



Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24th October 2024



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MUNICH 2022

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Annual General Meeting 2024 Agenda

The Annual General Meeting of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (the Company) will be held on Thursday 24th October 2024 at 7.00pm Sharp in Viable Corporate Services, 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast BT1 2LU. The meeting will be in person, however voting by Proxy is permitted.

In a new first for Athletics NI, we are enabling an online option to join remotely. This will not be an interactive meeting and therefore viewers of the online meeting who wish to participate in the AGM must ensure they return a completed proxy voting form and/or submit questions to the Board in advance as described in this Notice. A link for the online meeting will be circulated to those who request this option in advance of the AGM.

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. To receive the Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2024, to include Directors Report and Auditor's Report
3. Chair's Remarks
4. President's Remarks
5. CEO's Remarks
6. To approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 26th October 2023
7. To receive the Annual Report of the activities of the Company of the year ended 31st March 2024, to include Senior Staff Reports and Committee Reports
8. To Appoint the Company's Auditors for the period ended 31st March 2025
9. Motions before the meeting
 - 9.1 to confirm the appointment of directors to the Board in the period from 26th October 2023 to date as detailed in the Notice of AGM
10. Proposals before the meeting put forward by Wendy Phillips on behalf of City of Lisburn AC
 - 10.1 The number of Committees reverts back to the original two main Committees Track and Field and Endurance, representatives from each having full voting rights on the ANI Board.
 - 10.2 All operational and financial information regarding the Mary Peters Track be reported to the ANI Board and the AGM.
 - 10.3 Selection Committee members and selection criteria for all Teams, Team Managers, Grant and Funding applications be clearly communicated, and listed on the web site in advance of any selection, and that all selections are approved by both Committees before going to the Board.
 - 10.4 All Communication should not be restricted to social media as there are many stakeholders who are not on social media. Communication should be displayed on the Web Site, with e mails being sent to clubs, coaches, athletes and officials to ensure full transparency.
11. Election of the President and Vice-President(s)
12. Confirmation of nominations to the Committees
13. Response to Members' Questions
14. Close

Minutes of the meeting held at Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim 26th October 2023

Attendance list: see Appendix 1

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

Apologies were received from Paddy McGrattan and Mags Mathieson.

The attendees observed a moment's silence in honour of recently deceased members including Billy Magee, Larne AC; Brian Maguire, St Anne's AC; Sean McCracken, Newry AC; Jim Breen, Springwell AC; Gerry Ward, Orangecroft AC and Barry Johnston, Belfast Harbour Police (friend of athletics).

2. Chair's Remarks

DA acknowledged that we are working towards progress, not perfection, and to add value to the lives of all participants in the sport. He encouraged engagement with the governing body and thanked the Board for their stewardship. DA presented the new governance structure, which forms part of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association. DA introduced the new strategy and emphasised that the Board will focus on the delivery of it. He commended Elaine in her role, leading on organisational change. DA also recognised the positive contribution made by the President, Gerry Carson, and the Board. He thanked the extensive network of volunteers, including committee members, officials, coaches, parents and athletes involved at every level of the sport.

3. President's Remarks

GC touched on the main events he had attended over the past year representing ANI and bore witness to the huge work done by volunteers, from raking pits to officiating. He commended Elaine and her team at Athletics House, all who promote events including AAI and UAC, and the full Board.

4. CEO's Remarks

EG spoke of the need to adapt to the challenge of change in the environment including a decrease in sponsorship at UKA level which impacts on the services that can be delivered locally. A significant change has been the transfer of UK coach and officials' education to ANI. This also necessitates the establishment of an Integrity Unit for safeguarding, anti-doping, welfare and discipline, which comes at a cost. She thanked her team and all the Club Secretaries for their compliance with new anti-doping rules. She acknowledged planned changes that had taken place, including the introduction of the new strategy, the updated governing documents, and improved financial controls within the organisation. A major success of the year had been the receipt of the largest ever funding award from Sport NI, which comes with greater flexibility than before. EG spoke of the new records achieved by NI athletes including Ciara Mageean and Kate O'Connor. She welcomed the appointment of a new Endurance Co-ordinator, Mark Kirk. She recognised the work done to improve selection processes and funding gained for elite athletes from the Sports Institute. EG also spoke of the various pathway programmes in operation and the opportunities given for competition at international level. She also highlighted developments in education, improved external partnerships and additions to the staff team.

EG presented slides on Strategy – The Journey to 2028.

5. Approval of Minutes of the previous AGM

Valerie McDonough and Kathryn Walls were appointed by the Chair as scrutineers for the voting that took place at the meeting.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM were deemed to be accurate and were approved by a majority vote (23 for). No one voted against.

6. Annual Report of the activities of the Company

The Annual Report, which had been circulated in advance, was taken as read. Hard copies were available at the meeting. The key aspects of the report were detailed within the presentations given by the Chair and the CEO. There is no requirement to vote on the acceptance of this report.

7. Annual Accounts of the activities of the Company

Paul Dolan from Finegan Gibson Accountants gave the highlights of the financial year ended March '23 and answered questions that were raised from the floor (see Appendix 2 for the list of questions and comments raised by attendees).

Sharon-Louise McKay, as Treasurer on the Board, supported what Paul said and confirmed that further work would be undertaken on the accounts to provide the level of detail that members want. Wendy Phillips wanted it minuted that she would like a breakdown next year of Coaching income and expense, Youth Academy programme, Belfast City Marathon and MPT. There ensued a lively discussion around the financial performance of the company with opportunity for members to ask questions. However, members were reminded that the AGM was not the only forum to get questions answered and were encouraged to engage with the team throughout the year.

A vote was taken, and the Annual Accounts were accepted by majority vote (22 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions).

8. Appointment of Auditors

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

This was passed by a majority vote (26 for) with no one voting against.



9. Motions before the meeting – see Appendix 3

9.1 Membership fees 2023/24

The proposed fees were put forward for approval. The increase in the junior fee was queried. Wendy Phillips asked the Board to consider a fee for U11 for the following year and commented that only one T&F competition was held during the year.

A vote was taken, and the proposed fees were passed (21 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions)

9.2 Appointment of Directors

Confirmation of appointment of directors to the Board in the period from incorporation to date.

Passed by a majority (26 for).

