



Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

# Annual General Meeting

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7pm

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# Annual General Meeting 2023 Agenda

*The Annual General Meeting of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (the Company) will be held on Thursday 26th October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Dunsilly Hotel, 20 Dunsilly Road Antrim BT41 2JH. The meeting will be in person, however voting by Proxy is permitted.*

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Chair's Remarks
3. President's Remarks
4. CEO's Remarks
5. To approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 12th December 2022
6. To receive the Annual Report of the activities of the Company of the year ended 31st March 2023, to include Senior Staff Reports and Committee Reports
7. To receive the Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2023, to include Directors Report and Auditor's Report
8. To Appoint the Company's Auditors for the period ended 31st March 2024
9. Motions before the meeting
  - 9.1 to amend membership fees as detailed in the Notice of AGM
  - 9.2 to confirm the appointment of directors to the Board in the period from incorporation to date as detailed in the Notice of AGM
  - 9.3 to adopt the new Articles of Association of Athletics NI
- 9.4. Members Motions
10. Election of the President and Vice-President(s)
11. Confirmation of nominations to the Committees
12. Response to Members' Questions
13. Close

# Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2022

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

David Abrahams ("DA") welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Trevor Alderdice, John Allen, Roy Corry, Robin Mack, Herbie McDaid, John McGarvey, Wendy Phillips, David Seaton and Joan Smith.

The attendees recognised the passing of the following members and observed a moment's silence:

Billy Brannigan, Jan Brodie, Danny Coyle, Ronnie Donaldson, John Greenaway, Patsy Harrower, Jim Kennedy, Graham Millar, Oliver McCullough, Kevin Murphy, Jim Reid, Denis Sheridan, Robert 'Stevie' Stevenson.

See Appendix 1 for the full attendance list.

## 2. Chair's Remarks

DA brought everyone's attention to the printed booklet which contained all the reports being presented at the AGM. He gave thanks to all the coaches, officials, volunteers, committee members, staff members and athletes within the sport. He spoke briefly of the current financial position of the Company and the rigorous audit that had taken place. Explaining the value of what comes with affiliation/membership fees, he highlighted the key achievements of the past 12-18 months. He concluded by giving thanks to all funders.

## 3. President's Remarks

GC touched on the main events he had attended over the past year representing ANI, including those in Rol. He expressed a hope that the coaching conference would return to the calendar, that participation in T&F would increase and lamented the lack of media coverage of the sport. He acknowledged the work of the Board, recognising their volunteer effort and the great work done by the CEO and her team.

## 4. CEO's Remarks

EG acknowledged the dedication and expertise of staff, volunteers and all those involved in the sport. She went through performance highlights of the year and encompassed the activities of Ultra, Mountain, Hill and Fell running athletes. Key aspects of the Senior Staff Reports were also mentioned. EG explained the work being done on the new Strategy for the sport and presented a summary of the survey results. The ambitions will need funding in order to be delivered and general/unrestricted income is preferable.

## 5. Approval of Previous Minutes

Valerie McDonough and Shauna Bratten were appointed by the Chair as scrutineers for the voting that took place at the meeting. A query was raised by John Glover re voting powers and was answered by the Company Secretary.

Minutes of the 2021 AGM and Reconvened AGM were deemed to be accurate and were approved by a majority vote. No one voted against.

## 6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 7. Annual Report of the activities of the Company

The key aspects of the Annual Report were detailed within the presentations given by the Chair and the CEO. There wasn't a requirement to vote on the acceptance of this report.

## 8. Annual Accounts of the activities of the Company

Sharon-Louise McKay ("SLM") presented her report on the financial statements for y/end 31st March 2022 with support from Paul Dolan of Finegan Gibson. It had been a challenging year for the business with a deficit of £40,000 reported. However, SLM explained the adjustments that had been made due to timing of income and expenditure and reassured those present of the improved recording and reporting of transactions which will make future year-on-year comparisons more meaningful. She thanked the members of the new Audit and Risk Committee, the professional and administrative staff, and all those that have assisted her during the first months of her tenure.

SLM answered questions from John Black and Raymond Fullerton on various lines of expenditure including travel & entertainment expenses, Erasmus funding, financial forecasting and financial management and controls prior to the Treasurer's appointment.

A vote was taken and the Annual Accounts were accepted by majority vote (23/30). No one voted against.

## 9. Appointment of Auditors

A vote was taken to re-appoint Finegan Gibson as Auditors of the Company.

This was passed by a majority vote (25/30) with no one voting against.

## 10. Governance Review Project

Kathryn Walls presented the purpose and scope of this project and encouraged the audience to contribute to the development of the new structures. KW responded to queries re the inclusion of race walking as an athletics event, the coordination of the events calendars across Home Countries and regions, the affiliation of Ulster Schools to AAI and the need to drive participation numbers in the sport. KW stressed the objective of having all voices from within the sport represented at committee and Board level. Roadshows have been arranged for various locations in NI in the New Year and all feedback to be sent via email directly to KW.

## 11. Motions before the meeting

- a. To retain membership fees as per Notice

This was passed by a majority vote (27/30) with no votes against.

## 12. Appointment of President and Vice-Presidents

There were no nominations received. A vote was taken to re-appoint the incumbents. It was passed by the majority (26/30) with one vote against.

## 13. Appointment of Sub-Committees

There were no nominations received. No one has stood down from last year's committees. As a result of the impending change in governance, it was recommended that the incumbents were reappointed.

A vote was taken to reappoint the Cross Country and Road Running Committee, and it was passed by the majority (29/30) with no vote against.

A vote was taken to reappoint the Track and Field Committee, and it was passed by the majority (28/30) with no vote against.

## 14. Interim Amendments to the Memorandum & Articles

One vote was taken to amend the notice period and to allow "virtual" participation.

The amendments were passed by a majority (29/30) with no one voting against.



## 15. Response to Members' Questions

Nine questions were received in advance of the AGM, dealing with following:

- 1) Engagement between members and the governing body across all athletics disciplines
- 2) Opportunity to have dedicated, specialist ANI staff for all disciplines
- 3) Lessons learnt from a review of the Commonwealth Games
- 4) Funding of athletes' place on the Youth Academies
- 5) Relationship between ANI and the Ulster Sports Council
- 6) Funding of elite athletes
- 7) Registration of NI schools and outreach programmes
- 8) Support offered to clubs which focus on T&F
- 9) Coach Development/conference

Full, written responses to each were given by the Chair and these will be published on the website.

An additional question was raised by Glenn Grant regarding participants swapping race numbers at events, the risks and possible sanctions that could be implemented.

Ann Maguire, from NIMAA, asked that the ruling about eligibility to compete for British Masters be investigated by ANI as the condition regarding athletes needing to hold British passports may contravene rights of NI residents to hold British, Irish or both passports.

## 16. Close

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 10:20pm.

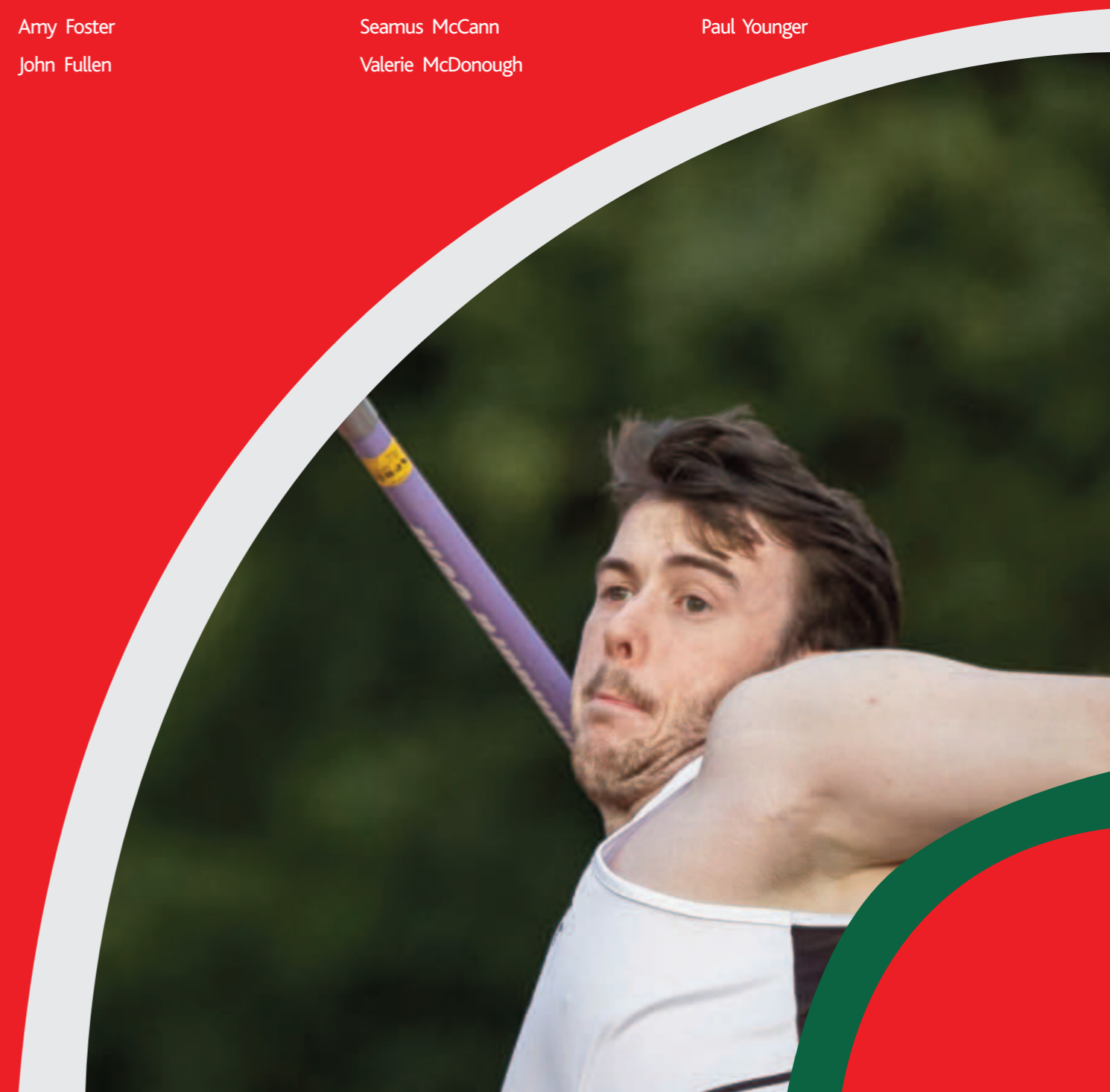
**Valerie McDonough**

**Minutes Secretary**

# Appendix 1

## Attendee List

David Abrahams	Raymond Fullerton	Catherine McIntyre
Joy Alexander	Liz Glover	Oliver Murphy
Jim Alexander	John Glover	Francis Purvis
John Black	Glenn Grant	Tomas Reynolds
Shauna Bratten	Elaine Grant	Phill Snoddy
Gerry Carson	Brian Jack	Ian Taylor
Michael Cooke	Paul Lawther	Andrew Tees
Adrian Daye	Ann Maguire	Kathryn Walls
Ghislain Demeuldre	David Marrs	Eilish Ward
Amy Foster	Seamus McCann	Paul Younger
John Fullen	Valerie McDonough	





# Chairs Report

Year 2022/2023 and into 2023/2024

## Officials, Coaches and Volunteers

As ever our sport would be unable to thrive without the input of thousands of volunteers. We look to our coaches, officials and volunteers who enable competitions to happen, clubs to operate, and athletes to achieve great things. However, let us not forget the legion of parents who commit to getting their family members to training and events. My continued thanks to all.

I do wish to make a special mention of one volunteer. As president Gerry Carson has been outstanding. Gerry has been present at so many events as no doubt you are all aware. Gerry has proudly worn the chain of office and presided over medal ceremonies for all age groups. A dedicated President and a hard act to follow. In the last couple of years Gerry has attended board meetings as a non-voting member. Under the new Memorandum and Articles being propose the role of President has been embraced as a full voting board member. I want to acknowledge that this has been brought about thanks to the experience, insight and invaluable contribution Gerry has brought to our meetings. It is disappointing that he won't be able to take up a full board position as he steps down this year.

I thank the board of Athletics NI for their continued commitment to shape the future of our sport and especially thank them for their encouragement and support for me in the role of Chair.

## Environment and Financials

Operating conditions in 22/23 improved but remained challenging due to the general economic crisis hitting the economy. Like every other organisation we were not immune from inflationary costs. You will see from the audited accounts that we made a loss for the period. None the less I am confident that the organisation is tracking in the right direction and there are significant improvements ahead for 2023/24.

The treasurer will address the financial position more fully. I want to especially thank Sharon Louise McKay for her expert advice and driving the improvements we are seeing in financial reporting.

## Data and OpenTrack

OpenTrack continues as our membership and event entry system. Effective usage of the system will facilitate good data provision. The team are working to make the system even more accessible.

Some current data on the health of our sport.	
Licensed Athletes	6608
Registered Clubs	99
Ulster Schools Participants	4000
Park Run Participation	5057 weekly
Daily Mile Primary Schools	530
Daily Mile participants	106,000
Permitted Events	195
Total Permitted Entries on OT	28,000
Registered Coaches	910
Registered Officials	59
Run NI participants	954
Couch – 5k participants	222
Other NI Led	242

## Membership Fees

The current economic climate means that for all of us costs are climbing. The membership fees have been unchanged for 2 years in which time there have been significant pressures on costs. We are actively working to contain our costs and the organisation is putting in place a good budgetary process. Our current in house finance manager has been making a great impression with our treasurer, board, auditors and members.

All that having been said we are being asked to deliver a sport which needs robust processes and procedures to ensure the safety of our members and make participation an enjoyable experience. Everything we are being asked to deliver has a cost. We have occasionally got it wrong and some of that comes from trying to operate within a tight financial framework and with less resource than needed. We need to ensure that we have the money to deliver what everyone wants.

In 2023 we have, like all Home County Athletic Federations (HCAFs), had to take on additional responsibilities in the areas of Coach Education, Official Education and Safeguarding. Safeguarding particularly has the potential for excessive unpredictable costs, particularly if we have any significant cases to deal with. Whilst this is an additional cost and administrative burden UKA has in the past been carrying this for all the HCAFs.

To help deliver on the new strategy we need to ask for a small increase in fees for 2024/25. By that time the fee structure will not have changed for 2 years. Despite significant inflation in costs.

