held back this decision in the hope that their government will ease the current imposed coronavirus restrictions.

We are hoping to travel to Tonbridge, Kent, for the BMAF Cross-Country Championship, the planned date is March 20th 2021.

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

Road Race situation as 3/08/2020: -

With only one BMAF Championship Road Race still hanging in there, the York Marathon on the 20/10/2020, we have witnessed nothing but cancellations due to the impact of Covid-19.  Fortunately BMAF Services have not incurred any costs due to the cancellations and all BMAF entrants will be refunded or will be able to transfer to next year.

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| **Race Distance** | **Date and Location** |
| 1 mile | Westminster London 24/05/2020 Cancelled |
| 5K | Horwich  14 or 21/06/2020 Cancelled |
| 10K | Falkirk Scotland  19/04/2020 Canclled |
| 10Mile | Lytchett Minster near Poole 9/02/2020 Postponed to the 23/08/2020 Now Cancelled |
| Half Marathon | Caterham 19/08/2020 Cancelled |
| Marathon | York 20/10/2020 Awaiting a decision |
| Trail 30K NDR | Gravesend 28/06/2020 Cancelled |

BMAF Relays Sutton Park May 16th 2020.The Relays are promoted and organised by the BMAF and had to be cancelled before any significant costs were incurred .Unfortunately costs of time and energy were incurred by Peter, Maurice and Archie .My thanks has to be recorded to them and on this occasion we did not achieve the outcome we all hoped for.

The Virtual 5K Road Relays.

I take no credit for this creative idea which belongs to David Oxland.

The outcome of the Virtual 5K Road Relays were, in short, outstanding with over £11,000-00 raised for Macmillian Nurses, plus a lot of competitive fun for all who entered.

Once more I must thank Peter Kennedy and Russell McIntyre who worked tirelessly on this project.

BMAF Road Race Championships are in theory all planned for next year with the exception of the Marathon.

The calendar above which was never realised will happen in 2021.

**Race Walking Secretary’s Report, *Ian Richards OLY***

Since the 2019 AGM only two BMAF Race Walking Championships have been held. The Long Distance championships took place a week after the BMAF Track and Field championships and two weeks before the European Masters Championships in Jesolo. The close proximity of these events and the fact that this championship took place in the Isle of Man probably had a significant impact on the number of entries. The race, over 20 miles, was incorporated into the Centurions 100 mile race held in Castletown which meant there was excellent organisation and atmosphere rather like that for the annual Horwich races. There were 74 walkers in the 100 mile race which was made up of 65 masters and 9 seniors. The BMAF championships was incorporated into an open 20 mile race which was held during the 100 mile race. There were 35 walkers of whom 5 men and 3 women contested the BMAF championships. These statistics suggest that perhaps the BMAF Long Distance Championships might be held over longer distances than 20 miles sometime in the future. Ian Richards (M70 - VAC) won both the all age open and BMAF races.

The second Championship to be held was the 3000m in the BMAF Indoor Championships in Lea Valley. It attracted only 10 walkers and one race was needed compared to the usual 2. Although only 5 men and 7 women attended the European Championships in Jesolo, it proved another success for the British walkers winning 6 individual gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze plus 3 gold teams and 2 bronze. The walks were held in Eraclea, a small seaside village with the lap course going through the main village street. The course was excellent with a large stretch of road re-surfaced especially for the event. Unfortunately those responsible for setting up the course did not follow the measured route going round the wrong side of a roundabout and using the opposite side of the road to the resurfaced stretch. This meant that the course for the 10km was short. It was re-measured for the 20k but many then felt that was long! Despite these issues these were a most enjoyable and rewarding Championships. Individual Medallists were Ian Richards (M70) 3 gold, Noel Blatchford (W70) 2 gold Cath Duhig (W70) 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze, Peter Boszko (M70) 1 silver, 2 bronze.

All Championships since March have been either postponed or cancelled. The 10k and 20km Championship have been postponed to a date still to be fixed depending upon whether any races are possible before the end of the year. Because the European Non-stadia Championships due to be held in Madeira were postponed until November and that fixture is still in place, arrangements have been made for the BMAF 20km Championships to take place in the autumn if racing is possible. This is intended to help walkers who might be going to Madeira to prepare.

**Other events**

A series of weekly virtual walks has been taking place since lockdown commenced. It has been organised by the National Endurance Centre in Leeds and one of the walkers. These are all age, attract overseas walkers with a typical field of around 100. In practice the majority are Masters with only 3 or 4 seniors. They have been much appreciated by the walkers and are helping to keep walkers motivated.

**Other news**

At the beginning of the year it was announced that Ian Richards had been awarded not only the BMAF Masters Race Walker of the Year and overall Masters Athlete of the Year but also European and World Masters Race Walker of the Year plus European and World Masters Athlete of the Year and Runner Up World Masters Athlete of the Year.

**IT Management Report, *Peter Kennedy***

BMAF Membership  
At the end of 2019 there were 5155 confirmed members of BMAF area Clubs, with a total of 5336 memberships between them. This represents an increase of some 84 area Club members over 2018. 30% of area Club members have however held back on renewal in 2020 pending relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions and the re-start of competition.

BMAF OpenTrack System

83% of all confirmed area Club members have now used BMAF OpenTrack, an increase of 3% over last year.

