

England Masters Athletics Association



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Minutes of the England Masters Athletics Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 15 April at 19.00 via Zoom

Present:

EMAA members – John Borgars (EMAC), Carey Hollick (EMAC), Rob Lands (EMAC), Wendy Kane (MMAC), Graham Lamb (MMAC), Jill Lamb (MMAC), Stuart Lynn (NEMAA), Lynee Marr (NEMAA), Harry Matthews (NEMAA), Kim Matthews (NEMAA), Jon Clarke (NMAC), Sue Cordingley (NMAC), Caroline Marler (NMAC), Alex Rowe (NMAC), Steve Watmough (NMAC), Jodie Albrow (SCVAC), Annie Fernandez-Jones (SCVAC), Chris Amos (SWVAC), Roland Gibbard (SWVAC), Jill Harrison (SWVAC), Jon James (SWVAC), Mike Mann (VAC), Glen Reddington (VAC), Maggie Statham-Berry (VAC)

England Athletics – Chris Jones CEO, Matthew Dalton – Chair of East Region Council, Chair of England Council, Board Member

Apologies:

Archie Jenkins (NEMAA), Maureen Kelly (IMAC), Peter Kennedy (VAC), Phil Lee (NMAC)

1. Adoption of Minutes of the previous AGM held on 25 April 2025

Adopted with two corrections to the list of apologies for absence – Roland Gibbard's surname was incorrect, and Harry Matthews was listed twice. Proposed Sue Cordingley, seconded by Harry Matthews.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

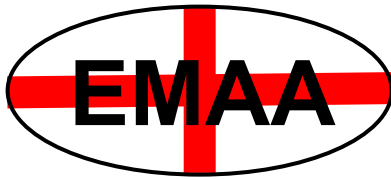
None.

3. Address by Chris Jones

Chris Jones, the CEO of England Athletics addressed the meeting, expressing commitment to supporting EMAA and exploring potential collaboration opportunities, particularly in track and field. He noted England Athletics' responsibility to support athletes across all age groups, with most England Athletics members being over 35, and the fastest growing age group being the 50 to 60's. He referred to EA's existing off-track support to EMAA and mentioned the possibility of including age group categories in the national championships. Carey raised concern about not receiving track and field funding since 2023, although it was noted that in previous years financial support from England Athletics had paid for the England vests for the international cross-country teams. John noted that EMAA had been awarded a £3,000 grant, however he had not yet submitted the claim form as it required EMAA to provide receipted invoices in respect of master's competition. He is hoping to be able to submit the required invoices and the claim form in May.

Chris Jones discussed potential future collaboration between England Athletics and EMAA, proposing to involve Sarah Benson and Chris Hollingshead in developing a joint development plan to include financial support for Masters athletes. John raised concerns about Masters athletes competing against younger athletes in mainstream events, to which Chris acknowledged with ongoing efforts to integrate Masters events into England Athletics' programmes.

Jon Clarke thanked Chris for England Athletics's continued financial support.



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4. Tribute to Dave Lesley

Harry lead a tribute to Dave who has died recently and whose funeral is taking place on 21 April. Dave was a former treasurer of EMAA and International cross-country team manager with his wife Ruth.

Action: Agreed that in acknowledgement of Dave's support of EMAA either flowers should be sent to Ruth or a donation to charity made.

5. Chair's report – Jon Clarke

Jon announced that he was resigning as Chair and noted that EMAA was in a much better place than when he became chair a year ago, having hosted a very successful international cross country in Leeds and drafted a much needed revised constitution, which is being proposed for adoption in this AGM and expressed hope for a more unified future in athletics.

6. Treasurers report – John Borgars

John presented the Treasurer's Report, highlighting that England Athletics has promised up to £3,000 annually for running Masters competitive events, though this grant had not yet been received for 2025 and that EMAA finances are in a better state than expected. Mike suggested holding an early committee meeting to discuss outstanding financial questions in more detail. John explained that affiliation fees and entry fees from the selection race would help bring EMAA closer to break even and could be carried forward to fund future international events. Harry inquired about £4,000 in miscellaneous expenditure. John clarified was mainly due to delayed cheques from 2024 that were processed in 2025.