## Proposed License Fees 2024/2025

Club Membership	£140	Increase from £120
Race Organisers	£65	Increase from £60
Seniors 16 or Over	£20	Increase from £18
Junior 11 to 15	£10	Increase from £6
Under 11	Free	Please register your Under 11s
Coaches (non competing)	Free	
Officials (non Competing)	Free	
Other Details TBA	Free	We will be reviewing the whole membership structure in due course

Please note it is essential that Clubs register ALL your members so that we understand who is participating in athletics and to ensure everyone benefits from the insurance coverage provided. This is important to protect everyone in the sport from some potentially significant liabilities.

## Clean Athletics & UK Anti Doping (UKAD) Rules

UK Anti-Doping requires a formal confirmation of compliance with Anti-Doping regulations. Athletics NI reaffirms our commitment to the UKA Clean Athletics Code. Please ensure you encourage every athlete to sign into OpenTrack and validate their membership.

The board acknowledges that the OpenTrack system has had its teething problems but it is essential that we all embrace the need for a robust registration system.

At the time of writing there remains a large number of athletes who have not claimed their ANI profile on OpenTrack and have not signed up to the UKA Anti-Doping statement. The team are reviewing operation of this element of the system however it is essential that we ensure everyone engaged in the sport accept the authority of UKAD. I urge you to ensure all your membership sign the declaration via the ANI membership system.



### Strategy

After a consultation process we have developed our new strategy through to 2028. We believe that the strategy provides a great platform on which to build the sport. Our CEO Elaine has already been asked to publish a blog every few months to update everyone on progress. Our CEO will speak more specifically on this subject.

### New Memorandum and Articles (M&A) / New committee structures

Board member Kathryn Walls led on the M&A project and has put in a phenomenal amount of work to bring forward proposed changes. The executive team and existing committees have also had their input into the process and we will have held an open call to discuss the changes prior to the AGM.

This is an essential step in order that we can continue to improve how we function and deliver the sport on behalf of the members. The associated new committee structures allow for the wider participation in the running of ANI and more opportunity for members to have their voice heard.

### My two significant asks are:

1. That the clubs pass the required changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association and allow us to continue with the modernisation process.
2. That you volunteer and encourage others to volunteer as members of the new committees so that ANI can be more representational of the members wishes.

Kathryn Walls will provide the lead and full details of the changes. I wish to specifically thank Kathryn for the work she has put into bringing the proposals to the AGM.

### Athletes

An essential part of our new strategy is the Purpose and Vision of the organisation as stated below. I will leave the CEO to talk about the many successes we have had over the past year.

Our Purpose and Vision

To inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport, ensuring an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Alongside this we aim to unite the athletics community to overcome the current challenges and work collaboratively to safeguard the sport for the future.

### Governance & Assurance Framework

The organisation remains committed to the voluntary code of sports governance for Northern Ireland. Sport NI does regularly monitor what we do and I am delighted that the work we have done means that Sport NI has recognised us as one of the 12 sports in Northern Ireland and have been included in their top tier of well managed organisations. We are actively engaging with the Sports Governance Academy which provides excellent advice and guidance on best practice in sports governance.

We have been working to update all our internal policies and procedures with particular attention to our financial procedures.

We have made significant changes in the accounting practices of the organisation. The change in auditor to Finegan Gibson last year has been very beneficial and their professionalism is much appreciated. The interim support of Viable Corporate Services did help with reporting and accounting processes but bringing the finance function in house at the end of 22/23 has greatly enhanced the quality of reporting.

The CEO, the updated policies & procedures, the in-house finance manager and external auditor all play an essential role alongside the Audit and Risk committee and the board in the assurance framework of the organisation.

### Codes of Conduct

Athletics NI subscribes to the UKA Codes of Conduct published April 2021. I take this opportunity again to ask every member club to ensure that their membership criteria formally include the need for compliance with the UKA Codes of Conduct. The wellbeing of everyone participating in our sport is paramount.

### Sport NI

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Sport NI who are our largest grant provider, as well as providing some direct athlete support and provision of the Sports Institute NI services. Their support around the Governance work we are doing is also appreciated.

### Partners, Sponsors

Our thanks go to those who have helped us by way of sponsorship, provision of member discounts and event partnership.

### Thanks to the following Sponsors partners

Sponsors	Discount providers	Commercial Partners	Charity Partners
Belfast City Council	Shokz	Proparamedics	Mary Peters Trust
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Kingsbridge Private Hospital	Championship Ireland	
Rank Foundation	Runners Need	OpenTrack	
Belfast City Marathon		Grahams Traffic Management	
parkrun		Invest in Sport	
Council			
Erasmus +			
Flahavan's Porridge Oats			



# CEO's Foreword



**CEO**  
**Elaine Grant**

I am delighted to be presenting this Athletics Northern Ireland Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting 2023, this time with over a year behind me in post. It has been a challenge with some big hurdles to overcome, but the love of the sport has inspired me and the team to look for solutions and as you will see from the further reports we have continued to successfully deliver.

I believe the early lessons in athletics taught me around dedication and determination are driving me on this year to achieve the progress needed within the sport and I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to lead the sport into a new chapter.

Despite coming under increased financial pressure due to wide spread sponsorship problems in the sport and subsequently, a reduction in services and funding from UK Athletics (UKA), we have looked for other ways to increase income to ensure we can prosper. Achieving our biggest ever grant awards from Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) whilst SNI themselves are under increased pressure to support more sports has been a major factor in moving forwards. This increase does come with the requirement to reach the wider membership of the sport and evidence the broader social impact. We must have an effective membership and events system that can capture the necessary data and we need you our sporting family to buy into the system as this data is the key to the future of the sport. This in itself has not come without major challenges and I accept that the transition to Anti-doping compliance on the OpenTrack system was and continues to be difficult. We have invested heavily and worked hard with the staff at OpenTrack to improve things going forwards, but we appreciate it has its limitations.

The UK Anti-doping (UKAD) requirements were unexpected this year and I apologise to members for the unanticipated changes to the system as a result. I understand the frustrations of volunteers who had to spend additional hours to navigate the changes. Achieving UKAD compliance was a necessity and a major achievement. Your support and dedication are yet again unwavering and greatly appreciated. Your continued support to encourage your club members to accept the anti-doping disclaimer is vital in order to remain compliant and I thank you for assisting us to maintain this going forwards.

Coach and Officials education as well as licencing has now formally moved over to ANI to be delivered for the first time as of the 1st October this year. This has been time consuming with many negotiations, legal agreements, transition plans, work plans developed in conjunction with the other Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAF's) under extremely tight deadlines. Additional resources had been found to ensure continued delivery to the sport whilst changing everything about how we administer and deliver licencing and education. I thank all coaches and officials who have now accepted our new ANI Licencing Terms & Conditions. Welcome to Athletics NI. I encourage those who are

yet to accept the new Terms and Conditions to do so as soon as possible to continue to remain active and insured within the sport. I pay tribute to Eilish Ward, our outgoing Development Manager who has been instrumental to this transition and I wish her every success in her new role in Ladies Gaelic Football.

Safeguarding was also traditionally the role of UKA and they provided the safeguarding service for the whole sport, but under the current financial constraints this too has changed in 2023 and for the first time ANI must find the funding to cover this element of the sport. This is a challenge and again an unexpected development. However, we are collaborating with UKA and the other HCAF's to design an Independent Integrity Unit that we would co-fund to deliver this service. This is another new cost to the organisation.

Over the past year we have completed a consultation ("Our Sport, Our Strategy, Our Approach") to develop a new Strategy for the sport which will unite us in our actions to improve for the future. Thank you to those who took part in the survey and/or the focus groups to help us design something which is representative of the needs of the athletics community "Our People" in Northern Ireland. I am delighted to be launching the new strategy at this year's AGM and for this Strategy to become a living, breathing document that we all reference in our actions and decision making for the betterment of the Whole Sport. This Strategy is aspirational by design but hopefully clearly articulates the areas that we all feel need focus over the next five years. I look forward to actioning this Strategy with you all.

Over the last year, although much longer in the making, the pace of development of our Governance review project has ramped up and I am delighted to be searching for new and existing volunteers to fill our new suite of committee's that represent the wider sport. This project would not have been possible without the abundant energy and expertise of our independent board member Kathryn Walls who has been the life blood of this key project for the organisation. Thank you to Kathryn and the board for driving this essential project. If you are passionate about Athletics and about affording others the opportunities to enjoy and excel in the sport, as you may have done or continue to do, please unite with us and put yourself forward for a voluntary position in your areas of interest or expertise. We need you to support the delivery of our new Strategy and to allow athletics to be the go-to sport for all in Northern Ireland.

I would like to thank everyone for your continued support and patience as we navigate through several major changes in the sport. I understand there is a lot of expectation out there and a passion to see us deliver more which we are striving to do under increased pressure and constraints. I applaud our staff and volunteers for the dedication and determination that you continue to show every day to deliver our sport. I am excited to see what the future holds for us all over the next years and I look forward to talking athletics with you at our next event, course, or committee meeting!

Sincere thanks go to all ANI and Mary Peters Track Staff who have worked incredibly hard under pressure this year. I pay tribute to the board and committees who give of their time and expertise voluntarily to help shape the sport for the future.







# President's Note 2023 AGM

Writing this note, as opposed to the reports of the Chairman and CEO, which I hope you have just read, was always going to be a challenge.

What could I write that has not already been covered by the previous two contributors? Who wants to read about topics already covered?

However, if you know me, or of me, you dear reader will know that I love a challenge. Last year's note had exactly 750 words, so first of all, I need to beat that. So here goes; and I hope you count the number of words!

In an earlier life I used to create records, not boasting, just facts. Indeed, it was said that I used to win championships over 100m, 200m and 400m, depending on how my training had gone, or not gone! Then later I tried racing in the ranks of the masters and guess what, I still hold the best Northern Ireland performances for M40 over 100m, best M50 over 100m (it's actually better than the M45 time) and best M75 over 200m. Impressed?

That last performance in 2018 really was my last run as a sprinter, because four weeks after setting the 200m time, on holiday in Italy I had a major TIA (transient ischemic attack) a form of stroke, which on return home had me in the care of the Acute Stroke Unit in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

So, what then for this one- time sprinter? First, I was honoured to be asked to become and accepted the role of President of Victoria Park and Connswater AC.

Then long -time friend John Glover asked me to give a hand coaching the young sprinters at Lagan Valley, so I said yes, thinking that I could resume a role I had when I helped a group of young athletes in the early eighties. Indeed, in 1982 one of those athletes I coached, became at 14, the youngest competitor ever to represent Northern Ireland in athletics at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

So no longer competing I found that I was again right in the middle of athletics here, listening to the chat from young and old and watching the competitions. I was involved with the very young and the very old. Proof that in our sport one can belong for a complete life time. Indeed, in the group I help coach, we have both age group champions and national medal winners from the exploits of our older members.

Three years ago, I was honoured to become the President of Athletics Northern Ireland and in that role, I have tried to be the voice of those at all levels, and in every different discipline within the sport. As an observer I had no vote on the Board of ANI, but I believe I did ask the awkward questions and have helped the organisation as changes have been agreed and implemented.

These changes are still happening and all with the sole aim of making a better outcome for all our members from the casual fun runners to the elite, for the very young to the very old. Change is always difficult and there have been many long debates at Board level; there has been consultation meetings, briefings, indeed heated discussion. But I believe that with a new strategy, modern and necessary changes to the rules and obligations of the organisation, with patience and understanding, athletics will become better for all.

My time as President has been busy, I have been all over the place, from Bangor to Derry, from Dublin to Killybegs, I have made speeches, awarded prizes and met officials and volunteers. I have worked with the full- time staff, the professional coaches and very many others. I have hassled the Board members, challenged the CEO and probably been something of a pain. But I have enjoyed it all.

I will continue to coach at Lagan Valley, a simply wonderful squad of mostly young sprinters and, helped by three of the best other committed and talented coaches, we will help our group have fun in the sport and reach the potentials I know they all possess.

I thank the Chairman and members of the Board for putting up with me, and mentioning the Board, I wonder just how many in our sport realise what an impressive Board membership they have. There is a one- time Commonwealth Games high jumper, a former endurance champion, record holder and Games competitor, one ex- international 400m specialist, another former long sprinter, a 100m star of days gone by, a mountain running master's athlete, two current endurance runners and one top ANI volunteer official. These people know the sport, believe me.

As I take my leave, I offer my best wishes to the CEO and her staff, but most of all I thank the hundreds of volunteers who, rain or shine, enable our sport to function. Without you there would be no athletics.

Shortly there will be a new President, and to that person I offer my best wishes, and hope they has a successful and enjoyable reign.

I end with yet another fact, something I mentioned earlier in this note. I have been three years as President, the first officer to be in post as long, in fact, it's a record! No better way to end. (By the way, 896 words, I hope you enjoyed reading this).

Gerry Carson





# Treasurer's Report

Year Ended 31st March 2023

It gives me pleasure to report to members at the Annual General Meeting on the financial statements for the 12 Months ending 31st March 2023 as presented in a separate document.

The accounts as presented have been approved by the Management Board and carry the appropriate auditor's certificate in accordance with our Memorandum and Articles of Association. It has been a challenging year for Athletics NI with the reports showing a loss of -£21,554 and retained earnings of £51,200.

Total Income has increased on the previous year by £76K to £929K. This includes £25K of income for the Commonwealth Games. However, costs excluding salaries to deliver the Commonwealth Games came to £47K. A deficit of £22K. With costs mainly being pre games camp accommodation and flights and our contribution towards Commonwealth Games NI costs for the Birmingham athletes and support team.

Staff costs have gone from £357K to £390K, an increase of £33K. However, it is worth noting that £32K of cost last year sat in Consultancy in relation to the interim CEO.

Computer bureau costs have increased this year due to Open track costs of £35.5K. Legal and Professional / Agency costs have increased, £17K increase in Viable costs who up until Jan 23 was who ANI outsourced the finance function to. The finance function has now been brought in house to aid speed and control within the finance function.



Currency costs of £7.5K were incurred as a back dated currency adjustment over a number of years.

Another item to highlight on the balance sheet is the decrease in debtors from £181K last year to £73K this year. Although, last year's figure included the £49K received from the Sports NI for the Covid Recovery Plan. Finance is working hard to reduce this figure even further and clubs will have had contact over the past period to reconcile accounts. Thank you to those clubs who have assisted so willingly of late, it is much appreciated. Trade Creditors have reduced from £235K to £121K due to Erasmus costs that were due this time last year.

In relation to budgetary control ANI has implemented some key elements to policies and procedures so that event management is clearer from a financial perspective. There is now an overall events budget. The CEO has implemented the purchase order process and business case approvals for events and travel. In addition, we have moved to sage 50 and have adjusted the Chart of Accounts to make variance analysis comparisons clearer for the future years.