9.3 To adopt the new Articles of Association

Questions were raised around the involvement of the Board in operational matters and an explanation was given on the role of governance in an organisation. It is expected that the M&As are reviewed on a 3–5 year cycle typically. Re-setting the clock on terms served by Directors was also queried and assurance given that external legal advice was sought on this point, however succession planning is taken seriously.

Passed by a majority (22 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions).

9.4 Members' Motions

The one motion submitted to the AGM was withdrawn by the club representative after some discussion.

10. Election of President and Vice-Presidents

The sole nominee withdrew before the AGM. The Board proposed one more year for the incumbent, Gerry Carson.

The lack of nominations for President and Vice President does not reflect well on the sport and it was agreed to promote the roles more widely next year. Nominations need to come from members, these positions cannot be appointed by the Board

A vote was taken to reappoint Gerry Carson and was passed (26 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).

Brian Smith, in absentia, was elected Vice President (27 votes for).

11. Confirmation of nominations to the Committees

The nominations as proposed were agreed (23 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions)

This concluded the formal business of the AGM.

12. Response to Members' Questions

Questions were received in advance of the AGM and were answered with some prepared answers and some discussion.

David Seaton asked those assembled to acknowledge the work done by John and Liz Glover over the past several years.

Ann Maguire queried repair works on the throwing cages at MPT.

13. Close

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

Valerie McDonough
Minutes Secretary

Appendix 1

Attendee List

Name		Club
Jim	Alexander	ANI committee
John	Allen	Willowfield Harriers
Alister	Bratten	Ballymena & Antrim AC
Lawson	Cochrane	Willowfield Harriers
Roy	Corry	Willowfield Harriers
Adrian	Daye	Jog Lisburn
Ghislain	Demeuldre	Victoria Park & Connswater AC
Chris	Dickey	Co Antrim Harriers
Lyn	Fisher	City of Lisburn AC
Raymond	Fullerton	Lagan Valley AC
John	Glover	Lagan Valley AC
Andrew	Han	Loughview AC
Nicola	Han	Loughview AC
Lyndsey	Lappin	Coastal Runners
Robin	Mack	PSNI AC
Ann	Maguire	St Anne's AC
Seamus	McCann	North Belfast Harriers
Malcolm	McCausland	Derry Track Club
Emma	McCay	UU Athletics Club
John	McGarvey	North Down AC
George	Morris	Ballydrain Harriers
Lucy	O'Dell	Glens Runners
Wendy	Phillips	City of Lisburn AC
Dawn	Ross	Coastal Runners
David	Seaton	North Down AC
Joan	Smith	Official/Coach (non-voting)
Phillip	Snoddy	AthleticsNI Unattached
Paul	Younger	Annadale Striders
Elaine	Grant	CEO
Tom	Reynolds	staff
Eilish	Ward	staff
Shauna	Bratten	staff
Kirsten	Hare	staff
Andrew	Hutchinson	MPT staff
Gerry	Carson	President
David	Abrahams	Board
Paul	Lawther	Board
Joy	Alexander	Board
Michael	Cooke	Board
David	Marrs	Board
Sharon Louise	McKay	Board
Hannah	Irwin	Board
Kathryn	Walls	Board
Valerie	McDonough	Board
Ian	Taylor	Board

Appendix 2

Questions asked by members during the 2023 AGM:

Q: Did the SNI payment include covid payments in the 21/22 accounts?

A: Yes, and we will aim to account for programme separately in future to improve transparency.

Q: Did the Mary Peter Track income line include track hire?

A: Yes. It is our aim to reduce inter-company balances between MPT and ANI in future.

Q: Grant income – where did it come from?

A: UKA, Rank Foundation, Belfast City Marathon, Erasmus, Ulster University amongst some others.

Q: Why isn't the expenditure under Youth Academy itemised like other expenses (eg events) in the accounts? Similarly, there is no breakdown under Coaching?

A: It was explained that the accounts being presented as Statutory Accounts with high level detail. Project or programme Profit and Loss accounts may be shared to the membership group if desired at a separate occasion.

Q: Did the accounts contain any estimated figures or were all actual? Did the Accountants suggest any improvements to the reporting of transactions?

A: Confirmed that all are actual. The Accountants did make some suggestions in its Management Letter.

Q: What was included in the Professional Fees cost?

A: This includes the Auditor's fees, outsourced HR services and outsourced bookkeeping services.

Question/comment on the staff turnover in the past 7 months and its effect on the business.

The treasurer explained that the Board can take on board what the members want in terms of financial information and review the Chart of Accounts. Meaningful comparisons will then be able to be made once this way is followed.

It will be minuted, further to Wendy Phillip's request, that a breakdown of the following will be available next year:

- 1) Coaching income and expenditure
- 2) Youth Academy
- 3) Belfast City Marathon
- 4) Mary Peters Track

Q: What was the explanation behind the reduction in Reserves since April 2021 and that reserves have never been so low?

A: This is not factually correct, on reviewing reserves back to the incorporation of the company in 2005. The financial position of the company took a hit with Covid but the position is improving. The budget for 23/24 shows a £10k profit, which will be used to boost reserves. The Auditor, present at the meeting, explained that it's not the purpose of a not-for-profit to build large reserves but to prudently provide for unexpected events.

Q: Is the staff cost to income ratio in line with expectations?

A: The Auditor confirmed the business is being operated as a going concern with a suggestion that reserves to be built upon in the future where possible. The Chair confirmed he is happy with the ratio.

Q: What is the assessment of the Auditor on the financial position?

A: He confirmed that he has given a clean, unqualified audit opinion on the accounts as of March 23.



Q: Does Athletics Ireland apply a fee for U11s? Comment from member: it appears a disproportionate increase for U11s.

A: To be investigated. It was suggested that the Board consider a fee for U11s next time. It was also to be minuted that according to the member, there was only one T&F competition during the year.

Q: Will the Board members have operational involvement in the business going forward?

A: The Board is responsible for governance, and provides checks and balance for the executive team.

Q: How often will the M&As be reviewed ongoing?

A: This is done on a 3-5 year cycle typically.

Q: On the new M&As, will it be a requirement for any event participant to be a member of ANI?

A: It's not going to be a rule immediately but these Articles allow us the ability to do it in the future.

Q: Regarding terms of office of Directors, should existing terms be counted in terms of the max term one can hold office?

A: The standard, normal practice is to re-set the clock on adoption of the Articles. ANI has received legal advice on this matter.