7. Track and Field report – Carey Hollick

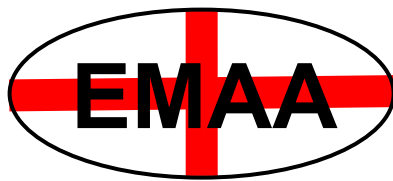
Carey presented a track and field report covering recent indoor and outdoor competitions, highlighting several record-breaking performances including European and World records at the Inter Areas, these included Steve Peters at York and a World 4 x 400m relay records for W60 and W45 teams at Lee Valley. The scheduling and timetable at Lee Valley was discussed, including the late start on Saturday and the scheduling of the relays in the middle of the programme. The next Inter Area will be held on 2 August at Yate in the Southwest. The cost of the Inter Area was discussed; clubs were charged £250 per team. This may need to be increased due to rising expenses. As Lee Valley charges £2,750 for half a day, using alternative locations like Sheffield was discussed, this could generate more income due to better accessibility for northern participants.

8. Cross-country report – Steve Watmough

The meeting discussed the successful hosting of the international cross country at Leeds, which cost approximately £4,600. The selection race made a profit of £2,500 and helped fund the international. Jack Buckner gave an address at the dinner and presented the medals. Roland noted that using the Trybooking system worked well. The 2026 selection race will be held at Betley on 26 September hosted by Newcastle Staffs AC. The international XC will be held in Dublin on 14 November. The main hotel is the Crown Plaza, rooms have been booked for the England team.

9. Road running report – Alex Rowe

Alex reported that there had not been any standalone EMAA road events, England Athletics however had organised a number of races in its masters' opportunities age group road running series and suggested the possibly of collaboration instead.



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10. Adoption of the revised Constitution

Sue presented the proposed revised constitution, explaining that the current 2017 needed updating and was not fit for purpose. She outlined the key changes, these including combining the roles of cross-country secretary and road running secretary into a single endurance secretary role and adding a member engagement/social media officer. This is a key role to promote EMMA within the athletics community, and incorporating new clauses for discipline, data protection, health and safety, and welfare. Clarification was sought regarding the discipline clause 10.2 as to whether 'membership' referred to committee membership or club membership. Sue confirmed that it referred to general committee members or officers. Officer tenure was discussed. Wendy proposed a three year maximum term to prevent officers from feeling obliged to be continuously reappointed. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer this issue to next year's AGM.

Chris Jones noted that England Athletics were developing standards for non-traditional clubs and third party competition providers.

Adoption of the revised constitution was proposed by Carey and seconded by Jon with one revision to clause 10.2 to remove the reference to membership and to clarify that any disciplinary action would be in respect of officers or representatives of constituent clubs. It was also agreed that the general committee would look at the issue of having maximum period of office, with a view to presenting a clause on tenure of office for adoption in the 2027 AGM, whilst noting concerns about having enough volunteers prepared to stand as officers.

Action: Sue to revise clause 10.2 and circulate to the general committee members.

11. Election of Officers

The following were elected as officers:

Chair – Steve Watmough

Secretary – Sue Cordingley

Treasurer – John Borgars

Track and Field Secretary – Carey Hollick

Team Manager – Roland Gibbard

Maurice Hemingway continues as Webmaster

Peter Cassidy was reappointed as scrutineer of the annual accounts

The following posts are vacant: Vice Chair, Endurance Secretary, Race Walking Secretary, Member Engagement/Social Media Officer

Harry Matthews expressed concern that there was not an Endurance Secretary. Sue noted that it was important to ensure that the right person was selected for the role and that overall, there were more officers appointed this year.

Action: Sue to circulate brief job descriptions for the EMMA officer roles to the General Committee members so prospective candidates for officer positions would have an idea of what is involved in the roles.



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12. AOB

Steve proposed introducing an England Masters cross country championship as part of the selection race, which was supported, though concerns were raised about venue capacity. The discussion also explored the possibility of establishing England Masters track and field championships, either within or replacing the inter-area, though this was deemed complex due to logistics and potential conflicts with existing British Masters events. The conversation ended with agreement to consult athletes about preferences between championships and inter-area competitions.

Meeting concluded at 20.58