In addition to this the operational team have done an excellent job to manage the costs of events this year. With streaming costs being strongly negotiated and being significantly reduced. The Indoor Age Group Championship in Athlone where timetables and additional venue costs were well managed so not to overrun. This has been an issue historically. Also, with careful timetabling overnight accommodation costs were well managed.

It should also be noted that committees have also been instrumental in providing ideas on how to reduce costs. Each area working together to reduce costs is greatly welcomed as the overall intention is that if we can reduce event costs overall, there is the potential to fund loss leading events and indeed additional events.

## Conclusion

Overall, we are expecting Athletics NI to perform better financially this coming year due to the better controls that are now in place. The latest management report year to date position, March 23 to Aug 23 is indicating a profit of £17K so far with reserves of £60K and cash in the bank of £190K. ANI realize that while this is an improvement there is always still work to be done to improve the reserves position which ideally, we would like to cover at least 3 months of operating costs.

The newly appointed Audit and Risk Committee are now well embedded with Ian Taylor, Jim Alexander, David Abrahams and myself. There is also a current vacancy if anyone is interested in joining the team. The committee with the help of Accountants Finegan Gibson Ltd will be taking on the responsibility of driving forward and delivering the identified financial control improvements that have been highlighted through both the committee and the accountants.

May I take this opportunity to thank all who have assisted me over the last period, in particular our appointed members of the Audit and Risk Committee as well as the representatives of the Management Board and all committees. I would also like to thank all our professional and administrative staff for their valued support and assistance.

Sharon-Louise Mckay



Company registration number: NI059740

## **Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)**

*Financial statements*

*31 March 2023*

## Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

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## Directors and other information

### Directors

DC Seaton MBE (Resigned 30 March 2023)  
IR Taylor  
MWJ Cooke  
KTA Walls  
DJ Abrahams  
SL McKay (Appointed 10 August 2022)  
P Lawther  
DL Marrs  
V McDonough  
J Alexander (Appointed 7th January 2022)  
H Irwin (Appointed 7th June 2023)  
B McDaid (Appointed 15th May 2021)

### Secretary

V McDonough

### Company number

NI059740

### Registered office

Old Coach Road  
Belfast  
BT9 5PR

### Auditor

Finegan Gibson  
Causeway Tower  
9 James Street South Belfast  
BT2 8DN

### Bankers

Danske Bank Limited  
122 Upper Lisburn Road Belfast

### Solicitors

Edwards & Co  
28 Hill Street Belfast  
BT1 2LA

## Directors report Year ended 31 March 2023

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### Directors

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

DC Seaton MBE	(Resigned 30 March 2023)
IR Taylor	
MWJ Cooke	
KTA Walls	
DJ Abrahams	
SL McKay	(Appointed 10 August 2022)
P Lawther	
DL Marrs	
V McDonough	
J Alexander	(Appointed 7th January 2022)
H Irwin	(Appointed 7th June 2023)
B McDaid	(Appointed 15th May 2021)

### Directors responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period.

#### In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Auditor

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

### Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 26 October 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:

**DJ Abrahams**  
Director

**SL McKay**  
Director

## Independent auditor's report to the members of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) Year ended 31 March 2023

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

### In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and the returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

### Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

**In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:**

- “ the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors’ remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- “ results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- “ any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - “ identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - “ detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
  - “ the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- “ the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

**As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. we also:**

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the company’s members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company’s members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Dolan FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of  
Finegan Gibson  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Causeway Tower  
9 James Street South  
Belfast  
BT2 8DN

26 October 2023

	2023	2022
Note	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>	911,922	834,524
Other operating income	16,685	17,705
	<u>928,607</u>	<u>852,229</u>
Staff costs	(389,775)	(357,191)
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible and intangible fixed assets	(5,119)	(5,643)
Other operating expenses	(555,267)	(529,973)
<b>Operating loss</b>	<u>(21,554)</u>	<u>(40,578)</u>
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	<u>(21,554)</u>	<u>(40,578)</u>
Tax on loss	-	-
<b>Loss for the financial year and total comprehensive income</b>	<u><u>(21,554)</u></u>	<u><u>(40,578)</u></u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of financial position  
31 March 2023**

	2023	2022
Note	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	21,636	25,100
	<u>21,636</u>	<u>25,100</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	72,600	180,532
Cash at bank and in hand	78,280	101,913
	<u>150,880</u>	<u>282,445</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(121,316)	(234,791)
<b>Net current assets</b>	29,564	47,654
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>51,200</u>	<u>72,754</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>51,200</u>	<u>72,754</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Profit and loss account	51,200	72,754
<b>Shareholders funds</b>	<u>51,200</u>	<u>72,754</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 26 October 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

DJ Abrahams  
Director

SL McKay  
Director

Company registration number: NI059740

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.



	Profit and loss account	Total
	£	£
<b>At 1 April 2021</b>	113,332	113,332
Loss for the year	(40,578)	(40,578)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u>(40,578)</u>	<u>(40,578)</u>
<b>At 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022</b>	72,754	72,754
Loss for the year	(21,554)	(21,554)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u>(21,554)</u>	<u>(21,554)</u>
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<u>51,200</u>	<u>51,200</u>

### 1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Athletics House, Old Coach Road, Belfast, BT9 5PR.

### 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

### 3. Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer (usually on despatch of the goods); the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity; and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

#### Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively. Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

#### Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

### Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fittings fixtures and equipment - 20% straight line

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

### Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

### Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets or either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

### Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in finance costs in profit or loss in the period in which it arises.

### Share-based payments

Equity-settled share-based payment transactions are measured at fair value at the date of grant. The fair value is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, with a corresponding increase in equity. This is based upon the company's estimate of the shares or share options that will eventually vest which takes into account all vesting conditions and non-market performance conditions, with adjustments being made where new information indicates the number of shares or share options expected to vest differs from previous estimates.

Fair value is determined using an appropriate pricing model. All market conditions and non-vesting conditions are taken into account when estimating the fair value of the shares or share options. As long as all other vesting conditions are satisfied, no adjustment is made irrespective of whether market or non-vesting conditions are met. Where the terms of an equity-settled transaction are modified, an expense is recognised as if the terms had not been modified. In addition, an expense is recognised for any increase in the fair value of the transaction, as measured at the date of modification.

Where an equity-settled transaction is cancelled or settled, it is treated as if it had vested on the date of cancellation or settlement, and any expense not yet recognised in profit or loss is expensed immediately.

Cash-settled share-based payment transactions are measured at the fair value of the liability. Until the liability is settled, the fair value of the liability is re-measured at each reporting date and at the date of settlement, with any changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss for the period.

## 4. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 22 (2022: 25).

	Year ended	Year ended
	2023	2022
	£	£
Coaching and development	256,638	275,443
Business and operational staff costs	133,137	81,748
	<u>389,775</u>	<u>357,191</u>

## 5. Loss before taxation

Loss before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible assets	5,119	5,643
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	4,725	4,500
	<u>9,844</u>	<u>10,143</u>

6. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2022	64,441	64,441
Additions	1,655	1,655
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<u>66,096</u>	<u>66,096</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2022	39,341	39,341
Charge for the year	5,119	5,119
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<u>44,460</u>	<u>44,460</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>		
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<u>21,636</u>	<u>21,636</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>25,100</u>	<u>25,100</u>

7. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	72,600	37,359
Sport NI debtor	-	143,173
	<u>72,600</u>	<u>180,532</u>

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	28,691	77,499
Social security and other taxes	10,059	10,989
Other creditors	82,566	146,303
	<u>121,316</u>	<u>234,791</u>

9. Related parties

**UK Athletics (UKA)**

David Abrahams acts as a Non Executive director of UKA and is also on the audit & risk committee. Paul Lawther is the Athletics NI Member of UKA and sits on the Standards & Ethics Committee.

**Mary Peters Track Ltd (MPT)**

MPT remains a legally unconnected entity and is strictly not a related party. David Abrahams, Paul Lawther and Sharon Louise McKay are directors of MPT. A Management contract exists with ANI and is reflected in the accounts. Athletics NI deliver Athlete and Coach programs on behalf of MPT as well as provide management and HR support. Work continues with Edwards and Co appointed as Solicitors to bring MPT under ANI as a subsidiary

**Athletics Association Ireland**

David Abrahams is a non exec member of the Athletic Association of Ireland Board

10. Conflicts of Interest

An annual conflicts of interest declaration is required of Board and Committee Members. This is supplemented by retaining the need for a declaration of conflicts at each meeting

11. Clubs Coaches & Officials -

All directors are effectively involved in the sport by way of club affiliation, coach or official status. The board is conscious of these potential conflicts but makes every effort to avoid conflicts as they may arise.

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

**Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)****Detailed income statement Year ended 31 March 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>		
Cross country and road running income	68,888	5,046
Cross country and road running sponsorship	10,000	6,000
Track and Field income	23,479	13,025
Sport NI Grant Income	410,385	432,364
Affiliation fee income	8,155	7,952
Management fee income	8,500	30,000
Course Fee Income	75,819	64,981
Les Jone Room Booking	704	-
Registration fee income	122,242	97,942
Permits and deposit fee income	16,991	5,991
Event Management Fees	3,000	-
Grant Income	138,759	171,223
Commonwealth Games Grant	25,000	-
911,922	834,524	-
<b>Gross profit</b>	911,922	834,524
<b>Gross profit percentage</b>	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Overheads</b>		
<b>Distribution costs</b>		
Coach Development Expenses	(4,780)	(4,022)
Squad expenses - general	-	(8,155)
Hospitality	(3,954)	-
Security	(1,494)	-
Event Equipment and Services Hire	(9,760)	(33,276)
Travelling expenses	(127,373)	(129,718)
Support Science/Sports Medicine Services	(13,638)	-
Subsistence	(1,995)	-
Research and Expertise	(8,684)	-
Road Closures	(1,038)	-
Chip Timing	(21,481)	-
Photography	(1,950)	-
Live Stream	(7,928)	-
Sound System	(390)	-
Van Hire	(4,166)	-
Local Transport	(1,936)	-
Medals and Trophies	(9,384)	-
Kit	(2,416)	-
Porta Loos	(1,218)	-
Print/Bibs and Misc	(2,503)	-
Prize Money	(6,925)	(4,835)
Athletic Development Costs	(77,019)	(124,170)
Staff Accomodation	(3,693)	-
Event Costs	(25,144)	(37,463)

**Administrative expenses**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages, salaries and staff costs	(360,575)	(324,685)
Equity-settled share-based payments	-	(1)
Employer's social security contributions	(21,351)	(24,841)
Pension costs	(7,849)	(7,664)
Committees and officials	(1,770)	(8,126)
IAAF, UKA, EAA Costs	(269)	(4,130)
Clothing and medals	(9,525)	(10,897)
Insurance	(11,901)	(11,121)
Promotional Costs	(6,864)	(9,056)
Computer bureau costs	(57,138)	(20,171)
Light and heat	(4,452)	(3,151)
Repairs and maintenance	(330)	(902)
Printing, postage and stationery	(3,151)	(2,589)
Telephone	(4,268)	1
Website and Online Costs	(3,536)	(11,177)
Hire of equipment	(1,210)	(2,614)
Agency Costs	(7,857)	-
Entertaining	(2,343)	(1,135)
Legal and professional	(27,741)	(16,635)
Consultancy fees	-	(32,000)
Outsourced finance fees	(35,905)	(25,078)
Auditors remuneration	(4,725)	(4,500)
Bank charges	(1,288)	(783)
Staff expenses	(20,851)	(20,377)
Currency Charges	(7,537)	-
General expenses	(3,737)	(3,893)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(5,119)	(5,643)
(950,161)	(892,807)	-
<b>Other operating income</b>		
Sundry income	16,685	17,705
16,685	17,705	-
<b>Operating loss</b>	(21,554)	(40,578)
<b>Operating loss percentage</b>	2.4%	4.9%
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	(21,554)	(40,578)

# Tom Reynolds

## Performance Pathway Manager Report

Athletics NI performance programmes, Commonwealth and Podium Potential support athlete-coach pairs from NI to win more medals and perform at major championship events. The Sport NI Medals & More funded programmes have associated targets relating to medals, top 8, 16 and 32 performances at European Championship level and above. In year one of this new cycle specific targets had been set around the World Championships in Budapest: 3-4 athletes qualifying and those athletes achieving one top 8, one top 16 and two top 32 positions. Other international competitions and results can also be considered during performance reviews with Sport NI but only major outdoor Track & Field championships have specific targets set.

### Performance Staff

As Performance Pathway Manager, Tom Reynolds has oversight of the pathway from talent to performance which includes Academy and Performance Programmes, being the key contact for Sport NI Sports Institute (SNISI), management of performance pathway staff and working with the board and committees on policies and logistics for domestic and international representative teams.

Mark Kirk is the Endurance Coordinator and has responsibility for the Endurance Potential Programme, performance management of endurance athlete coach pairs on performance programmes or academy programmes and is the primary contact for endurance representative teams.

### European Cross Country 2022

The 2022 European Cross Country Championships held in Turin; Italy in December 2022 was one of the most successful outings at these annual championships for Northern Ireland athletes who brought home a haul of four medals. Nick Griggs (Mark Kirk) just missed out on individual U20 Gold and led the Irish U20 team to Silver while Grace Carson



(Bill Foster) was 5<sup>th</sup> in the U23 Women's event and made a huge contribution to the GB&NI team securing Gold. Mark Kirk, who had just begun his role as ANI Endurance Coordinator was a team coach for Ireland.

### Individual Medals

Silver- Nick Griggs U20 Men

### Team Medals

Gold- GB & NI U23 Women's Team - Grace Carson & 5<sup>th</sup> overall  
Silver- Irish U20 Men's team - Nick Griggs; Callum Morgan (Mark Kirk)  
Bronze- Irish Senior Women's team Eilish Flanagan & Roisin Flanagan (both Damon Martin); Ann Marie McGlynn (Emmett Dunleavy)



### European Indoor Championships, Istanbul

Northern Ireland had a number of athletes qualify for these championships though standards or the quota system but the single athlete to take up their place was Kate O'Connor (Michael O'Connor) in the Pentathlon. Kate outperformed her ranking in a very high-quality event, that saw two athletes beat the world record, with some strong performances including a PB Shot Put, and finished 9<sup>th</sup> overall, just outside of her Irish Record set in January.