The formal business of the AGM ended.

Subsequent question(s) after the formal proceedings of the AGM concluded:

Q: Who is the Welfare Officer of ANI?

A: Allister Woods

Q: Will the link to the safeguarding case outcomes and barred list on the UKA website be placed on the ANI website?

A: yes

Q: When will the throwing cages at MPT be fixed?

A: Repairs are in progress, however we are experiencing some delays with contractors.

Appendix 3

Motions

9.1 To agree the membership fees for 2023-24

Renew the membership fees as proposed namely

- Club Affiliation Fee £140 (increase from £120)
- Associate Affiliation Fee £65 (increase from £60)
(Race Organiser)
- Senior Athlete Registration £20 (increase from £18)
- Junior (11-15) Registration £10 (increase from £6)



9.2 To confirm the appointment of directors to the Board in the period from incorporation to 26th October 2023 and the continuing appointment of all the directors currently in office as set out below.

John Allen, appointed on 13 June 2006
Roy Corry, appointed on 13 June 2006
Robert Rea, appointed on 13 June 2006
Brian Downing, appointed on 23rd June 2006
Robert Brodie, appointed on 28th June 2006
Liam Hennessy, appointed on 28th June 2006
David McDowell, appointed on 28 June 2006
David Seaton, appointed on 28 June 2006
Ian Taylor, appointed on 28 June 2006
Edward Bell, appointed 2 May 2007
John Glover, appointed on 8 May 2008
Neil Martin, appointed on 28 July 2008
Rory Friel, appointed on 2 December 2008
Barry Scarth, appointed on 27 April 2010
Joseph Quinn, appointed on 2 November 2010
Dr Gladys Ganiel, appointed on 14 June 2011
Ursula Fay, appointed 25 April 2012
Lisa Sturgeon, appointed on 25 April 2012
Liam Hennessy, appointed on 12 June 2012
John Glover, appointed on 1 April 2013
Wendy Phillips, appointed on 31 July 2013
Eoghan Furey, appointed on 4 December 2013
Barbara Scott, appointed on 30 April 2014
Michael Cooke, appointed on 7 December 2016
Elizabeth Glover, appointed on 26 April 2017
Kim Godsman, appointed on 27 June 2018
Kathryn Walls, appointed on 27 June 2018
Bernard O'Callaghan, appointed on 25 September 2019
David Abrahams, appointed on 4 December 2019
Anthony Wall, appointed on 4th December 2019
David Marrs, appointed on 4 August 2020
Paul Lawther, appointed on 4 August 2020
Valerie McDonough, appointed on 4 August 2020
Clare Duffield, appointed 27 June 2021
Brendan McDaid, appointed on 15 May 2021
Joy Alexander, appointed on 7 January 2022
Sharon-Louise McKay, appointed on 10 August 2022
Hannah Irwin, appointed on 7 June 2023

9.3 To adopt the new Articles of Association of Athletics NI

9.4 Members Motions

The following motion has been submitted ahead of the AGM:

Submitted by Victoria Park and Connswater AC

In order to raise the profile of the NI and Ulster Road championships events and encourage optimum and quality field participation, it is proposed that no race license is issued by ANI to any non-championship road or XC events on the day of the championship event as well as on the day before and the day after.



Chairs Report

Year 2023/2024 and into 2024/2025

Our sport depends on the input of thousands of volunteers. Every year we look to our coaches, officials, and volunteers who enable competitions to happen, clubs to operate, and athletes to achieve great things.

Our athletes parents have to be equally committed to ensure that they provide the transport and financial support needed. Special thanks go out to them.

I will speak more about the committees later, but I want to thank all of those who have volunteered to be a part of the support structure of the sport. It has been great to see some new faces.

As president Gerry Carson in his final year has been outstanding, as ever. Gerry has been present at a great many events and brings back to the board reports on what has happened. I want also to acknowledge Gerrys role as a full board member which he took up last year under the new memorandum and articles.

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.

I thank Elaine Grant as CEO and her team of staff and sessional workers who have helped deliver the sport on behalf of everyone.

SPORT NI

I want to acknowledge the significant support we have received from Sport NI without which much of what has been achieved would not be possible. It is incumbent on us all to ensure that the progress required by them continues to be made. Our CEO Elaine Grant has played a significant part in ensuring we meet their expectation.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Operating conditions in 23/24 remained challenging however special thanks to Andrew McCracken, as Finance Manager, who has transformed the way Athletics NI approaches its accounting. Whilst there is still work to do we have seen a clarity emerging that has not been previously available.

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

DATA

I reiterate my comments from last year that from a membership perspective it is essential that ALL club members are registered. Our data systems need better input and we depend on the membership to help. Without this data we cannot engage properly with the media and with potential sponsors

	2024	2023
Licensed Athletes	8267	6608
Registered Clubs	101	99
Ulster Athletics Licensed Athletes Cavan Donegal, Monaghan	3969	3978
Ulster Schools Participants	5167	4000
Daily Mile	106,500	106,000
Permitted Events	221	195
Total Permitted Entries	44,108 year to date	68,000 (Full Year)
Registered Coaches	869	910
Registered Officials	68	59

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The board recognises that families still face tough financial decisions, and whilst Athletics continues to be a low cost of entry sport we understand that membership fees are always a topical subject.

I am delighted that given the improved set of accounts for 23/24 the board has decided that membership fees have should be frozen for 24/25.

On a cautionary note I do remind you however that costs within our organisation will continue to rise in order to provide a safe and supportive environment and fees will need to rise in future years.

The administrative burden in administering the membership fees paid by invoice remains high. I once again encourage you to pay your club membership fees on line by credit card at the time of registration to help streamline the process. There have been over 1000 separate registration transactions by clubs over the last 12 months, this is a significant reconciliation process for the team.



CLEAN ATHLETICS & UK ANTI DOPING (UKAD) RULES

I remind everyone of the importance of completing the Anti Doping statement as part of the membership process.

GOVERNANCE

The organisation remains committed to the voluntary code of sports governance for Northern Ireland. Sport NI regularly monitors what we do and I am delighted that we have passed all their governance requirements once again.

Strategy and culture

I am not going to say much on the delivery of the strategy other than to encourage you to read the individual reports from the team and specifically the CEO report. Whilst it was a slow start with the new Strategy steady progress has been made.

