

EMAC Track & Field Report 2025

Track & Field is of course the principal activity of EMAC with the League, Championships and Inter Area matches and the 24/25 year has been particularly successful for the Club.

The T&F League ran 4 matches and a Final at Milton Keynes with 3 divisions of 17 teams. Operating the League proved more difficult with greater oversight now by England Athletics who challenged the low levels of qualified officials we were able to turn out for some matches. However, we did manage to get all of our match results onto Power of 10, this is one of the sanctions that EA are able to apply. This will be an ongoing challenge into 2025 as EA will be collating greater feedback from each match. We hope that clubs have recognized this threat and have been able to develop more officials during the winter.

Several matches suffered major delays in starting because of traffic problems- this seemed to be an increased event in 2024 with 3 of the matches I attended being severely delayed because of senior officials and athletes being held up by traffic problems.

A particular problem arises as EA has set a deadline for completion of the technical events.

Another significant limitation on the running of the League was an increase in the difficulties certain tracks have in being able to stage the complete range of events. In the past all divisions would stage the same events- particularly field events- on the same evening. This was not the case in 2024 and will not happen in 2025.

This is also a broader threat to the running of T&F Leagues in the UK where tracks ability to support events is compromised by either a lack of maintenance of the technical facilities or the constraints of other sports users of the facilities such as Football.

The 2025 League will run with 15 teams split into 3 divisions of 5 teams. Fewer teams this year but with as many clubs involved with a growth in the number of composite teams. The BIG success for the 2025 season is that we are able to stage an outdoor championships again after a 6-year hiatus. They will take place at the Sandy Track on Saturday 28th June. Many thanks to the Biggleswade club for undertaking the hosting of the Championships on behalf of EMAC.

We ran a very successful Indoor Championships at Lee Valley during the Winter which also proved useful in identification of athletes for the Indoor Inter Area match. We ran the Indoor Championships in conjunction with VAC who this year undertook a greater part of the organization on our behalf. Given the significant costs of using the Lee Valley Indoor facility it is essential to work with a partner to share the risks.

The Inter Area matches were a major source of success for EMAC in 2024.

The summer outdoor Champs were staged in the EMAC area at Corby organized by our EMAC Chair Carey Hollick in her additional role as the Track & Field Secretary of the England Masters Athletics Association. Having won the Men's Indoor Inter Area earlier in the year the EMAC Men's team won the Outdoor Championship for the first time since 2002. The EMAC Women won their competition for the first time since 2009 and EMAC won the Combined competition for the first time since 2002.

This was also the first time that EMAC had won both the Mens Indoor and Outdoor trophies in the same year.

For the 2025 Indoor Inter Area, Midlands Masters went to great lengths to try and recover the trophies which they did after sterling competitions in both the men's and ladies matches. EMAC were runners up in both categories.

This year's outdoor Inter Area – again organized by Carey Hollick – will take place at Hull in August.

All round a very successful 12 months for T&F although facing major challenges. Now is the time for me to step back a bit from T&F organization so I hope someone else can step forward at the AGM to carry on our successful momentum.

Graeme Packman 09/04/2025