## World Championships, Budapest

Preparation for the Irish and GB & NI teams followed a similar pattern to the NI team's Commonwealth Games preparation a year earlier with a main holding camp in X Bionic Sphere in Slovakia and an endurance camp in St Moritz for those athletes who have proven they prepare best at altitude.

Double major championship silver medallist from 2022 Ciara Mageean once again proved that she and coach Helen Clitheroe have found the optimal preparation to arrive at a championship in her best shape. Ciara prepared at altitude in St. Moritz and travelled to Budapest within 48 hours of her heat. In the final Ciara produced the performance of her life, to break the NI and Irish record in a time of 3:56.61 and secure a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> place. This was the highest global major championship finish by a NI athlete since Mary Peters winning her Olympic Gold in 1972.

Commonwealth Games Heptathlon silver medallist Kate O'Connor once again outperformed her ranking at a major championships producing a personal best 100m Hurdles as well as her second best all time High Jump, 200m and 800m for 13<sup>th</sup> place in a season's best of 6145 points. Also helping to secure the Sport NI target of 3-4 athletes selected for World Champs were two Youth Academy Athletes who gained valuable experience in Budapest. Nick Griggs who ran a respectable 3.40.72 in the 1500m heats and Callum Baird (Ian Neely) who was part of the squad that finishes 6<sup>th</sup> mixed relay, he also ran as part of the team that helped them secure an invite to the event.

## World Mountain Running Championships, Austria

Zak Hanna (Richard Rodgers) finished a credible 27<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships on a particularly tough course in which athletes had to run the final kilometre up a downhill ski course in the Austrian city of Innsbruck.

## Records

In the past year five outdoor and four indoor Northern Ireland records were broken.

Roisin Flanagan bettered her own 5000m record set at the Commonwealth Games last year when running 15:26.32 in California in May. Ciara Mageean broke three of her own NI records this season running the 800m in 1:59.27 in Manchester in May, 4:14.58 for the Mile at the Monaco Diamond league to go an astonishing fifth place on the all-time list and the 1500m in 3:56.61 for her fourth-place finish at the World Championships in Budapest. At the Antrim Coast Half Marathon Hannah Irwin took 36 seconds off Ann Marie McGlynn's record when recording 71.04 in her second race at the distance.

Indoors there were records for Kate O'Connor in the Pentathlon with 4396 in France at the start of 2023, Nick Griggs bettered the indoor 3000m record with 7:54.44 in Manchester, John Kelly (Vesteinn Hafsteinsson) put the shot 19.39m in Finland and Lauren Roy (Adam McMullen) bettered Amy Foster's indoor 200m running 24.00 in Albuquerque.

## Sport NI Athlete Award

Athletics NI had successful applications approved for funding towards living costs in total amounting to £19,000, of the following athletes who are not fully funded by British or Irish world class programmes but are training towards future major championships and games. Roisin Flanagan

- John Kelly
- Lauren Roy
- Olley Swinney
- Grace Carson

Previous award recipients such as Kate O'Connor, Eilish Flanagan, Paul Pollock and Stephen Scullion have achieved Sport NI's aim for this project and progressed onto International Carding.

## Clean Athletics

For the past two years, NGBs throughout the UK have been working towards compliance with the UKAD Assurance Framework which is a series of requirements that have to be met. I am happy to report that Athletics NI were signed off as compliant with the framework in April of this year. I would like to thank David Marrs, Shauna Bratten and Elaine Grant for their hard work and effort in helping to achieve this.

## Retirement of Jason Smyth

Six-time Paralympic gold medallist Jason Smyth decided to hang up his spikes after a golden career that spanned three decades and included four Paralympic Games including Beijing (2008), London (2012), Rio de Janeiro (2016) and Tokyo (2021). The 35-year-old Paralympic and World Champion retires having never lost a competitive Para Athletics event throughout his entire career. I wish him well in his new role as Paralympics Ireland Strategy Manager.



## Talent Development Report

### Nurturing Junior Talent, Aspiring to Senior Success

Athletics NI seek to raise the potential of junior athletes aspiring to achieve senior success. We aim to achieve this through early exposure to the physical preparation and lifestyle planning that facilitates performance training. Through our Academies Athletics NI deliver an athlete, parent and coach focused curriculum aimed at improving physical qualities, sporting knowledge, psychological skills and performance behaviours in young athletes whilst educating parents and coaches on what it takes to perform consistently on the international stage as seniors.



In doing so we believe Northern Ireland will develop a pipeline of junior athletes who will become successful seniors representing Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games and Great Britain or Ireland at major championships.

### Talent Staff

Amy Foster, Academies Manager is responsible for planning and operations of both the Youth Academy and Speed-Power Academy and communications with athletes, coaches and parents. Scott Paulin is the Pathways Coach and delivers Academy sessions at both Jordanstown and Coleraine.

### Academies

The Youth Academy and Speed-Power Academy are vehicles to deliver our junior athlete, parent, and coach curriculum. The Academy program delivery returned for 2022-2023 launching in November and running weekly until August. Along with weekly physical preparation sessions the athletes, parents and coaches received:

- 2 half term camps in October and February
- Injury prevention and Olympic weightlifting workshops
- Competition planning and preparation, goal setting and athlete wellness monitoring
- Championship policies webinar
- Physical Preparation to Support Teenage face to face workshop
- 13-night Erasmus+ Endurance Camp in Portugal

### Youth Academy

The Youth Academy relaunched in October 2023 with 33 athletes in total. In 2023-2024 Academy support will include

- Weekly speed development and strength and conditioning
- Quarterly strength diagnostics
- Integrated Physiotherapy clinics provided by Anna Lawther (Jordanstown) and Stephen Haslam (Coleraine)
- Athlete, parent, and coach education
- Easter Warm Weather training camp for new athletes

### Speed- Power Academy

The Speed-Power Academy, delivered at Ulster University Jordanstown recommenced in October 2023 with 20 athletes from NI & Ulster aged 14-18 years old selected. Speed-Power Academy assists athletes and their coaches with improving physical preparation & performance behaviours. Athletes have the opportunity to sample aspects of the Youth Academy curriculum and access strength and conditioning, speed development, electronic timing, and movement screening. The Speed Power-Academy has previously proven useful in accelerating a number of young athletes towards Youth Academy.

### Junior Performances

2023 saw record breaking performances from junior athletes with Nick Griggs taking four seconds off Brian Treacy's 1500m record from 1990 as well as both of John Doherty's 3000m and 5000m records from a decade earlier. Veronica O'Neill took 0.20 off Anna McCauley's U18 100mH record in May.

### Commonwealth Youth Games 2023

A team of five athletes were selected with Amy Foster as Team Lead and Luke Dinsmore as Team Coach. The team performed very well in hot and humid conditions with all athletes outperforming their rankings. Valuable experience was gained on how to prepare for a championships, how to manage long haul travel and coping with heat and time zone changes.

Results:

Jamie Moffatt (Roger Sexton)	100 <sup>m</sup> 13th overall with a PB 10.85 (0.1)
Lucy Foster (Davy Foster)	150 <sup>0m</sup> 9th overall with 4:35.45
Frank Buchanan (Francis Shaw)	1500 <sup>m</sup> 10th overall with 4:06.41
Toby Thomspson (Roger Sexton)	20 <sup>0m</sup> 9th overall with a PB 21.44 (-0.2)
Anna Gardiner (Peter Morgan)	300 <sup>0m</sup> 5th overall with 9.56.02

### European U20 Championships

2 Northern Ireland Athletes represented Ireland at the European U20 Championships in Jerusalem, Israel in August 2023. Lughaidh Mallon (Jim McKeown) competed in the 1500m heats on the first day of competition and in a slow and tactical 3000m final Nick Griggs made a determined effort to defend his title won in 2021 but was outsprinted in the home straight when taking his second European U20 silver medal of the season.

### European U23 Championships

3 athletes represented Ireland in Espoo Finland. Callum Morgan ran the 5000m finishing in 14th place, Oliver Swinney (Adam McMullen) narrowly missed the semi-finals of the 100m and Callum Baird (Ian Neely) ran the individual 400m and was part of the relay team that reached the final finishing in 8th position and breaking the Irish U23 record.

### European Youth Olympic Festival (U17)

Veronica O'Neill (100mH / Jim O'Neill) running 14.14 in her heat and Oisín McGloin (3000m / Ursula McGloin) finishing 11th overall were selected to represent Ireland at EYOF in Maribor, Slovenia.

### Welsh International

The Welsh U20 International took place in August 2023, held in Cardiff, with 10 athletes selected to represent NI & Ulster.

This was one of the team's best performances at the International with a total of six medals won. Stand out performances and gold medals came from Adrienne Gallen in the hammer, Anna Gardiner in the 3000m and Fintan Dewhurst who obliterated the meeting record in the 400m hurdles. Management was provided by Tom Reynolds and Rosemary Finn.



## Erasmus+ Funding

24 athletes were funded by Erasmus+ to take part in a warm weather training camp in Portugal at Easter 2023. The project was managed by Amy Foster and supported by Athletics NI staff Luke Dinsmore and Mark Kirk. External supporting staff were Thomas Rogan (Sports Science and Strength & Conditioning) and Anna Lawther (Physiotherapy).

Three additional coaches were recruited by open application advertised on Athletics NI website and social media channels.

Educational seminars/workshop delivered on camp included:

- Wellness education and daily hydration and wellness monitoring– Thomas Rogan
- Lactate monitoring and determining training paces – Mark Kirk
- Injury Prevention-Anna Lawther
- Performance Behaviours- Amy Foster
- An introduction to Clean Sport – Amy Foster

Following the camp, the majority of the athletes on the squad set personal bests with final stats being compiled for the final report due in September. This marks the end of the Erasmus + Programme which is now no longer available to countries outside of the EU.

## Mary Peters Trust Funding

The Trust have supported six athletes in 2022 with a total of £6500:

- Nick Griggs
- Callum Morgan
- Finn O'Neill
- Toby Thompson
- Eve Walsh-Dann
- Zak Hanna

The Trust also very kindly supported with Athletics NI's costs towards the Youth Games in Trinidad with a total of £2500 towards kit and travel contributions.

Athletics NI are very appreciated of the ongoing support from Lady Mary and everyone at the Trust.



## Thanks

I would like to thank Athletics NI staff members, programme personal coaches and SNISI service providers who have made the performance programmes stronger over the past year and contributed to the international successes in over the last number of seasons. I would also like to thank the Clubs and Volunteers who are increasingly engaging with Athletics NI programmes and working hard to develop athletes across our sport.

On behalf of the Performance Pathway staff, I would like to thank the hard-working coaches in Northern Ireland who provide year-round expertise and guidance to our inspiring performance athletes and talented young athletes. Thanks also to the parents and guardians of our young athletes who provide transport, encouragement, and daily support. We very much appreciate parents having engaged with us during the past year as we have delivered the Academy curriculum and prepared athletes to travel with teams and on camps.

We would also like to thank Athletics NI staff who support the delivery of Academy programmes and ensure the smooth running of weekly delivery. I would also like to thank physiotherapists Evan Burke, Anna Lawther and Stephen Haslam for their continued support with Academy physiotherapy provision and Academy coaches, Thomas Rogan and Adam McMullen, who have been invaluable in their contribution to Academy programmes. We will continue to support talented young athletes and their coaches across Northern Ireland and thank them for their continued efforts and commitment to fulfilling their talents and representing Northern Ireland with pride.





# Eilish Ward -

## Development Manager Report

### Coach Education and Development

#### Formal Coaching Qualifications

Since the previous AGM report formal coach education qualifications have continued to prove extremely popular both within the Running and Track & Field Pathways. Over the past 12 months, the following coaching qualifications have taken place:

Qualification	No of Courses	No of Participants
Leader in Running Fitness (LiRF):	Total Qualifications: 10	Total Participants: 144
Coach in Running Fitness (CiRF):	Total Qualifications: 1	Total Participants: 15
Coaching Assistant (CA):	Total Qualifications: 4	Total Participants: 51
Athletics Coach (AC):	Total Qualifications: 1	Total Participants: 8

#### Event Group

In Autumn 2023, we are due to offer specific Event Group days through partnership with Welsh & Scottish Athletics in both Endurance and Sprints & Hurdles disciplines. Additional candidates in the Jumps & Throws disciplines are supported through England Athletics.

Over the past year, we have continued to ensure there is a better geographical spread across Northern Ireland (particularly at LiRF and Coaching Assistant level). Throughout the last 10-11 months, courses have been held across Northern Ireland including courses in Enniskillen, Omagh, Magherafelt, Derry/Londonderry, Newry, Belfast and Bangor amongst others. A continued focus on offering localized courses will support increasing the coaching capacity throughout clubs across Northern Ireland.

#### Coaching & Officiating License Transfer

From 1 October 2023, each of the Home Country Athletics Federations (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) will assume responsibility for the licensing of coaches at all levels and officials at levels 1-3 in the UK. From 1 October 2023, coaches at all levels and officials at levels 1-3 will be licensed to their respective HCAF rather than UK Athletics. Over the past 9 months in particular, we have been working to ensure a smooth transfer from UKA licensing to ANI licensing including the following:

- Update to both Coach & Officials Licensing Terms & Conditions to represent the move from UKA to ANI.
- Update to both the Coach & Officials Code of Conduct to represent the move from UKA to ANI.
- Continued representation on both the UK Wide Coach Education Management Group and Officiating Management Group to ensure ongoing collaborative working with both UKA and the other HCAF's.
- Updated working agreements with both UKA and England Athletics to represent the new relationships and ownership around coach & official licensing.
- Ongoing communication with coaches, officials and the wider community around the changes and to support the relicensing of coaches & officials to ANI come October 1st.

## Coach Development and CPD

Over the past 11 months, non-formal coach education has continued to grow to support coaches (& the wider community) to develop their knowledge, skills and expertise both technically and tactically within the sport but also support other psychosocial knowledge. During this time, highlights have included:

- The annual Teachers CPD Day ran in March 2023 with 30 attendees.
- Specific Run NI workshops to support the recreational running community in areas such as nutrition and psychology with over 80 attendees across 4 face-to-face workshops.
- The successful Coach CPD webinar series held February-March 2023 which featured industry leaders and experts including Dr Sharon Madigan (Fuelling for Performance), Emmett Dunleavy (Transitions in Endurance) and Dr. Gareth Sandford (Anaerobic Speed Reserve and Threshold Training). Over 570 individuals registered for these webinars highlighting the appetite for access to best practice within coaching. Additional workshops and webinars were held throughout the year in areas such as physical preparation, Athletics 365 and delivering a successful Couch 2 5K programme to support coaches across the whole pathway.