There is an adage, familiar to many, and that is "Culture eats strategy for breakfast". Changing culture is difficult and slow. We have been working to improve the culture within the organisation and I believe we are starting to see the benefits of that work. There are also some new initiatives to help support them.

As a primarily grant funded body we face the same challenges as the whole of the voluntary sector in Northern Ireland and that is how to retain staff in the face of stiff financial competition from the Public and Commercial sectors of the economy.

I do ask that the athletics community also recognises that the team are working hard to deliver the sport and that they deserve respect. Unfortunately we do see some unacceptable behaviour from our members which does not make the working environment enjoyable.

I am delighted with the current senior management team and am optimistic that we have the right people in post to deliver on strategy. Please support them.

We have adopted a more strategic approach to board meetings inviting the SMT along in rotation to report on progress and hear views from the board.

Committees

It has been slow getting the new committee structure, introduced last year, up and running. This was to some extent to be expected. The committees are there to support and guide the executive team and to help focus on the needs of the sport. I believe that these are starting to fulfil their purpose but do need more time to settle in

It was always intended that once the committees were up and running and chairs of those committees had taken up their role on the board we would look to add board observers. Listening to the feedback we have the Track & Field and Endurance Committee chairs have been invited as observers for the incoming year.

The committees are also important stepping stones for volunteers to enter into the governance of the sport. We need new and younger people to bring their energy to the way the sport is governed.

Mary Peters Track Ltd (MPT)

I write with regret that we have not managed to finalise bringing MPT in as a subsidiary of Athletics NI. However at the time of writing the final legal report is to hand and completing of the merger should happen within the current financial year.

We continue our discussions with Belfast City Council over the future management of the facility. Obviously such negotiations are sensitive and as such I don't intend saying too much at this time. We have secured some funding toward equipment and I am assured that an equipment update is in progress.

UK Athletics (UKA)

UKA has created a joint venture with Great North Run and London Marathon to deliver major events particularly the Diamond League and European Championships 2026. This builds on the experience of those two partners and will ensure a higher profile for our sport. The first event being the 2024 London Diamond league which was a great spectacular.

Athletics NI continues to greatly benefit from being one of the Home Country Athletic Federations that form part of UK Athletics.

Athletics Association of Ireland (AAI) / Ulster Athletics

AAI has itself been going through a governance transformation and it too has changed its board make up at their 2024 EGM.

The AAI relationship is in a good place and is ongoing. Our athletes of course continue to benefit from the relationship with competition opportunity and our High Performance athletes derive significant benefit through the Carding system. We continue to work well with Ulster Athletics. As chair I represent Athletics NI on the Board of Athletics Ireland and Herbie McDaid represents Athletics Ireland on our board.

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.

Clean Athletics

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 Open Track and validate their membership.

Outlook

I am optimistic about the future of Athletics in Northern Ireland. As outlined last year we have established good foundations for the future. The financial base is sound and we have a strategy through until 2028.

The pathway for development has strengthened with our involvement with The Daily Mile and Park Run, and our own Rising Stars, Star Track and Youth Academy. We have small teams for senior athletes and opportunities with UK Athletics and Irish Athletics for international representation.

We have seen representation at many major championships including Commonwealth Games, European Championships, World Championships, and Olympic Games, I am hopeful this will continue.

Northern Ireland Masters Athletic Association continue to inspire and provide great opportunities. Northern Ireland Mountain Running and Northern Ireland Ultra Running Associations are also thriving. Participant numbers in the Belfast Marathon were at a record high earlier in the year, and we have permitted events on the rise after the slump created by the pandemic.

We do need to be better at monitoring how the sport is doing as this is crucial for the future funding of the sport

We need to encourage more volunteers and officials into the sport, last year we held an excellent event for volunteers, it was long overdue. We need to ensure the values of the sport are upheld particularly that of making the sport fun, for everyone.

UK wide initiatives to reinvigorate Track & Field Athletics will hopefully yield results

It is also more important than ever to systemise the development of Para Athletics as the competitive environment continues to improve

Partners, Sponsors & Legacy

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 and Legacy donors,

Grants, Sponsors & VIK	Discount providers	Commercial Partners
Sport NI Belfast City Council Lisburn Castlereagh City Council Rank Foundation Belfast City Marathon Enkalon Council Erasmus + Flahavan's Daily Mile Athletics Ireland	AfterShokz Kingsbridge Private Hospital Runners Need	Proparamedics Championship Ireland Open Track Grahams Traffic Management Invest in Sport Mary Peters Trust

Legacy
Robert Stevenson Deceased

CEO Remarks



CEO
Elaine Grant

I am delighted to present the Annual Report to the Athletics Northern Ireland (ANI) Annual General meeting 2024. The challenge within the sport this year has been mighty.

Change happening at an exponential level including multiple changes in staff, 8 new committee's being established, a new Strategy, proposed rule changes, Mary Peters Track (MPT) future uncertainty, Trackmark upgrades and MPT busiest year to date and a whole host of policy and procedural changes. Working through all of this and more with a depleted team has been difficult but we have pulled on our personal reserves to continue to deliver and grow in multiple areas. I am incredibly honoured to have stood beside you all and weathered this storm together.

Multiple and coinciding senior staff changes across ANI & MPT for wide and varied reasons has been incredibly difficult for all involved. It has challenged us (staff, officials, Board & committee volunteers) to operate outside our comfort zones and normal roles & responsibilities for a sustained period of time which is tough. Changes in staff are uncontrollable, unpredictable and uncomfortable but should be seen as an opportunity for organisational learning & development, although it can be difficult to see this at the time. Recruitment is difficult at present in the NI market and I am delighted to have challenged the market and appointed excellent new staff. I am excited about the Team we have now created and the future of the Sport is in the hands of an excellent Team. On top of that existing staff have stepped up to the mantle and kept the ship afloat in very stormy seas and have conducted themselves with poise, integrity and creativity under pressure. I am incredibly proud of all the staff and I thank them for all their hard work and support. That thanks is extended to all Board, Committees and Officials whom we work so closely with on a daily basis.



I have said this before but it resonates more this year, I feel and so I am repeating this quote from 2022 Annual Report.