Now that all BMAF individual Championships are open to all registered athletes over the age of 35 to compete in, there could in theory be many more such open competitors but in practice, the numbers are limited and most either don’t return after one entering one event which was nearby or they go on to join a BMAF area Club to gain the full benefits of membership.

We continued to use Opentrack CMS for the results of all our Road and Cross-Country Championships during the last 12 months, which enabled team results to be calculated more quickly and to use age-graded percentages. They were shown on individual performances and used to derive the results of the Inter-Area Cross-Country Challenge, They will also be used in future for the teams competitions in the longer-distance Road Championships where they are too few teams in each age category to make a meaningful result when the sum of times method is followed.

This year OpenTrack CMS was used for the first time by BMAF for the publication of the results of the Indoor Track & Field Championships in place of Hytek. In conjunction with photo finish for the track events and electronic recording of field results, we expected to be able to publish results on the internet almost instantly each race or field event finishes but this was only partially successful because of the lack of Officials, athletes registration/declaration issues and initial problems linking up with the Photofinish system at Lee Valley.

As a result of the Coronavirus lockdown, all of the summer competitions to date have been deferred/cancelled, but BMAF held its first virtual 5k relays on 14-20 June to celebrate the real championships in Birmingham. Without the need to travel and free competition entry, there were more than 4,100 entries from all over the UK, with more than 3,200 finishers. Close to £12,000 was raised for the benefit of Macmillan Cancer Support. Certificates were emailed to the individual winners and winning teams in each age category, both overall and for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 556 of the finishers (17%) were BMAF area Club members with large numbers from several Clubs, the largest being VAC with 94 running.

BMAF Communications

We have increased the communications with our area Club members on all the BMAF events via the BMAF website, mass emails and social media. We are also promoting Masters athletics to people who are not yet BMAF area Club members with the support of Athletics Weekly and England Athletics. We now have a dedicated British Masters page on the England Athletics website.

We launched the first full Customer Satisfaction Survey to all area Club members in June and with 52% of area Club members responding, the results are encouraging but once we drill down into the details they will confirm to us that there are areas of improvement looked for by the members.

**Statistician’s Report, *Brian Owen***

RECORDS COORDINATOR

It is somewhat unfortunate when one has planned to move away from an obsession that has involved four decades.

Prior to a World-wide catastrophe throwing a massive spanner in the works, the plan was to go through everything in the process as it happens with the massively talented Courtney Gunn, who has already come up with some smart planning which will help the process. So the plan has changed a little, and Masters Athletics will have to put up with me until the World reaches a measure of normality and we resume with what British Masters are good at “setting records”.

I will acquaint Courtney with the many contacts I have made in order he can process British, European and World as quickly as has been done during the last few years. However, I must review the period between last year’s AGM and this year’s ZOOM meeting.

For the record British Masters have set:

Outdoor; 46 British Records, 6 European and 2 World Records. Only one has been set in 2020 (John Moreland Discus in an England Pilot meeting in Hull.

Indoor: 28 British Records, 3 European and 1 World (competition ended after our Indoor Championships).

Road Running: 7 British Best Performances

Road Walking: 3 British Bests 1 World Record (All from Sandra Brown).

Again my thanks to the contacts I have in the Masters organisation and the officials of UKA, who have provided the necessary information needed to process our Records. It is now great to see we have recognition "with the Power of Ten", and maybe stronger links will be achieved with UKA.

It is with pleasure to hand over shortly to Courtney Gunn, who really is a superb candidate for the Job.

After 40 years in the Sport, it is a go time to go. There are many things I would wish to complete and time is running out. So it's goodbye from me.

**The following outgoing Officers of the Federation were re-elected to serve on the Executive Committee for one year:**

Chairman **Walter Hill,** SCVAC

Vice Chair & Policy & International Affairs. **Ian Richards,** VAC

Honorary Secretary: **Bridget Cushen**, SCVAC

Honorary Treasurer: **David Oxland**, MMAC

Track & Field Secretary **Maurice Doogan,** VAC

Cross-Country Secretary: **Mel James**, Welsh Masters AL

Road Running Secretary: **Walter Hill**, SCVAC

Race Walking Secretary: **Ian Richards**, VAC

IT Manager  **Peter Kennedy,** VAC

Minutes Secretary **Bridget Cushen,** SCVAC

Giuseppe Minetti, VAC, was elected Marketing & Communications Officer.

The AGM acknowledge that the Chair, England Athletics Masters Association (EAMA) is automatically appointed as an Officer of the Federation to serve on the Executive.Currently the position is held by Harry Matthews, who is also Asst. BMAF Cross-Country Secretary.

The appointment of Arthur Kimber as President, ratified.

The AGM acknowledge the appointment of the following as Officers of the BMAF:

Overseas Entries Coordinator - **Peter Duhig**, (EMAC)

Records Coordinator **- Bruce Hendrie** (MMAC)

Records Data Management – **Courtney Gunn** (EMAC)

Combined Event Rankings – **Tom Leeson**

Assistant Cross-Country Secretary **Harry Matthews** (NEMAA)

Assistant IT Manager **Alex Rowe** (NMAC)

Hon Adviser on Legal Matters - **Walter Nicholls**

Proposed from the VAC that the title of Marketing & Communications Officer be amended to read Head of Marketing & Communications.

**AGM accepted**.

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A Question & Answer session followed at the conclusion of the AGM.

Signed: ...................................................................... Date ................................................

Bridget Cushen, Honorary Secretary, 156 Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 3JE

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