## Other Coach Education & Development Updates

- Tier 2 Safeguarding Training for all coaches & officials through UKA launched in January 2023.
- All relicensing coaches & officials from April 2023 are due to complete the newly introduced mandatory module (including Safeguarding & First Aid).
- Updated guidance for Coaches & Leaders in October 2022.

## Officials Education & Development

As outlined in the Coach Education & Development section, several changes to the area of Officiating have taken place in the past year including updating licensing terms & conditions, mandatory training modules and codes of conduct. Additionally, several development opportunities have taken place to support qualifying new Officials and developing existing Officials.

### Formal Officials Education

In March 2023, 2 Level 1 Officials courses took place: Level 1 Track Official & Level 1 Field Official. During this, 17 trainees took their first steps into officiating ahead of the outdoor Track & Field season in Summer 2023.

## Non-Formal Officials Development

Ongoing Communities of Practice sessions for Officials have taken place through Winter 2022 and Spring 2023 seeking to upskill and refresh knowledge across various areas of officiating. These sessions have been run as a collaborative project across the 4 HCAF's.

## Club Development & Governance

### Club Self-Assessment Tool

Athletics NI launched the Club Self-Assessment Tool mid-2021 to support clubs in relation to various topics of club development & governance. The tool focuses on 7 main areas critical to club development: governance & planning; financial management; club operations; marketing & communications; facilities & equipment; coaches & officials and athlete development and is free to all Athletics NI registered clubs. Throughout the past year, 16 clubs have utilized the tool with ongoing communication & discussions with clubs through face-to-face meetings actively encouraging further usage of the tool through Northern Ireland.

### Club Education Workshops & General Support

Over the past year, various face-to-face and online open and closed workshops to support clubs in their development have taken place. The focus for these workshops has included areas such as funding through partnerships with Sported and Belfast City Council, business planning and general club development. During this time, over 20 clubs have directly benefited from these workshops with over 80 participants in attendance. Additionally, over 25 clubs have been directly visited or supported throughout the year in their development.

## Fundamental & Foundational Programmes

Over the past year, various programmes have run to support children aged 8-15 years old to become involved within Athletics. Our after-school Panthers programme has continued to run at Mary Peters Track during this period with a new programme also launched in Hillsborough. Over 110 children have participated in these programmes gaining an experience of run, jump and throwing disciplines.

The ever-popular Startrack camp programme has continued to provide seasonal opportunities both through NGB led programmes and club partnership programmes during key periods including Halloween, Easter and Summer. Athletics NI led programmes at Mary Peters Track and Mid-Ulster Arena have allowed for over 300 participation opportunities for children across Northern Ireland. Additionally, in the Summer of 2023, both Newcastle AC and Keep Er Lit have been supported with their junior summer camp opportunities with over 80 children accessing these.

For Rising Stars, Summer 2023 represented an opportunity to recruit new coaches to lead on programmes due to launch in Autumn 2023 in both Belfast and Magherafelt. This relaunched Rising Stars model will allow opportunities for around 60 children to ongoingly participate in the programme.

Throughout the year, further participation opportunities through partnerships with Better (Belfast Leisure Centres) and Ards and North Down Council have allowed children across these areas to get a taste for athletics and experience run, jump and throw.



## Running Participation

### Run NI

Our running participation arm, Run NI continues to support grassroots running groups and run leaders across Northern Ireland. In May 2023, we said goodbye to long-standing Athletics NI member of staff, Paula Wallace (Running Participation Coach East). Throughout the past year, Run NI has continued to support the development of running participation across Northern Ireland through various programmes:

- Couch 2 5K Mentoring Programme: 8 LiRF's mentored in Jan-Mar 2023 programmes across Irvinestown, Magherafelt, Cookstown, Glenravel, Belfast & Antrim with over 100 participants completing these programmes.
- Partnerships with Local Councils & Trusts: Throughout the last year with the Northern Trust, Belfast Trust, Southern Trust & Western Trust to support C25K delivery & LiRF programmes. 7 Virtual C25Ks held this year with over 150 participants. Additionally Western Trust and Southern Trust both supported to run closed LiRF courses. Couch 2 5K programmes and Family Couch to 3K programmes supported in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council.
- Flying Coach Visits: Multiple Run NI groups and Athletics NI clubs visited regularly to support with recreational running development.

### The Daily Mile

Over the past year, work has been undertaken to formalise the partnership between The Daily Mile and Athletics NI with resource secured to specifically develop The Daily Mile participation across NI. During this period, Athletics NI has continued to support key projects within The Daily Mile such as the annual Santa Run and World Daily Mile Day. Athletics NI continues to work closely as part of The Daily Mile Network NI to promote and develop The Daily Mile locally within Northern Ireland.

### Parkrun

During the past year, Athletics NI has worked closely with a number of local councils and Parkrun to support the development of new Junior Parkruns and Parkruns across Northern Ireland. Through supporting with securing start-up funding for projects across NI and creating club-Parkrun links, this represents a positive introduction to running for many in the sport as we try to grow and increase regular participation to club links.

## Safeguarding & Welfare

Since October 2022, Athletics NI has continued to work both independently and with other Safeguarding partners such as UKA and the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) to uphold high standards of welfare and safeguarding in the sport. During this time, key projects and actions have included:

- Launch of the new online Tier 2 Training for coaches, officials and wider club officers in early 2023 through UKA.
- Completion of the annual CPSU audit in early November 2022 with an annual action plan produced and implemented in early 2023.
- Launch of a new board reporting mechanism linked to the annual action plan launched in 2023.
- Club & community friendly templates launched to promote the Welfare Officer role and correct reporting procedures.
- Online community sessions in early 2023 to raise awareness of safeguarding procedures and how to report potential concerns and cases effectively.

## Ongoing Work with Sport NI

In Spring 2023, significant work was taken alongside the Senior Management Team to submit funding applications to Sport NI to secure funding for future projects and posts within Athletics NI.

As part of the ongoing work within the Club Environment space, we regularly report to Sport NI on our current project progress to date in areas such as club development, coach education and development, running participation and foundational programmes. We also report on current figures within the sport such as coaches, officials, clubs, and participants as well as aiming to support key cornerstones such as providing a duty of care, supporting mental health & wellbeing, driving connection in rural areas and inclusion.

## Thanks

A sincere thank you also to the Athletics NI staff, both past and present, with particular thanks to Declan, Luke, Paula, Patricia, and Allister for their work in the Development area over the past year as well as my colleagues across the organisation for their collaboration and support.

A genuine thanks to all those involved at grassroots level in the sport including coaches, athletes and officials and volunteers for their ongoing dedication and participation.





# Shauna Bratten.

## Events, Marketing & Communications Report

The Events & Marketing Department have been delighted to have two new staff members on board since the previous AGM. While there have been some changes over the past several months, we now have 3 full time members of staff working in the department, which will help to reduce the pressures mentioned in the previous report.

Other changes since the last AGM have been the removal of all COVID-19 measures, allowing events to return to their normal state of play. We have since a continual increase in the numbers returning to the sport, across the permitted events, with road racing still yet to fully recover to the numbers pre-2020.

Below I give an overview of the year covering some of the work within the department:

### Club Affiliation & Registrations

For the 2022–2023 registration year, Athletics NI had 99 affiliated clubs, with a membership of 7,807, of which 1,203 were Junior athletes and 6,604 were Senior athletes. The three biggest clubs for the 2021-2022 year were North Down AC, North Belfast Harriers and Jog Lisburn. We would like to welcome, St Michael’s College and the Carryduff Running Club who have both affiliated in the past year.

In 2022, Athletics NI have moved to a new membership and online entry system, with OpenTrack. While we have now overcome the initial teething issues, we continue to work closely with OpenTrack to continue developing system to ensure that it will continue to serve the athletics community.

### Permits

As the national governing body, we administer the permits for all events across Northern Ireland, in road races, cross country, mountain running and track and field, as well as providing assistance and support for event organisers.

Below shows details of the Permits issued from 2017- 2023

Cross Country		Mountain Running	Road Races		Track & Field	
16-17	27		16-17	324	2017	7
17-18	19		17-18	258	2018	13
18-19	32		18-19	315	2019	15
19-20	26		19-20	137	2020	16
20-21	14	15	20-21	102	2021	19
21-22	25	22	21-22	134	2022	22
22-23	26	15	22-23	132	2023	23

## Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

We continue to work with UKA, the Home Country Federations, in all aspects of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work, including project work to address the regulations around the Transgender participation following the statement from World Athletics.

## Events

Below I will give an overview of each of the events:

### Flahavan's Primary Schools Cross Country League 2022-2023 October 2022- March 2023

For 2022-2023, the Flahavan's Porridge sponsored League, aimed at children aged 8-11 years old, returned to its original format of 3 rounds and a final, despite being badly affected by the snow and ice, giving children more opportunities to participate and a more chance at qualification for the final. Following the COVID-19 restrictions of the previous two years, the League went back to being in six different areas, with over 400 schools and just over 4000 children taking part. The League is the biggest participation event that Athletics NI hosts, and is one of the widest reaching, geographically, with children from across Northern Ireland taking part.

The top 20 girls and boys from the Final are invited to join the Flahavan's Endurance Squad, which meets 6 times per year, led by Coach Paula Wallace. I am extremely pleased to continue to work with Flahavan's Porridge and have their ongoing support for the League, as this event would not happen without them. I would also like to thank the clubs and individual volunteers who assist with Flahavan's each year.

### Post Primary Schools Cross Country- 23rd November 2022

Athletics NI were delighted to support the Post Primary Schools Cross Country event, hosted by Athletics NI affiliated clubs in the Belfast area.

### UUJ Indoor Meets- January 2023

Athletics NI hosted the annual Sprints & Hurdles Meet on Saturday 7th January at Ulster University, Jordanstown, and the Jumps & Throws Meet on Saturday 14th January 2023, with over 240 entries across the two competitions. The entries for these competitions steadily increased until 2021, due to COVID-19. We have seen a good response to the return to competition for the UUJ Indoor events, and these will hopefully continue to increase in numbers over the coming years.

### NI & Ulster Intermediate & Masters Cross Country- Sunday 21st January 2023

Hosted by UAC and Inishowen AC, with support from Athletics NI, the event unfortunately had to be postponed due to the bad weather and despite good entries, did not have a great turnout. The NI & Ulster Intermediate Women for 2023 were Finn Valley AC, and the Men's Champions were Annadale Striders AC. For the Masters Men, North Belfast Harriers took the title, with Finn Valley AC picking up the Women's.

### NI & Ulster Senior Cross Country Championships- Sunday 26th February 2023

Hosted at the Billy Neill MBE Country Park, with support from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. With over 300 athletes taking part in the Championships, which also marks the last event in the XC league, St Peters AC took the Women's title, with North Belfast Harriers taking the Men's.

### NI & Ulster Indoor Age Group Championships- Saturday 11th & 12th March 2023

Hosted at the TUS, Athlone, the event had over 500 athletes taking part in a range of events, supported by over 30 officials from both Athletics NI and the Ulster Athletics Council. Unfortunately, due to timetable constraints we were not able to host any Senior events, which we've tried to do in the past, to give our Senior athletes opportunity at competition ahead of the All-Ireland Championships. Significant work by the Events team, TF Committee and UAC was put in to ensure that this competition went ahead and I would like to thank all those who supported both during the weekend and in the previous 6-7 months of organisation.

### Titanic 10k- Sunday 2nd April 2023

The annual Titanic 10k had over 1000 entries for 2023, the largest to date around the Harbour Estate, Belfast. Unfortunately, the event was not at the standard expected and subsequent internal investigations have happened to ensure that this event runs smoothly in the future. It has been agreed to review and refresh the 2024 edition, in order to revise the event and implement the required changes.

### Team Trophy- Sunday 7th May 2023

The annual Team Trophy, last held in 2019 (pre-covid) returned for 2023 as a one day event, open to all competitors. City of Derry Spartans picked up the Men's prize, with Lagan Valley AC winning the Women's prize in a very tight competition. We would like to thank all of the clubs who competed and supported this event.

### Ulster Schools TF Championships- Friday 19th & Saturday 20th May 2023

Athletics NI were once again delighted to support the Ulster Schools Association, having a presence at the Ulster Schools Championships across both days at Antrim Forum to distributing free entries into the NI & Ulster Age Group Championships to encourage school athletes to continue their athletics journey.

### ANI Open Meet- Saturday 24th May 2023

Held at the Mary Peters Track, forming part of the competition strategy to provide shorter format event opportunities. The event hosted 100m Hurdles, 200m, 800m, Hammer, Triple Jump, Javelin and Shot Put for Senior athletes, with selected competition opportunities for U18's wishing to gain qualification standards.

### NI & Ulster Children's Games & U12-U13 Championships- Sunday 4th June 2023

The annual event, hosted by UAC, provided younger athletes the opportunity to compete and also hosted the Championship events for those in the U12 and U13 age groups.



### NI & Ulster U14-U20 Age Group Championships- Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th June 2023

The annual Age Group Championships took place across two days at the Mary Peters Track, with over 600 athletes taking part, supported by over 35 officials. Athletes from each age group qualify through to the All Ireland Championships later in the year.

### NI & Ulster Senior Championships- Friday 16th & Saturday 17th June 2023

The annual Senior Championships took place at the Mary Peters Track, with the 2023 events incorporating the 10,000m Championships on the Friday evening. As in previous years, the entries unfortunately did not reflect attendance, with a lot of no-shows. Just over 100 athletes took part, with over 3,700 people watching the event via the live stream coverage, provided by East Down AC Youtube.

### NI & Ulster Combined Event Championships- Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd July 2023

The NI & Ulster Combined Event Championships were held at an earlier time in the year for 2023, at the Mary Peters Track. Unfortunately, numbers for the event were not high, with only 50 entries. It was a great two day competition for those who did compete, including visitors from New Zealand and Portugal, and I would like to thank those athletes for their support.

### British Milers Meet- Wednesday 19th July 2023

Athletics NI were delighted to co-host the British Milers Meet at the Mary Peters Track, which marked the first time in over a decade that the event had taken place in Northern Ireland. The event was a great success, with athletes taking part in paced events as part of the British Milers normal timetable, and additional events hosted by Athletics NI. I would like to thank Mark Kirk and John Glover for all their work and dedication to make this event a success.

### Marketing & Communication

The Athletics NI marketing channels span, two websites, 9 Facebook pages, 3 Instagram pages, 2 Twitter accounts, 1 Threads, 1 Tiktok as well as email marketing. With the increased resources in terms of staffing within the department, we have now been able to continue more consistent messaging across our channels and email marketing.