“Traditionally our sport relies on a small number of stalwart volunteers who work assiduously and take little time out for recovery. This approach is effective in the short term but does not future proof the Sport and can lead to losing volunteers to burn out and put future success in jeopardy. We do not aim to dampen the enthusiasm of these volunteers but instead protect their longevity and retain knowledge and skills whilst ensuring a succession plan exists. This requires a cultural change within the Sport and an acceptance by all that time out is necessary to ensure the health & wellbeing of our staff and volunteers. This can take many forms and can be as little as a lunch break for an official during a busy day’s competition, a coach having cover at a club session to attend an important family engagement, committee member attending a meeting virtually to reduce the need for a round trip or a staff member booking some lieu time after a long spell of weekend working during the height of the competition season. These small opportunities for recovery should be welcomed, encouraged and facilitated throughout the sport to ensure long term success.”

The Track & Field season has been a success in many ways but it has been particularly difficult for a small and dedicated number of Officials and volunteers who deliver the competitions week in and week out. We deliver so many competitive opportunities throughout the season and with an appetite for more and more it is sometimes difficult to say no to adding an extra event here and there. As a result of a busy calendar coupled with a small number of available officials, officials were very over-stretched this season on multiple occasions and in many cases delivering multiple competitions in one week. It is becoming more difficult to find volunteers in any sector but we are finding it particularly tough. In order to ensure the welfare of all involved in our sport we need more volunteers and we need to think outside the box in terms of how we recruit and train new volunteers and most importantly welcome them to our sport with open arms, making the environment so inviting that they keep on coming back. As our organisation values set out “We want people to feel excited and inspired by our sport, in a safe environment with fun and enjoyment at the heart of athletics.” We need to reinject the fun and we know it is not fun when you are working under pressure. A new influx of volunteers, supported by the knowledge and expertise of our existing stalwarts is the only way back to the fun and to enable us to grow our competition offering ensuring the Welfare of all. Myself and the staff team are committed to a sharp focus on Official recruitment & development has already begun to try to tackle this issue which is evident across all the Home Countries, head on.

Rewarding and recognising our volunteers is not only incredibly important but a clear focus of our new strategy under People Development. The Celebration of Our People Event was the first time that Athletics NI had recognised and rewarded our excellent volunteers since before Covid. The long overdue event celebrated 13 winners on the evening covering Coaches, Officials, Clubs, Volunteers and Services to Athletics. It was an opportunity for our athletics community to come together and celebrate each other’s successes and recognise our athletics friends hard work and effort to sustain the sport during a difficult period. All who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening with an amazing atmosphere of comradery and joy that I hadn’t felt in the sports since I started post in 2022. It was incredibly important to celebrate our people as we did and make up for some lost time again trying to bring back the fun.





This year our new committee structure has begun to operate and you will see some of the progress made later in the report. This is the first time we have had committees dedicated to Performance Pathway, Development & Participation, Competition & Events, Selection, Audit & Risk as well as a continuation of our extremely dedicated pre-existing committees. The establishment of this structure from recruitment of volunteers and development of individual Terms of Reference has been a massive piece of work and the new committees are beginning to find their way of operating in our new system. With all change it is never straight forward but with progress now being made in multiple areas with additional volunteers putting themselves forward and some from outside the greater Belfast area this is a significant advancement for the sport and progress against our strategy. "New committees will keep us in touch with the needs of the members and in line with our strategy and values through supportive check and challenge and an enhanced capacity to achieve more." (Athletics NI Strategy 2023-2028)

This is a significant advancement in our strategic priority to serve the wider Sporting Community.

Kathryn Walls has been instrumental in delivering this project and I wish to thank her for all her commitment to this cause. As she steps down from the Board at the end of her term it is safe to say that she has made her mark on the Sport and the new structure is the legacy of her term amongst many other critical advancements. Although she is not going away you know, and will be coaching at club level and volunteering on the Competition & Events committee next year. Thank you for everything you have achieved for the sport whilst on the Board of Athletics NI.

Mary Peters Track has had its busiest and most tumultuous year to date. The year started disappointingly having failed TrackMark Unit 2 in March 2023 due to issue with the discus cage location and alignment. Andrew Hutchinson stepped up into the role of Track Manager following the report, which was a difficult issue to manage new into role but regardless we worked together to get ground works completed by Belfast City Council (BCC) to realign the cage and repositioning was completed by Timing Ireland. Thankfully reassessment was successful and the discus cage was back in use ahead of the 2024 season. Due to the ongoing upgrade at Antrim Forum taking longer to complete than expected, MPT received the highest number of bookings and competitions to date hosting all championships competitions including Districts & Ulster Schools Championships for the first time. The year was also peppered with uncertainty regarding the future contract and misinformation being leaked to the press, which caused some worry for staff and significant workload. The future arrangement has been put out to consultation to get the local users views on the site. Thanks you to those who took the time to complete the survey and attend the drop in sessions hosted by BCC staff. We await the report of the consultation from BCC and so the uncertainty still remains, although we have been offered an extension until the end of March 2025. Feedback from the District & Ulster Schools following this years championships at MPT was excellent and I want to pay tribute to the whole staff team at MPT for delivering a record breaking year at the track under difficult circumstances. It is a pleasure to work with you all to deliver excellent competition opportunities.

I believe this year although painful at times, is a turning point for the organisation and I wish to thank all ANI & MPT staff for working collaboratively and I am very optimistic for the future of the organisation with a great Team in place.

This AGM also see two critical volunteers stepping down from two key positions in the organisation, David Abrahams (Chair) and Gerry Carson (President) at the end of their respective terms.

David has transformed the governance and financial management of the organisation and leaves the organisation in prime position to flourish under the new strategy. I would like to thank him sincerely for his great work for the organisation.

Gerry has shown unrivalled commitment to the organisation in the role of President and was the first President to also sit on the Board. There is not a part of Northern Ireland that Gerry has not visited on his quest to represent the organisation. I have thoroughly enjoyed Gerry's presence at all events and he has been an incredible support. Thank you Gerry.

I would also like to thank the whole Board for their supportive check & challenge throughout the year. Thanks must also go directly to our Clubs for delivering the sport on the ground day in day out. Without your efforts Athletics NI could not achieve our strategic aims and create an environment where athletes and volunteers can achieve their potential and develop a lifelong love of the sport.

To the Officials, you are incredible at what you do and the sport relies on your efforts and expertise. Thank you for your continued support, commitment and resilience.

I am even more motivated now to continue on my quest to lead the Sport to achieve our purpose to unite the athletics community to overcome the current challenges and work collaboratively to safeguard the sport for the future. I look forward to working with you all to achieve this again this year.





