EMAA AGM 2025 Report from the Chair

It has been an interesting year as chair of EMAA. I have done lots, seen lots and visited lots in the cause of EMAA and Masters Athletics. It has been very gratifying to see so many athletes enjoying competing, many at an age when others are contemplating a more restful lifestyle.

I am also grateful for all those on the committee who give their time and expertise to putting on the events that our members can enjoy. I attended the T&F Challenge at Corby and it brought back memories of when I competed in a meeting there many years ago. It is due to the efforts of EMAA T&F Secretary C**arey Hollick** that EMAA members are able to compete in this event and for that EMAA and myself owe Carey a very big THANK YOU.

I would also like to thank on behalf of EMMA, **Sue Cordingley,** for all her hard work as Cross Country Secretary for organise the Trial, the Selection process and to liase with the members who ran in the International. The work is also difficult in that you often have to communicate with the organising country to get necessary information before you can dissipate it out to the athletes.

Another Thank You is to our Vice Chair, **Harry Matthews,** who was also Chair for many years, who has decided to step down from the role this year. Harry has been involved for many years with EMAA in various roles. I remember way back when I was EMMA XC secretary I asked Harry and Kim to be Team Managers for the International Cross Country and since then he has been involved with EMAA as Team Manager, then as Chair. We owe much to Harry for guiding us through the years, providing us with more competitions and generally ensuring that EMAA put the interest of the England Area Clubs at the forefront of the Masters agenda. Much of what happens today was due to Harry's foresight. EMAA has much to be grateful for. Thank you again Harry for all you have done for EMAA.

EMAA would also like to thank **JOHN BORGAS** who took over as Treasurer at last years AGM and has had a very difficult and frustrating time trying to get the banking system to accept that he wanted to change the EMMA account to one that he could use locally. It has finally been achieved and John is able to do the work that he was elected to do.

EMAA would also like to thank Honorary Secretary, **Bridget Cushin**, for all her work over the time she has been in the role. I first met Bridget when I attended BMAF and EMAA committee meetings as EMAC representative around about 1989 when she was doing the secretary's job for both organisations. She has dedicated at least 40 years to Masters Athletics keeping the wheels running smoothly during all the changes of personal there has been over that time. Bridget is having to step down due to a serious health issue. We wish her well on that aspect of her life and thank her for all the years of devotion she has given to EMAA and to BMAF.

Personally I would like to thank all those who I have worked with on the committee this year. Without their dedication and hard work then EMAA would not exist in its present form. So thank you all.

The coming year will be a difficult one for EMAA as vacancies at Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary and Cross Country Secretary will need to be filled in order that EMAA continues to provide opportunities for masters athletes to compete against their peers. It is also going to be a difficult time as the organisation of the International XC at Leeds in November will need to be completed.

I have decided to step down as Chair and also away from EMAA. I have found it very difficult

being Chair of EMAA and chair of NMAC in trying to keep up with what both organisations require. I have been involved with administration in some form or another with EMAA and/or BMAF over countless years from 1990 at least and feel that it is time to take a break and concentrate on at least trying to do a good job for at least one organisation.

I would like to thank all EMAA members for making the post of Chair such an enjoyable one over the past year and wish you all the best for the future.

Yours in Sport

Phil Lee EMAA Chair