Athletics NI continues to work with press and media, online, as well as print and broadcast media to ensure athletics profile built across future years.

Based on experience of some news stories not being picked up, staff have made a conscious decision to be more selective around what is shared in the hope that this will gain more traction. This remains an areas of development going forwards.

### Website & Email

Overall visits to the Athletics NI website continue to grow, with regular updates to the Fixtures, Results and the Upcoming Courses pages. We have also introduced an Officials Education section, in line with the transition of Officials & Coach Education from UKA to the Home Countries.

The Athletics NI website is an important asset as the organisation's main digital location, alongside our various social media channels, which drive traffic towards it.

### Social Media

Throughout 2022 the messaging on our social channels has moved away from the covid messaging of 2020 and 2021, towards more regular updates on events, courses and programmes. The social channels continue to grow their following and our main Athletics NI Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites allow us to interact with a wider selection of the athletics community.

### Thanks

I would sincerely like to thank the XC & RR Committee, Track & Field Committee, Officials and the Mary Peters Track staff for their continued support throughout the year. Their support is invaluable. I would like to thank the Events team, of Anna, Kristen and Isaac, who have all joined over the past year, and while we have since lost Anna, her contribution during her short time was greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank all those from the wider team who help support, particularly at larger scale events, such as Flahavan's, and the track & field Championships to ensure smooth delivery.

I would also like to thank Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Flahavan's Porridge for their ongoing support of the Athletics NI events.





# Andrew Hutchinson



## Mary Peters Track Facilities Manager

The Mary Peters Track continues to develop year on year delivering high quality events as well as attracting new participants to the world of athletics. We are most recognised for being a high-level sporting venue as well as being a safe space for clubs and schools to train, which allows athletes to develop both physically and mentally. The range of events from elite competitions to school events, corporate events as well as health and wellbeing initiatives highlights the level of service the track and its staff provide.

### Schools/ Sports Days

The track saw a significant increase in school usage in 2022. From COVID and the reopening of schools and sporting events we have seen a steady increase in events across the board with a noticeable increase for 2023, especially with schools in the surrounding communities. We hosted 32 school sports days in May/June as well as over 40 schools training sessions. We have developed great relationships with schools over the years and continue to attract new schools here to the Mary Peters Track. It is great to see so many young athletes using the facility for their sports days but more importantly schools are using the track more frequently for training and school games. This has helped attract more interest in the sport for young people and get them into local clubs so they can develop in athletics.

There were over 10,000 students that visited the track in the month of June alone. Most of whom would never have competed on athletics track before, so it was great to see such large numbers of participants through new and returning schools.

### Staffing

The season was tough for all involved, we were left short staffed for the start of the new season. I feel staff coped very well with the increased workload and pressure, delivering events/competitions successfully throughout the season. I was enormously proud of how well we worked as a team and supported each other through a remarkably busy calendar. We are in a good place now moving forward with the help of ANI we have recruited well and are in a better position.

### Corporate Events

We saw an increase in corporate events and their desire to use athletics as a team building exercise. The Mary's Peters Trust corporate event was held with even bigger numbers this year and they plan to add an extra date for next year due to its success. Mary continues to be an influential presence at the track, making numerous appearances at events and engaging with young athletes and coaches alike. Other high-profile companies such as Fibrus and PWC have also used the track for their own corporate events.

### Overall usage

Across the board the track has seen increased usage from all age groups but most noticeably in age groups between 12-16. This is due to more schools using the track for training as well as increased attendances to club competitions. Since COVID there has been a steady increase in the 60+ category becoming more conscious of their health and ways to improve their physical and mental wellbeing with participants also using the track if they are recovering from a fall or just want a safe flat space to exercise.

## Competitions

Over the course of the season the track hosted 36 competitions. These included club events, ANI championships, elite races as well as numerous school competitions. The season was kicked off by hosting the Belfast Irish Milers which attracted international athletes and drew massive crowds of spectators. We also held the NI and Ulster Senior Championships, Age Group Championships, and combined events as well as a remarkably successful Masters championship.

Lagan Valley AC once again set the bar when it comes to club events holding their rounds of Fab FIVE competitions which were an enormous success. They broke entry records continually with nearly 500 entries on numerous occasions. These events were a great chance for younger athletes to showcase their talent and gain experience in a competitive environment.

We hosted District A schools, one of the biggest districts in terms of entries over 3 separate days of competition as well as the Ulster School Multi Events and numerous Inter School events.

## Maintenance

Prior to the season commencing staff installed a new safety fence which runs along the side of the infield area. This was to improve the existing chain link which prevents people from walking across the infield when there are throws taking place.

We have run into a few issues over the course of the season surrounding the hammer and discus cages.

Trackmark assessment carried out prior to the season starting found that the sectors for the discus circles were deemed to be too close to the track under new guidelines. The work on this discus cage has started with the Team working closely with Belfast City Council, UKA & Sport & Play to reposition the cage to meet current Track Mark standards. The cables on the hammer cage has been repaired by Belfast City Council to allow events to take place and this partnership has improved allowing us to be more reactive to developing issues. Future maintenance is planned on the existing hammer cage to prevent further damage to the cage and disruption to events. There are ongoing discussions around the cladding on the stadium and the need for enhanced storage with various council representatives and we hope to have these primary areas of concern rectified soon. However, the track staff have done a brilliant job in carrying out the daily maintenance that needs to take place to ensure the safety and satisfaction of the patrons that use the facility. Without the help of the council park workers and the track staff there would not have been any events held here at the track, so I am immensely proud of how we worked throughout the year.

## Future

There are advanced discussions between Athletics NI Management and Belfast City Council Management regarding the future of the Mary Peters Track contract with a willingness on both sides to create a more fit for purpose management model moving forwards. This important project will safeguard the future of the track and begin to rectify some areas of concern around investment in the facility and equipment. These important discussions will ensure we can continue to host elite, club & school competitions and events with reliable and high-quality equipment in the future.





# Track & Field Committee

The Track and Field Committee is mostly comprised of volunteers from officiating, coaching and club representatives, supported by staff members and the aim of the committee is to deliver high quality competition to athletes of all ages and abilities. The 2023 season was no exception.

Over the year there were a few committee members who stepped down from committee for work and personal reasons – our sincere thanks is given to Alan Kennedy, Liz Glover, Wendy Phillips and Paddy McGrattan for their work and valued contributions over the time they served.

This season presented great competition that was provided both by ANI but also other providers. The Belfast Irish Milers meet continues to grow; the Fab 5 Lagan Valley series of fixtures over the season were attended by many 100s of competitors across all the ages and abilities and the British Milers Club event had a very successful return to Northern Ireland after a decade.

The Northern Ireland and Ulster Age Group Championships at the Mary Peters Track were well attended, however it is disappointing to note that the Northern Ireland and Ulster Senior Championships were very poorly attended. Entries had suggested better numbers than had turned up on the day. The timetable; which is an extensive piece of work for staff and committee members; is planned around the entry numbers. Unfortunately, there were times during the fixture that could've been planned differently. The combined events clashed with another competition so numbers were down on the previous year.

The committee also supports and advises on areas concerning facilities and officials.

## FACILITIES

The primary focus of the committee has continued to be supporting the roll-out of the UK Athletics 'TrackMark' scheme in Northern Ireland. TrackMark is a very structured process for the review and approval of tracks to hold competitions, comprising of six modules. During 2022 Antrim Forum and Bangor both undertook module 2 (Field Event module). Unfortunately neither was successful, the problem being the new specification for hammer cages. In July 2023 a complete track refurbishment commenced at the Antrim Forum and this incorporated the findings from their TrackMark audit. The new track (plus new field event run-ups and a new throwing cage) should be completed shortly after which Antrim Council must get the TrackMark auditors in to approve the new facility for competition beginning with the Ulster Schools in May 2024.

Discussions continue between Ards and North Down Council and UKA in relation to implementing improvements at the Ballykillaire Track in Bangor. The Facilities Committee has no direct input into these conversations and are not aware of the current status.

Unfortunately the Mary Peters Track failed their Level 2 TrackMark renewal carried out in March 2023 – the issue highlighted again being throwing cages and specifically the Mike Fulton Cage. Work continues between the ANI team and UKA Facilities group to develop a solution.

It is essential that MPT must get TrackMark Level 2 renewed. As a part of this, a comprehensive list of track equipment requiring repair / replacing has been drawn up by Facilities Manager Andrew Hutchinson and his team are tracking this closely to ensure everything is ready in time to meet the TrackMark renewal date.



In 2022 the committee prepared a series of discussion documents for the Track and Field Committee relating to a range of options for a second indoor track / competition venue. Whilst no progress has been made in advancing this initiative during 2023 we hope to re-energise the project next year. Whilst a number of options look promising it looks like the only likely route to securing a facility is via a joint bid to Sport NI in partnership with a number of other smaller sports. The reality is that the 'big' sports (Football, GAA and Rugby) have a near monopoly on facilities funding.

Finally, a stalwart of our committee Wendy Philips decided to leave her position as Mary Peters Track Manager. Wendy had an almost encyclopaedia like level of knowledge about all things facility related and the committee is already really missing her inputs. We wish Wendy every success in the future.

#### OFFICIALS

This year witnessed the sad passing of Roy Stevenson, our longest serving official. Stevie had been a very supportive and enthusiastic timekeeper for Athletics Northern Ireland and UK Athletics for 70 years; he retired last year at the age of 90. Stevie was a legend; he is very sadly missed.

The Competition Technical Sub Group provides feedback and recommendations to the Track and Field Committee. Our aim is to help deliver high quality competitions for all levels of athletes in Northern Ireland.



#### This year our duties have included:

- Deploying officials to local competitions and making local referee and chief appointments.
- Managing UKA selections.
- Approving progression of officials through the pathway.
- Communicating to officials all rule changes from UKA, AAI and IAAF.
- Providing help and advice on planning timetables and formats for competitions.
- Providing a safe and welcoming environment for officials at competitions.
- Monitoring officials' development.
- Monitoring feedback from athletes and officials following competition.

**This year was another busy season for ANI officials of all levels. Locally we provided officials for all ANI indoor and outdoor competitions. ANI organised 13 competitions, slightly less than the 17 held last year. ANI officials also officiated at another 16 meetings organised by different providers and clubs, included:**

- Annadale Striders Night of 3000s
- Belfast Irish Milers Meet
- NI Club League (3 meetings)
- Lagan Valley AC Fab 5 Meets (5 meetings)
- Daphne Hamill Memorial Track and Field Meeting
- NI Masters Track and Field Championships
- NI Masters Cross Country Championships
- North Belfast Harriers Afternoon of 5000s
- Ulster Schools Track and Field Championships
- British Milers Meet and ANI Invitation Event

Volunteers from all these clubs and organisations worked hard to help the officials and we thank them and also encourage them to register for an Officials Course and support their club by joining our team of qualified personnel.

Thank you to all our officials who attended these competitions. Your commitment to athletics helps athletes, of all standards, achieve the best performance possible and enjoy the experience of fair competition.

Congratulations to ANI officials who were selected to officiate at UKA meetings in 2023. We had several representatives at both of the UKA indoor competitions in Birmingham in February.

At the World Athletics Tour we had three representatives. Two ANI officials had top appointments, Ian Atkinson was appointed as Track Referee and Pam Brown was the Call Room Referee.

At the British Indoor Championships, in which three ANI officials attended, with another top job for Joy Alexander who was Chair of the Jury of Appeal. ANI was also well represented at UKA outdoor competitions. The Diamond League in London, where Joy Alexander was the Meeting Manager. The UKA Championships in Manchester in July, Ian Atkinson was again appointed Track Referee.

Two officials training courses took place in March. Seven people attended a Track Judges Course. Six of these are now qualified Level 1 Track Officials and have regularly officiated at competitions this year. Ten people attended the Field Judges Course and seven of them have now completed all the required experiences to become qualified. We also have new trainee officials in the disciplines of photo finish and starting. They are completing practical experiences and hope to be qualified next season.

Congratulations to all our new officials who have made such a valuable contribution to competitions this season. Also well done to officials who have been upgraded during the season, including David Marrs who has successfully completed the requirements to become a Level 4 Photo Finish Judge.

Officials are a vital part of our sport, so thank you to all ANI officials for providing the opportunities for high quality competitions, without your dedication and skill there would be no competitions. As always your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Also many thanks to all committee members who give freely of their time to ensure the season was delivered to the high standard our athletes deserve. We look forward to another great season in 2024.

**Barbara Scott**  
Track and Field Committee Secretary



# Cross Country and Road Running Committee

## Cross Country

The full range of Cross Country Championship events were held over 4 different days as the season progressed as follows:

- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 – NI & Ulster Even Age Group Championship & Bobby Rea International at Billy Neill Country Park, Dundonald
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - NI & Ulster Uneven Age Group & Novice Championship at Finn Valley Centre, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 - NI & Ulster Intermediate & Masters Championships at Carndonagh, Co. Donegal.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – NI & Ulster Senior Championships at Billy Neill MBE Country Park.

Unfortunately, the Intermediate & Masters event had to be postponed at short notice for a week owing to the very poor weather at the time causing extensive flooding at the venue. This meant that when the event was subsequently held numbers participating were significantly down on what had been expected. The other 3 days were very successful with pleasing numbers of participants taking part across all the categories.

The Cross Country League also took place incorporating 9 cross country events with a spread throughout the season starting in late September and finishing in late February. Events were spread geographically throughout the province. Once again it proved to be very successful and has been shown to be a major driver of adult participation in Cross Country running.

The Bobby Rea International was held in conjunction with the NI & Ulster Even Age Group Championships at Billy Neill MBE Country Park. At the time of writing, we are planning for the 2023 International, hopefully with an enhanced international element to the participants.



## Road

The full range of road championships were held over 5 days. As has been the case for a number of years all Road Race Championships were held in conjunction with other events and we are grateful to the various promoting bodies for their help and co-operation in this respect. The events were as follows:

- 5k – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at UU Coleraine (event promoted by Ryan Galway)
- 10k – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at Bangor 10k (event promoted by North Down A.C.)
- Half Marathon – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Waterside Half marathon (event promoted by Derry and Strabane Council)
- Marathon – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at Belfast City Marathon (event promoted by Belfast City Marathon Ltd)
- Road Relay – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Victoria Park relays (event promoted by Victoria Park and Connswater A.C.)

Athletics NI also promoted the Titanic 10k in April. This event proved to be somewhat problematic in a number of respects and a full appraisal is being undertaken to decide if the event should continue.