President's Note 2023

AGM

Athletics is a something of a unique sport, it covers a range of disciplines from walking, road running, to mountain running, cross country, ultra running and track and field.

I write unique because almost anyone who can walk or run, can be part of the athletics world without having to spend a small fortune on kit plus accessories. One can simply put on normal everyday shoes, ordinary clothes and go walking from home. You might join others, go walking with family or friends. Walking is good for one's health. One can walk from normally very young, to very old.

It's along similar lines for almost all the other disciplines in our sport. Fancy trying running? A modest outlay on training shoes, shoes that in my younger days were known as "mutton dummies". A simple canvas job either white or black, no special materials, no super air cushions, just basic light shoes to run in, rather than wearing everyday leather shoes.

But of course, nowadays almost everyone has a pair of trainers, ranging from fairly cheap at less than £20 to the ludicrous cost of shoes worn by elite athletes costing many hundred of pounds. However, for the ordinary person who just enjoys running from home it really costs very little. Almost anyone can run.

Perhaps running from home makes one think of joining a club, either a straight forward running club or one called an athletics club which usually involves a range of activities from sprinting, to hurdling to jumps and throws. And if one does join a club then that's when the activities start to cost more. Special shoes for sprinting, jumping and throwing. And the better one becomes the costs begin to mount.

However, for most people sport begins at school, basic keep fit at primary level or a range of other sports at second level education from rugby, hockey, gaa, football, basketball and so forth. And what activity is common to all bar swimming? Running! And running fast. So, running can start with simple runs from home to athletics at second level education where those who seek a challenge can bid for success at one's school, at district schools' events right up to Irish schools and beyond. And of course, the better one becomes at one or more events the next stage is joining a club or competing for a university or both.

And then for the very best, local championship victories lead to international competition and for those few who reach elite status, Commonwealth Games and beyond like current star Hephthalite Kate O'Connor, who went from Northern Ireland champion to both Commonwealth and Olympics stardom. I sort of followed that route from being fast at primary school, to winning at St. Malachy's College but never got beyond the heats at the Ulster schools' championships.

After school I joined now long-gone Albert Foundry and rarely won anything until an incident at the club changed my whole destiny in our sport. Training at the club a week before the local championships, aged 21, the club team manager appeared accompanied by a photographer from the Belfast Telegraph. This guy wants a picture of two of you practicing starts, the manager said, so you two, pointing to my two companions, not you Carson.

The photograph was taken then after the manager had gone the two other sprinters told me, you went to the wrong school.

I was hopping mad. The next day I went to the library on the Donegal Road, and borrowed a book on sprinting by E. Mc. Donald Bailey who had won ten AAA titles. I copied out his training schedules, resolved to follow them carefully and vowed that the Foundry team manager would rue the day he had kept me out of the photograph.

The next year I won my first senior sprint championship then went on to amass ten sprint titles, set records at 100 yards, 220 yards, 400 metres and shared in the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 NI records, became a member of the Great Britain 4 x 100 relay squad and raced in the 4 x 100 relay final at the 1970 Commonwealth Games. I had international vests for NI and Ireland and at one stage flew almost weekly to compete for the London Polytechnical club. Coming up to date, earlier this summer I won both the 100m and discus in my age group (don't ask) and for the past four years I have had the honour of being the President of Athletics Northern Ireland, a role I thoroughly enjoyed. I have been at competitions all over Northern Ireland, Ulster and south of the border. I have given speeches, presented awards, attended funerals and have tried to be at every official fixture be it cross country, roads, track and field or ultras. I have attended meetings and more meetings. I have lost count of the mileage I had racked up; it's been a heck of a journey, but I have meet incredible people, the army of volunteers who make our sport happen, and indeed right now, we need more volunteers to keep our sport not just ticking over, but reaching for the stars. And we want more clubs to nominate people to be those volunteers. So please become involved and help produce the Mary Peters and Kate O' Connors of the future.

As I take my leave, I thank the Chairman Daid Abrahams and members of the ANI Board for putting up with me, and I also thank Elaine Grant the CEO of our sport for all her help and guidance and that of her team of professionals including the staff of the Mary Peters track.

I might be gone from the Board, but hopefully, I can soon spend more time at the track, coaching a fine group of young sprinters aged from 12 to 75. Onwards.

Gerry Carson





Treasurer's Report

Year Ended 31st March 2024

It gives me pleasure to report to members at the Annual General Meeting on the financial statements for the 12 months ending 31st March 2024 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 year of continuous improvement for Athletics NI with the reports showing a surplus of £46,264 and retained earnings of £95,379.

Income has increased on the previous year by £32.6K to £961K with the majority of the increase coming from Sport NI, registration fee income and sponsorship and donations. In the previous year we received £25K of commonwealth games grant which did not occur in this current financial year.

This year as requested we have provided further breakdown on costs however it should be noted that the coming year will again have further detail due to the implementation of a new accounting system and the recruitment of a finance manager based in Athletics NI offices. Staff costs have gone from £368K to £445K, an increase of £77K. This is due to finance management fees from before the recruitment of the finance manager and the fact that in the previous year Athletics NI was not fully resourced. The recruitment of the finance manager will be reducing the salary costs in the coming year as there will be no agency fees.



Spend in development cost have increased on last year by £11.7K however this was due to UK Athletics charges that have not been charged to Athletics NI in previous years. Events spend has increased by £3K. There is no spend in athletic equipment, but this is because equipment has been bought by Mary Peters Track. Work has also been done to reduce Live Stream costs, but the savings won't be reportable to next year. Pathway costs have reduced significantly by £110K due to no Erasmus programme in this reporting year, although kit spend has increased by £13K year on year. Under administrative costs pension costs have gone up in line with the recruitment of new staff. IT costs and open track development have increased by £20.8K with particular data collection developments to Open Track funded by Sport NI during the year. Entertainment costs have gone down to £42. Legal and professional costs have reduced by £12.8K.

This year we have found it prudent to have a bad debt provision of £3.5K but it should be noted on the balance sheet that debtors have reduced significantly from £72.6 K to £41.1K. This is due to the new finance manager being in place and building relationships with the membership. Thank you to those clubs who have assisted so willingly of late, it is much appreciated. Cash at Bank has also improved significantly from £78K to £179K. Creditors has increased slightly by £21K, but a batch of March invoices and receipts on open track for event organiser's March races were paid out early in April.

