

Treasurer's report to the EMAC AGM April 2026

The Club's finances continue to be healthy thanks to its ability to retain and attract members so that, even though affiliation fees swallow up the majority of subscription income, the minority that EMAC retains is sufficient to cover the cost of running the Track and Field League and the Club Championships. The Club has adequate reserves, a bit more than a year's income/expenditure, and (just) "broke even" in 2025, so it is with regret that I have had to ask the Committee to increase the subscription rate for the coming year.

The following is answers anticipating FAQs

It is unremarkable that most of our expenditure is on staging events, particularly (perhaps I mean "preferably") the Track and Field League, but I should mention that the T&FL comprised a minority of the 2025 expenditure on "Events"; the Indoor Championships shared with VAC cost £4059 (all of which was subsequently refunded by VAC together with half of the profit) and the Outdoor Inter-Area Challenge cost another thousand pounds. The Outdoor Championships were run by Biggleswade AC which collected all the entry fees and paid expenses, which included paying for the medals awarded (most of which we had bought in earlier years) so all we (EMAC) paid some officials' expenses.

As I have said before (so regular readers may be bored), Club kit is bought when our stocks of individual vest sizes run low and sold, when a member wants to buy one, at cost excluding postage. Receipts and payments vary from year to year; overall we break even before postage and make a small loss after it – it is not practicable to charge people who pay in advance for postage since I do not know the cost until the GPO charges me and I do not think that it would be worth the effort to do so even if it was possible. Administrative expenses is a "catch-all" phrase but, for us, bank charges and charges for the website are almost all of it. I was hoping that the interest on our deposit account would cover them (so I could say *all* our subs go towards running athletics) but not this time (maybe next year?).

EMAA is the England Masters Athletics Association of which we are the largest member (out of eight); it does not yet have Internet Banking – when I became Treasurer of EMAA and for another six months thereafter it did not have a properly functioning bank account at all. As Carey is T&FL Secretary for EMAA there is a checking mechanism if I pay EMAA Inter-Area expenses for officials through the EMAC accounts but none if I pay them from my personal account (which my predecessor as EMAA Treasurer did) so to be *visibly* honest I have used the checkable EMAC account. [We had no other EMAC officer involved in the x-country so at one point EMAA owed over £14,000 to four of the volunteers]. I fully expect that the new Bank Signatories will, when approved by the new EMAA Committee, be able to use Internet Banking so we shall no longer need to ask EMAC for help.

Why do we have £20k in the bank? Not my fault, gov! When I joined EMAC, nearly 30 years ago, it sent members a quarterly magazine; some years later it switched to online communication and costs dropped significantly but the then committee chose not to reduce the subscription rate as they thought it would be easier to maintain the level and just leave it flat when inflation eroded the value rather than to reduce it and then put it up again. As a result

EMAC's income was more than its reduced expenditure and the bank balance built up. When I gave my first report as Treasurer I proposed reducing the amount of the second-claim subscription and was outvoted; a few years later the Membership agreed to reduce subs to £10 (plus the EA levy for first-claim members) which has proved to be enough until now. **But** EA, BMAF and EMAA have all increased their affiliation fees for the coming year so the subscriptions (after Opentrack charges) at the 2025-6 level would not cover affiliation fees for 2026-7. The 2025-6 second-claim subscription of £10 gross is only £9 after Opentrack's cut and the agreed increases in affiliation fees/levies from EA, BMAF and EMAA to £23 (for first-claim members), £7.50 and £2 (the latter two for all members) means that they would exceed the net amount (after Opentrack charges) that we receive from each subscription. In order to cover these fees (and the associated Opentrack charges) and leave us with a (relatively tiny) amount to cover EMAC expenses we have had to increase second claim membership to £15 and first claim to £29. Please send your complaints to England Athletics.

I am also very unhappy about Opentrack's demand that we pay £750 plus VAT – about £1 per member - to use their software for the T&FL. Sadly I can do nothing about this as I gave up computer programming 59 years ago.