**There were also a number of very successful international road events organised by promoters independent of, but fully supported by, ANI. These included:**

- Armagh International Road Races on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Belfast City Marathon on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April
- Antrim Coast Half Marathon on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

However, road racing generally is facing several important challenges over the coming year or so. Despite extensive feedback from interested clubs and individuals it looks as though the controversial road closure legislation is being implemented with only minor changes. If fully implemented this legislation will have significant impact of race organisers particularly of smaller events held entirely or partially on public roads. Costs of the required traffic management measures, which under the legislation can only be undertaken by fully qualified and accredited bodies have the potential of making small events (of under, say, 1,000 runners) unviable. In addition, there is some disturbing talk of the PSNI imposing charges for the provision of police personnel at events. Again, this would only add to the financial burden placed on promoters. There have been discussions regarding ANI organising its own accreditation scheme for stewards and marshals but this has awaited confirmation that this scheme is entirely necessary and to what extent. This is something for the committee to take forward as quickly as possible with support from the board and senior staff.

John Allen

# Northern Ireland Masters Athletics Association

The start of the season finally saw the lifting of restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, allowing a more relaxed approach to sporting competitions.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, NIMAA held our annual Track and Field Championships at Mary Peters Track. The turnout of masters athletes was impressive demonstrating both the return to a full competition year and the demand from masters athletes seeking competition. It has been an ongoing feature of the championship that NIMAA is always well supported by members of Irish Masters Athletics. NIMAA is grateful to all the athletes, volunteers and officials who came along and made it such a success.

Our venue for the Cross-Country Closed Championships and International Trial was, as in recent years, Queens Playing Fields at the Dub. There were some very good performances and based partially, but not completely, on results, teams were selected for the 2023 international.

Santry Demesne, North Dublin was the venue for the Master's International cross-country on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It was a welcome return to competition with the event having been twice postponed due to Covid restrictions. The last time the five nations met was at Southport in 2019. Despite being the smallest of the five nations competing NI Masters produced some splendid team and individual results. Elisoa Crawford won silver in the W50 category with Deborah Rushman winning bronze in the W55. The evergreen Brigid Quinn won silver in the W75 age group. For Steven McAlary and John Craig it was gold and silver respectively in the M35 category which set the M35 team up for a team gold. There was team bronze in the M45 age group and another bronze for the M60 team. The M70 team went one better, winning silver and in the M75 Gerry Lynch won an individual silver.

Our membership in the season past was 251 indicative of significant ongoing interest in master's athletics.

Finally, I thank all our office bearers and committee members for the hard work, commitment and support. The next eighteen months will require renewed effort by everyone as the Cross-Country International will return to our shores in 2024 after a gap of seven years since the highly successful event held in Derry/Londonderry in November in 2017.

Ann Maguire



# Northern Ireland Mountain Running Association

The overall winners of the nine-race NIMRA Championship were Adam Cunningham (Mourne Runners) and Esther Dickson (Newry AC). Second place in the Championship was filled by Joshua McAtee with Jonny Steede in 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the women's category Bernadette O'Kane was second with Alexa James third. Category winners were M40 Jonny Steede, M45 James Lappin, M50 Clive Bailey, M55 Stephen Hoey, M60 Colin Brennan and M70 Ricky Cowan. In the women's category winners were F40 Ciara Coffey, F45 Ruth Aiken, F50 Amanda Perry, F55 Aine McNeill. Overall, 12 women and 36 men completed the championships.

## Mourne Marauder British Championship Race 25<sup>th</sup> March 16km 1200 m

NIMRA hosted this event as the first of the British Championship races. There were 214 finishers on a humid misty day with conditions very wet underfoot. William Cartwright (Matlock Athletic Club) was first man and Nicola Jackson (Keswick AC) first woman. First local runner was Jarad Martin (Ballydrain Harriers) who came in 24<sup>th</sup> overall, with Jonny Steede in 38<sup>th</sup>. Esther Dickson (Newry AC) had a great result for local women coming in 8<sup>th</sup> in the women's category followed by Martsje Hell (North Belfast Harriers).

## Inter Counties – 7<sup>th</sup> May, Sedburgh, Cumbria

The Inter-Counties race involved a 14km course with 760m climb and descent on grassy fast slopes. Jared Martin was first NI man home in an impressive 21<sup>st</sup> overall and third U23 followed by Joshua McAtee 34<sup>th</sup>, Jack McKenna 35<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Tees 38<sup>th</sup> and John Marrs 57<sup>th</sup>. The team came 9<sup>th</sup> of 20 teams. In the women's section Aine Gosling came 17<sup>th</sup>, Martsje Hell 31<sup>st</sup>, Ciara Coffey 33<sup>rd</sup> and Bernadette O'Kane 48<sup>th</sup> and finished as the 8<sup>th</sup> team overall from 17 teams.



## Mourne Mountain Challenges

Ten people have run the Denis Rankin Round (DRR) this year including three women. Carol Morgan, Irish, but living in the Lake District, set a new woman's record of 16:17:04. There have been no completions of Cassie's Challenge for 2023. Harry Teggarty completed a massive 100 peak challenge in June in 109:34:57 a distance of 170km and elevation of 13000m.

## Slieve Donard Race

The Slieve Donard Race is probably the oldest local mountain race, now in its 77<sup>th</sup> year. A new champion Paul Pruzina won in 51.48mins from Andrew Tees 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jonny Steede 3<sup>rd</sup>. Diane Wilson had a great run to win the women's title in 1:05 hours from Becky Quinn 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alexa James 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Senior Home International and Snowdon International Mountain Race– 15<sup>th</sup> July, Llanberis, Wales

The overall event incorporated both races in one. Our men's team comprised Jarad Martin, Tom Crudgington, Andrew Tees, Joshua McAtee, Adam Cunningham and James Miller. The women's team included Esther Dickson, Naomi McCurry and Alexa James. Unfortunately due to adverse bad weather the course was shortened to 640m climb with a turnaround point after two thirds of the route. Jarad was first home followed by Tom, Andrew, Joshua, Adam and James, with Esther first in women's followed by Naomi and Alexa.

## Ben Nevis Mountain Race 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Many NIMRA members attended and completed this tough mountain race, notable results were Jonny Steede in 29<sup>th</sup>, Rebecca Magee first U23 and Kathleen Monteverde first F60.

## Individuals

Zak Hanna continued his good form on the international arena, including 27<sup>th</sup> World Mountain Running Championships, fourth Broken Arrow Vertical Kilometre (USA) and 14<sup>th</sup> Broken Arrow Skyrace (USA), as well as more locally first in both the Race over the Glens and the Slieve Binnian Race.

Also notable results included Billy Reed who participated in the Barkley Marathon in Tennessee and also completed the Ultra Trail Snowdonia 100 Mile on 12<sup>th</sup> May finishing 22<sup>nd</sup> overall in 34hrs 23mins. Two other NIMRA members also completed it, they were Paul Moore (BARF) in 46:25:30 and Ian Rainey (Newry AC) in 47:02:21.

Other NIMRA members completing the UTS 100K were Shane Lynch (Glenmore AC), 7<sup>th</sup> place in 15:36:33 and Michael McAuley (Mallusk Harriers) in 22:05:56.

NIMRA hosted a charity race for Mourne Mountain Rescue and raised £1500.

## Junior Mountain Running Season 2023

Selection Trials for the U18 team were held on a two lap grassy course on Slieve Croob, a suitable match for the U18 International in Annecy, France. This was followed by a training day in April at Rostrevor, to prepare athletes for the Irish trials. The athletes appreciated how effectively this mimicked the Irish trial course in Limerick – Jonny Steede can be commended for his homework in preparing this course, and the number of athletes selected for Irish Team confirms this.

Trials for the U17 and U20 British and Irish Junior Championship were held over Scrabo in August, although this caused some difficulties for athletes because of holiday plans. A further training day was held at Cairncastle, with positive feedback and will be worth doing again if it suits the 2024 course.



## Junior Competitions

### International U18 – 25<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May Annecy, France

Of the NI and Ulster team of eight athletes, only three had competed at this level before. Team managers were Nikki Graham and Phil Hodge. The lads finished 12<sup>th</sup> team, with Tiarnan McManus 41<sup>st</sup>, Joshua Muckian 44<sup>th</sup> only four seconds ahead of Oliver Playfair, in turn approximately 25 seconds ahead of Finn Valley's Ciaran McCarroll in 47<sup>th</sup>.

In the women's race Katie Graham was 21<sup>st</sup> – a stunning result, and the highest placing for a woman U18 NI and Ulster athlete since we started sending women's teams six years ago. Next up were Niamh Campbell and Alanna Rose Farley in 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> with Jessica Blaney in 49<sup>th</sup>. Overall the girls achieved 11<sup>th</sup> place out of 13 countries. This women's team performance was particularly impressive, because of the high quality of the opposition, with Katie showing massive potential, and every effort should be made to nurture and develop it, as she shows a commitment to the mountains long term, with realistic prospects for the senior Irish team. To go forward, we need to seek opportunities to develop the athletes race at pace on the hills in good competition, as some struggled to remain in contention.

### World Championship – 8th June - Innsbruck, Austria

Five NIMRA athletes were part of the Irish U20 Team, with Phil Hodge as a Team Manager. The highlight was Tom Crudgington achieving a stunning 27<sup>th</sup> out of 72 athletes, but unfortunately, with the effort and the heat, he collapsed over the line and needed medical attention. After several hours recovery, he was released to rejoin his team later in the afternoon. Colum O'Neill was next for Ireland in 42<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Ryan McCarthy in 65<sup>th</sup> and Ethan McMullan in 68<sup>th</sup>. Overall the team were 10<sup>th</sup> team out of 16, just behind the hosts Austria in 9<sup>th</sup> – a stunning performance. The U20 women were led home by Katie Graham: 36<sup>th</sup> followed by Eimear McCarroll: 38<sup>th</sup>, with the team in 9<sup>th</sup> place, four points ahead of Argentina in 10<sup>th</sup>. It was a great achievement to have the top men's and top two women's athletes on the Irish Team.

As in other competitions, we need to create more competitive training opportunities as a priority going forward. We also need to flag passport issue now to avoid passport delays, with the Irish management indicating that athletes will not be able to travel without valid Irish passport, after two years of problems post selection.

### British and Irish Championships – 10th Sept Peebles, Scotland

Our team of 15 athletes, of whom seven were new to international mountain races, together with three managers, Nikki Graham, John Rogan and Phil Hodge. With star Tom Crudgington injured and so many new faces, medals prospects were slim. However, when looking at individual performances, the results were very pleasing. Highlights included Katie Graham again showing her talent with 8<sup>th</sup> from 25 despite some ongoing health issues, followed by Anna Russell 19<sup>th</sup> and Aoife Magee 20<sup>th</sup>, with possible further improvements by these latter two next year. In the U20 team, first for us was Eimear McCarroll in 10<sup>th</sup> – Eimear has performed well at this level before.

In the U17 men's event, Luke O'Doherty was 18<sup>th</sup> from 30 – a fantastic debut, despite clashing with a triathlon the day before (which he won). In the U20 men's race we were delighted to see Ethan McMullan achieve 17<sup>th</sup> from 25 – Ethan has been on the team for a number of years, making incremental gains each year. Overall teams – U17F – 4/5, U20F – 4/5, U17M – 5/5, U20M 5/5. Further reflections on 2023 season.

Positives – management assistance from Nikki Graham and John Rogan. Nikki offers significant help in terms of administration, planning and logistics, while John continues to bring coaching judgement regarding selection and specific helpful advice to athletes at and in preparation for competition. Both have expressed a willingness and enthusiasm to be involved to a greater degree next year.

Jonny Steede has brought a really helpful element to the preparation of athletes through researching of courses and the creation of suitable training days. This has been invaluable and I would be very keen to explore whether he is open to developing this further.

With support from a parental sponsor, the team loved the extra kit obtained this year. However we need to explore our orders with Playrfit to reduce the six week lead time as it put significant pressure on kit orders post selection.

In conclusion a very positive year, with the junior programme having consolidated, with opportunities for further collaboration with the Irish teams now opening up, with both management teams keen to use the links to help us develop our selected athletes more fully for international competition.

A big thank you as always to the race organisers, volunteers and the NIMRA committee putting a lot of hard work and effort into organising a successful NIMRA Championship and organising international teams to represent NIMRA and ANI. NIMRA have also been in negotiations with IMRA to make it an all-inclusive sport, to try to unify our calendars, avoiding clashes of race dates and to support each other's organisation.

**Anne Sandford (secretary) and Phil Hodge (junior co-ordinator)**

# Staff & Committees

CEO	Elaine Grant
Performance Pathway Manager	Tom Reynolds
Development Manager	Eilish Ward
Facilities Manager	Andrew Hutchinson
Events, Marketing & Communications Manager	Shauna Bratten
Para Development Officer	Heather Ardis
Welfare Officer	Allister Woods
Club & Coach Development Officer	Declan Leung
Academies Manager	Amy Foster
Digital Marketing Assistant	Isaac McCollum
Endurance Coordinator	Mark Kirk
Athletics Development Assistant	Luke Dinsmore
Admin & Events Assistant	Kristen Haire
Running Participation Coach	Patricia Campbell
Pathways Coach	Scott Paulin

Patron of Athletics NI Lady Mary Peters LG, CH, DB.E, DStJ

## MAIN OFFICER BEARERS

President	Gerry Carson
Honorary Chair	David Abrahams
Honorary Vice Chair	Paul Lawther
Honorary Treasurer	Sharon Louise McKay
Vice Presidents	Trevor Alderdice, & John Glover

## LIFE MEMBERS

John Allen; Pam Brown; Roy Corry; John Glover; Stanley Hall; Brian Hill; Gary Keenan; Maeve Kyle; David McKibbin; John McLaughlin; Michael Moffitt; Pat Moffitt; David Seaton; Brian Smith; Adrienne Smyth; Roy Stevenson; Tommy Welsh and Phyllis Welsh.

## MANAGEMENT BOARD

Mr David Abrahams, Mr Paul Lawther, Ms Sharon-Louise McKay, Mr Michael Cooke, Mr Herbie McDaid, M Joy Alexander, Dr Ian Taylor, Ms Kathryn Walls, Ms Valerie McDonough, Mr David Marrs.

## AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Sharon-Louise McKay (Chair), Jim Alexander, David Abraham, Elaine Grant, Paddy McGrattan, Ian Taylor

## CROSS COUNTRY & ROAD RUNNING COMMITTEE

Paul Magee; Mags Mathieson; Adrian Daye; John Allen; Raymond Fullerton; John McGarvey; Roy Corry; David Seaton.