Overall cash and reserves / members funds have increased to £95K from £51K 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. We continue 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.

It should be noted that committee's 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 expect Athletics NI reserves to continue to grow in the coming years. ANI realise that this is a continuous improvement process. The coming year will have the full year's attention of the finance manager but for this reporting year he was only in place for five months. The reserves policy for Athletics NI is to have 3 months of reserves to cover operating expenses.

Great thanks goes to the Audit and Risk Committee Ian Taylor, Jim Alexander, and Malcolm McCausland. 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 volunteers who were 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.

Treasurer
Sharon-Louise Mckay



Company registration number: NI059740

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Financial statements

31 March 2024

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

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Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Directors and other information

Patron	Lady Mary Peters LG, CH, DBE, DL, DStJ, RNR
President	Gerry Carson
Vice President	Brian Smith
Directors	IR Taylor (Resigned 26/10/2023) (Appointed 26/06/2024)
	MWJ Cooke (Resigned 26/10/2023)
	KTA Walls
	DJ Abrahams
	SL McKay
	P Lawther
	DL Marrs
	V McDonough
	G Carson (Appointed 8/11/2023)
	H Irwin (Appointed 7/06/2023)
	B McDaid
	J Smyth (Appointed 26/06/2024)
	A Stocks (Appointed 06/03/2024)
	J Alexander (Resigned 26/10/2023)
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

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Directors report Year ended 31 March 2024

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Directors

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

IR Taylor	(Resigned 26/10/2023) (Appointed 26/06/2024)
MWJ Cooke	(Resigned 26/10/2023)
KTA Walls	
DJ Abrahams	
SL McKay	
P Lawther	
DL Marris	
V McDonough	
G Carson	(Appointed 8/11/2023)
H Irwin	(Appointed 7/06/2023)
B McDaid	
J Smyth	(Appointed 26/06/2024)
A Stocks	(Appointed 06/03/2024)
J Alexander	(Resigned 26/10/2023)

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Directors report Year ended 31 March 2024

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 25 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the board by:



DJ Abrahams
Director



SL McKay
Director

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) Year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 2024 and of its profit 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.

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (continued) Year ended 31 March 2024

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.

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (continued) Year ended 31 March 2024

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.

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Athletics Northern Ireland (2008) (continued) Year ended 31 March 2024

- 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

25 September 2024

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

**Statement of comprehensive income
Year ended 31 March 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		958,916	925,149
Other operating income		2,351	3,458
		<u>961,267</u>	<u>928,607</u>
Staff costs		(486,885)	(397,632)
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible and intangible fixed assets		(4,589)	(5,119)
Other operating expenses		(422,088)	(547,410)
Operating profit/(loss)		<u>47,705</u>	<u>(21,554)</u>
Interest payable and similar expenses		(1,441)	-
Profit/(loss) before taxation		<u>46,264</u>	<u>(21,554)</u>
Tax on profit/(loss)		(2,086)	-
Profit/(loss) for the financial year and total comprehensive income		<u><u>44,178</u></u>	<u><u>(21,554)</u></u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.


Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

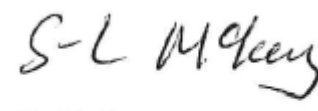
**Statement of financial position
31 March 2024**

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	17,047		21,636	
			17,047		21,636
Current assets					
Debtors	7	41,100		72,600	
Cash at bank and in hand		179,741		78,280	
		220,841		150,880	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(142,509)		(121,316)	
Net current assets			78,332		29,564
Total assets less current liabilities			95,379		51,200
Net assets			95,379		51,200
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account			95,379		51,200
Members funds			95,379		51,200

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 24 September 2024 and are signed on behalf of the board by:


DJ Abrahams
Director


SL McKay
Director

Company registration number: NI059740

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

**Statement of changes in equity
Year ended 31 March 2024**

	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	72,754	72,754
Profit/(loss) for the year	(21,554)	(21,554)
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(21,554)</u>	<u>(21,554)</u>
At 31 March 2023 and 1 April 2023	<u>51,201</u>	<u>51,201</u>
Profit/(loss) for the year	44,178	44,178
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>44,178</u>	<u>44,178</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>95,379</u></u>	<u><u>95,379</u></u>

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, 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.

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2024**

4. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 23 (2023: 22).

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	445,522	368,432
Social security costs	29,359	21,351
Other pension costs	12,004	7,849
	486,885	397,632

5. Profit/loss before taxation

Profit/loss before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible assets	6,162	5,119
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	5,115	4,725
	11,277	9,844

6. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, equipment £	fittings and Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	66,096	66,096
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	44,460	44,460
Charge for the year	4,589	4,589
At 31 March 2024	49,049	49,049
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2024	17,047	17,047
At 31 March 2023	21,636	21,636

Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2024

7. Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	41,100	72,600
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	59,245	28,691
Corporation tax	2,086	-
Social security and other taxes	20,728	10,059
Other creditors	60,450	82,566
	<u>142,509</u>	<u>121,316</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 -

Most directors are effectively involved in the sport by way of club affiliation, coach or official status.

Performance Pathway Report:

TOM REYNOLDS



Reflecting on the past year, following the launch of our 2023-2028 strategy, there have been some extremely positive steps within the Athletics NI Performance Pathway towards achieving our vision of inspiring athletes of all abilities and backgrounds as well as working collaboratively to safeguard our sport and overcome the current challenges.

Northern Irish athletes have competed with distinction over the past year at the top level, which is the level most aligned to our Sport NI performance targets, with the likes of Ciara Mageean's fantastic gold medal in Rome, Kate O'Connor's top 16 Olympic Games finish and Nick Griggs, still only 19, competing at the European Championships and breaking NI senior records at 3000m and 5000m.

Further down the pathway, athletes supported by our clubs, coaches and in many cases the Athletics NI Academy have achieved excellence whether at Ulster and Irish Schools level, NI & Ulster championship level or the rising number of athletes who have competed at age group major championship levels. We also selected sixteen athletes and para-athletes to represent NI & Ulster in the Manchester International at the end of August with the majority of the team having secured selection by performing at our senior championships at the start of August. This clearly demonstrates the link between our domestic competition and Home Country international pathways which is essential for the development of the sport at domestic level.