## TRACK & FIELD COMPETITION COMMITTEE

John Glover; Raymond Fullerton; Joy Alexander; Paul Lawther; Barbara Scott, Kurtis Scott, Robin Mack; Jim Alexander.

# Appendix 1

## Summary Paper on proposed new Articles of Association

The articles of association of Athletics Northern Ireland (ANI) set out the rules and regulations for the governance and management of ANI, which is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. This means that the members do not own shares in the organisation but guarantee to contribute a nominal amount in the event of its winding up.

As is good practice, ANI has undertaken a thorough review of the Articles of Association and has a number of recommended amendments for the approval of the membership. The purpose of the proposed changes is to improve governance in line with best practice as set out in the Code for Spots Governance and align the organisation more closely with its strategic objectives.

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) was incorporated in June 2006 and was, at that time, known as the Northern Ireland Athletic Federation. Since incorporation, minor amendments have been made to the Articles from time to time, generally to reflect governance changes required by our funders and stakeholders or modifications recommended by the Board and members.

In line with best practice and, having taken independent legal advice from specialist advisors under the Spotted NI framework, the Board recommends the adoption of new Articles of Association in the new format set by the Companies Act 2006 (which made a significant number of changes that affect the basic constitutional documents of all companies in Northern Ireland).

This paper summarises the key changes between the existing Articles of Association and the proposed new Articles of Association.

## The primary changes to the Articles are:

- 1 Creating additional classes of members to reflect participation in our sport;
- 2 Creating a new committee structure that is aligned to our strategy, the structure of the professional staff and that recognises the diverse activities and needs within our sport;
- 3 Minor changes to the Board structure to reflect the above.

## 1. Objects – Article 2

The objects describe and identify the purpose of ANI, it is not to be a list of things that ANI will do on a daily basis.

These were previously contained in the 'Memorandum of Association', the provisions of which are now included in Articles as standard.

The objects of ANI are to act as the governing body for athletics in all its forms in Northern Ireland on a not for profit basis, and to undertake various activities to promote, develop and support the sport of athletics and its participants.

Minor modifications have been made.

Some of our objects overlapped or stated similar purposes and have been consolidated. Some objects have been moved to the "powers" section, given that they identify how ANI intends to achieve its purpose.

## 2. Powers – Article 3

The powers identify how ANI can pursue and achieve the objects.

These were previously contained in the 'Memorandum of Association', the provisions of which are now included in Articles as standard.

ANI has the power to take all actions necessary to achieve the objects, including:

Minor modifications have been made.

to undertake and promote training, to co-operate and collaborate with other athletics and sporting bodies, to affiliate with UK Athletics and collaborate with Athletics Ireland, to oversee and manage facilities, to select and co-ordinate teams for international events, to determine the categories and criteria of Membership, and to establish Committees and sub-Committees.

## 3. Application of Income & Property & Winding Up – Article 4 and 5

The income and property of ANI shall be applied solely in promoting ANI's objects.

Article 4 is new and is considered good practice.

On the winding-up or dissolution of ANI, any remaining assets or property shall not be distributed to the Members, but shall be transferred to another body with similar objects or for any other charitable or philanthropic purpose

Article 5 is aligned to paragraph 8 of the existing memorandum of Association.

## 4. Liability of members - Article 6

The liability of the Members is limited to £1, being the amount that each Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of ANI in the event of its being wound up.

Article 6 is aligned to paragraph 6 of the existing Memorandum of Association.

## 5. Members - Article 7

5.1 The Articles establish five different classes of members, being:

- Clubs and Associations (existing)
- Individuals (new)
- Event organisers (new)
- Coaches (new)
- Officials (new) and
- Honorary members (existing).

5.1 New membership classes are being introduced to better reflect the nature of our sport and the people and groups it serves. This new structure is aligned to other athletics bodies in the UK and Ireland. It will ultimately allow us to better understand participation levels which will be invaluable in shaping and delivering our sport.

Article 7.2.2.2 in relation to Individual members states that ANI will have the right in the future to require that all individuals participating in an ANI licensed event is also a registered member of ANI. There are a number of reasons why this would be beneficial, including ensuring that all participants are fully insured, and also to better understand participation in our sport to meet the expectations of both participants and funders.

This is not a rule that will immediately be applied or enforced, however we note that other athletics bodies have implemented this rule and feel it prudent to provide for the future by including in the Articles at this time.

5.2 Clubs and Associations are voting members of ANI and have the right to vote at general meetings of ANI.

5.2 In line with other HCAFs, only Clubs and Associations will be voting members. This is the same as in our existing Articles

All members have the right to attend general meetings.

The current articles only allowed Clubs to mandate up to two delegates, regardless of the size of the Club, with all Clubs with more than 15 members being entitled to two voting delegates. In line with best practice and with other HCAFs, we propose to amend the voting structure as follows:

The number of delegates and votes that each Club can mandate depends on the number of Individual members registered with ANI. See Article 7.2.1.2.

Up to 100 members: 1 Vote  
101 to 200 members: 2 Votes  
201 and above members: 3 Votes

Each Association can mandate one delegate and one vote.

5.3 Membership fees will be payable by Clubs & Associations, Individuals and Event Organisers.

5.3 The approach to membership fees is not changing. Membership fees will continue to be set each year at the AGM

5.4 The Board may determine criteria for applicants for membership in addition to those in the articles of association. Any such criteria will be contained in the Bylaws of ANI from time to time.

5.4 The existing Articles state that the Board may determine whether or not to accept or refuse admission of any member. The new Articles require the Board to set and publish any criteria from time to time and is thus more transparent and in line with best practice.

5.5 The Board may determine the rights and obligations of each class, and the annual subscription fees payable by some classes. All members must comply with the byelaws and any codes of conduct or policies of ANI.

5.5 This is not changing.



## 5. The Board - Articles 8-11 and 13

The Board is responsible for the general oversight of ANI, and may delegate any of its powers to committees or sub-committees. The Board may also appoint Board Observer Members, who have no voting rights.

Note the Board is not responsible for day to day management and delivery – this sits with the professional staff, and under the control of the CEO.

a) **Number of Directors**  
The Board shall not exceed 12 Directors and shall at all times include four independent Directors.

The Board shall comprise of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, the President, the representative nominated by Athletics Ireland, no less than four independent Directors, and the Chairs of such Committees as the Board may direct.

b) **Eligibility Criteria & Appointment**  
The Board determines the eligibility criteria for the independent directors and identifies nominees for appointment.

The offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer are appointed by the directors at any meeting of the Board.

The Directors (other than the President, Athletics Ireland director and Committee directors) shall be appointed by the Board and ratified by the members at the following AGM. Directors may be co-opted by the Board to fill a vacancy, subject to the eligibility criteria and skill needs determined by the Board.

No person shall be eligible for appointment as a Director if they are under 18 years old or if they have served, in aggregate, 12 years in office as Director.

c) **Retirement of Directors**  
Each Director shall retire from office on the fourth anniversary of the date of their appointment or re-appointment, except for the President who shall retire on the expiry of their term of office as President. No Director may serve more than eight consecutive years in office, unless the Directors determine by majority vote that it is in the interests of ANI to allow such person to be re-appointed for one further term.

There is provision for the Directors to determine that another

Only minor modifications are being made to the structure of the Board arising largely from changes to the Committee structure (see section 8 below).

The nature of the Board and how it is appointed were amended in previous years at the requirement of Sport NI. The Board proposes retaining existing protocols which meet best practice and the requirements of our primary funder.

a) The number of directors and the make-up of the Board is aligned to best practice and the requirements of the Code of Governance for Sport.

The rules relating to the Board have been modified only slightly.

The key changes are:

- Including the President as a board member (unless they elect not to take up the additional role);
- Changes linked to the new committee structure
- Granting observer status to chairs of committees where there is no board seat and to a representative from Ulster Schools.\*

\*The Board is keen to ensure the voices of all key parts of the sport can be heard.

b) It is important that the Board is made up of a diverse range of people with skillsets that meet the needs of our sport.

The rules for appointment of directors are aligned to those in the current Articles and best practice as previously approved by Sport NI.

c) The term of office for directors is being extended from 3 years to 4 years to align to the term of office of UKA. This will also align more closely with our strategic and performance cycles.

It is standard practice when terms of office are changed for the terms of office of a Board at the date of adoption of the articles to not be taken into account. A similar approach has been taken by a number of other athletics and sporting bodies, including by ANI at the time capped terms were first introduced as a Sport NI requirement.

## 5. The Board - Articles 8-11 and 13

Director can stand for re-election for one further year if it is in the interests of [X], but otherwise Directors should stand down for one year before being re-appointed if the maximum term has been reached (Article X). This is to reflect good governance and practice to ensure the Board is refreshed and also maintains some corporate memory.

d) **Removal of Directors**  
The office of any Director shall be vacated if they resign, if their nomination is revoked by Athletics Ireland, if they cease to be the Chair of the relevant Committee, if they have served their tenure, if they become bankrupt, insolvent, or of unsound mind, if they are absent from more than four Board meetings within a year, if they cease to be a Director by virtue of any provision of the Act or law, or if they are removed by resolution of the Directors on the ground that their continued directorship is harmful to ANI.

e) **Quorum**  
The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be five Directors, with Directors being able to attend physically in person or virtually.

f) **Chair**  
The Chair shall be appointed by the Directors from among their number and shall serve a term of up to four years, renewable for one further term of up to four years, subject to the maximum term of Directors. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board and ANI, unless they are absent or unable to act, in which case the Vice-Chair or any other Director may act as the Chair.

g) **Declaration of Interests**  
The directors must avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any direct or indirect interest that may conflict or possibly conflict with the interests of ANI. The directors may authorise any conflict proposed by any director, subject to certain conditions and exclusions. A director with a conflict must not participate in the decision-making process or vote on the matter.

However, the Board will be implementing continuous reviews to ensure a strong and diverse board and will cycle membership sooner than strictly required as we consider that good practice.

d) – g) – No material amendments.

## 6. President and Vice Presidents - Article 12

One person may hold the role of President at any time and up to two people can hold the role of Vice-President at any time.

The roles will be elected by the membership at AGM each year.

Terms of office shall be two years, with those elected eligible for re-election with a maximum term of 4 consecutive years in office permitted.

The material difference is that the President now has the right to join the Board and also act as a Director of ANI. Accepting the additional post is not mandatory and is at the discretion of the individual.

## 7. Company Secretary - Article 14

The Board shall appoint one director (or other suitable person) to act as Company Secretary

This is aligned to existing Article 3.2.4.

All incorporated entities are required to have a Company Secretary who is responsible for filings at Companies House etc.

## 8. Committees of the Board - Article 15 and 18

The Board will have the ability to create committees for any purpose, subject to that committee acting within the authority given to it by the Board and set out in formal Terms of Reference.

These provisions are largely aligned to Clause 3.4 of the existing Articles. See Separate document outlining the new committee structure.

The Board already delegates some of its authority to members of our committees. This is not changing, however the Board has determined that ANI can operate more effectively if our Board and Staff are supported by additional committees.

See separate document explaining the new committee structure and nominations process.

## 9. Power and Responsibility of the Board – Articles 16 and 17

Article 16 states that the directors are responsible for the management of ANI's business and may exercise all the powers of ANI that are not reserved for a general meeting.

The members entrust the directors with the day-to-day running of ANI, subject to certain limitations and oversight. For example, the directors may make byelaws, establish committees, and delegate tasks, as long as they are consistent with ANI's objects and the articles of association. However, the members may intervene in certain matters that require their approval or direction, such as amendments to the articles of association, appointment of auditors, and winding up of ANI.

Article 16 is a standard article, and aligns to the existing Articles.

Article 17 is new in that it is more explicit that under the previous Articles, and reflects best practice.

Article 17 states that the voting members may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take or refrain from taking specified action, but such a resolution does not invalidate anything that the directors have done before its passing.

## 10. Board meetings - Article 19-23

These Articles regulate the decision-making process of the Board of ANI. They govern:

- how often the Board meets;
- the ability to hold meeting virtually;
- validation of acts done by the Board despite any defects in the appointment of any director;
- the ability to make decisions without a meeting – i.e by indicating agreement in writing, subject to quorum and notice requirements being met;
- Requirements to declare conflicts of interest and abstain from voting or participating in the relevant matters.

These provisions are largely aligned to the existing Articles and are best practice.

## 11. Member Meetings - Articles 24-30

Articles 24-30 of the document regulate the decision-making by the members of ANI at general meetings. They cover the following topics:

a) AGMs: an annual general meeting must be held once a year and not more than 18 months apart, at a venue determined by the Board. ANI must give at least 14 days' notice of the AGM to the voting members and the secretary of each committee, and include the agenda and other relevant documents. The AGM has the functions of receiving the directors' report and accounts, electing the president and vice-president, approving the appointment or re-appointment of directors, appointing auditors, setting the membership fees, amending the articles of association, and considering any other business. Amendments to any proposal on the agenda must be lodged no later than 7 days before the AGM.

b) EGMs: An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) either by resolution of the Board or by requisition of at least 10% of the voting members. ANI must fix a date and venue for the EGM within 14 days of receiving such a request and give at least 21 days' notice of the EGM to the voting members, specifying the business to be transacted.

c) Quorum: The quorum for a general meeting, which is 15 voting delegates of clubs and associations. If no quorum is present within 30 minutes of the start of the meeting, the chair must adjourn the meeting for 14 days to a suitable place, and ANI must notify the voting members of the date of the adjourned meeting.

d) Voting: Voting shall be by a show of voting papers, unless otherwise stated in the notice of the meeting. Only voting members are permitted to use voting papers, and they must have paid all their subscription fees to ANI. Each club and association has one or more delegates who can cast one or more votes, depending on the number of individual members they have, as specified in Article 7.2.1.2.

e) Poll\* Voting A poll may be demanded at any general meeting by the chair or by two or more voting members.

f) Proxy Voting A proxy is a person appointed by a voting member to attend and vote on their behalf. A proxy must be appointed by a written notice that states the name and address of the voting member and the proxy, identifies the meeting to which the proxy relates, and is signed by or on behalf of the voting member. The proxy notice may specify how the proxy is to vote on certain resolutions, or give them discretion to vote as they see fit.

These provisions are largely aligned to the existing provisions, with minor modifications for best practice. At the 2022 AGM an amendment was passed to the Articles to reduce the notice period for AGMs to 14 days in line with best practice. Consequential changes to related timings are now included in the updated Articles.

\*A poll is a formal vote that may be conducted by ballot, electronic device, or other means. The chair must decide how and when the poll is taken and may appoint scrutineers to count the votes. The result of the poll is deemed to be the resolution of the meeting.







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