Even with the inspiring achievements above, we can and we will do even more to showcase all the different types of people who inspire others from within our sport, from masters athletes to beginning coaches, from officials officiating at major championships to our sport's event organisers.





A key aim in the past year was to unapologetically strive to demonstrate two of our key values highlighted in the strategy; Integrity and Transparency. With the assistance of both the new and existing committees, I believe we have achieved a lot in this area and now the performance pathway programmes, selection policies & processes, including selections for high level internationals, Athlete Awards, Mary Peters Trust & Belfast City Council funding and Athletics NI Programmes are overseen by staff and relevant committees collaboratively.

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 two of this new cycle specific targets had been set around the European Championships and Olympic Games: Aiming for a top 8 at each, with three top 16 performances and two top 32 performances in total. 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 Pathway 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.

We have a new Pathway Lead starting in autumn 2024 who will be responsible for planning and operations of the Athletics NI Academies and communications with athletes, coaches, and parents as well as the wider talent pathway for athletes and coaches, ensuring links to clubs and schools.

Scott Paulin is the Pathways Coach and delivers Academy sessions at both Jordanstown and Coleraine and has stepped up to fill areas of the Academy Manager role since Amy Foster's departure in early 2024.



2024 MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rome European Championships and Paris Olympic Games

Double 2022 major championship silver medallist and 2023 World Championship 4th placer Ciara Mageean stepped up to the top of the podium at a major championship for the first time. The multiple European medallist produced a stunning sprint finish finding a gap in the home straight to take gold in a time of 4:04.66. This Gold completes her set of European medals having won silver in Munich in 2022 and Bronze in 2016.

Fast improving Callum Baird built on his World Championship experience from last year and grasped his opportunity to show his 400m relay abilities when anchoring the Irish 4x400m team to 10th place overall, recording an outstanding 45.14 second split for the one lap in the process. Nick Griggs gained valuable senior championship racing experience finishing 28th in a highly tactical first round of the 1500m. Emily Haggard Kearney battled hot conditions to finish the Half Marathon in 64th with a time of 77.04. Our targets for Rome were exceeded based on the Sport NI points system with Ciara's gold having considerable value to the sport.

At the Olympic Games in August, we fell slightly short of our ambitious targets, medal hopeful Ciara Mageean very sadly had to pull out the night before the heats following an Achilles injury which occurred during her final preparation. Rachel McCann was a reserve for the highly successful women's 4x400m who finished 4th, she will have gained huge experience from training with the team and warming up on race days. Kate O'Connor hit her target of a top 16 at the Games with an impressive 14th position in the Heptathlon, going in as the 23rd ranked athlete on the Road to Paris rankings. This is the highest finish for a Northern Irish athlete at the Games this century with James McLroy having finished 15th in the 800m at Sydney 2000.

European Cross Country 2023

The 2023 European Cross Country Championships held in Brussels; Belgium in December 2023 built on an extremely successful 2022 for Northern Ireland athletes. Nick Griggs won individual U20 bronze and alongside Seamus Robinson, led the Irish U20 team to gold. Anna Gardiner had a spectacular run in the U20 Women's race coming 7th. The U23 Men's race saw Callum Morgan cross the line in 41st and Matthew Lavery came through in 61st with the Irish team were 10th overall.



In the Senior Women's race Fionnuala Ross (Armagh AC) finished 30th with 2022 Commonwealth Games representatives Eilish and Roisin Flanagan 44th and 49th respectively.

World Indoor Championships 2024, Glasgow

Roisin Flanagan was 15th in 3000m in a PB and Rachel McCann a squad member of Women's 4x400m Ireland at World Indoor Championships.

European U18 Championships Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

Conor Kelly progressed from his 2023 season where he just missed out on Commonwealth Youth Games Selection to earning the bronze medal in Slovakia and breaking the 47 second barrier over 400m. Ben Sykes qualified for the championships on the final weekend of the selection window and then significantly outperformed his ranking over 100m, winning his heat and semi final in PB times before coming 7th in the final.

World U20 Championships, Lima, Peru

Three NI Athletes have been selected for the World U20 championships in Peru at the end of August. Lughaidh Mallon (1500m), Conor Kelly (4x400m Men & Mixed) Adam Courtney (Men's 4x400m).

Athletics NI Records in 2024



Senior Records

Ciara Mageean showed her class in her season's debut and build up to the European Championships at the British Milers Club in Manchester in a time of 1:58.51, breaking her own NI and Irish record. In 2024 Nick Griggs set multiple records including three within a week in July. These included a NI senior 3000m record of 7:36.59 set at the London Diamond League, surpassing the previous the record held by Athletics NI's Vice Chair Paul Lawther and running 13.13.07 for 5000m at the Morton Games in Santry taking the record from Dermot Donnelly. James Gormley, who narrowly missed out on selection for the Commonwealth Games in 2022, broke Jim McGuinness' 1977 Mile record at the Monument Mile event in Stirling at the end of August with an impressive 3:53.69.

U20 Records

Annabel Morrison broke the NI U20 3000m record with a 9.31.27 clocking while representing NI & Ulster at the Home Countries U20 International in Eton. She surpassed the previous record of 9.31.57 which was held by European Cross Country medallist Grace Carson.

U18 Records

Ben Sykes bettered Aaron Sexton's U18 100m three times over two days in at the European U18 Championships in Slovakia with the new mark set in the semi-final in a time of 10.65. Conor Kelly broke the 47 second barrier with a remarkable 46.97 which is the new mark that was previously held by Curtis Woods set at the Youth Commonwealth Games in 2008.

Sport NI Athlete Award

Athletics NI had successful applications approved in April 2024 for funding towards living costs in total amounting to £10,000, for the following athletes who are not fully funded by British or Irish world class programmes but are training towards future major championships and games. 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 and to Olympic Games.

- Callum Baird
- Lauren Roy
- Rachel McCann
- Ellie McCartney

Mary Peters Trust Funding

The Trust have supported six athletes from September 2023 with a total of £5200:

- Veronica O'Neill
- Callum Baird
- Finn O'Neill
- Toby Thompson
- Arnar Brynjarsson
- Katie Graham

The Trust also supported four young coaches towards their coaching qualifications with a total £1275 as part of their Magill Family Charitable Trust Coaching Awards.

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

Academies

The Athletics NI Academies are vehicles to deliver our junior athlete, parent, and coach curriculum. The Academy program delivery returned for 2023-2024 launching in November with 40 athletes selected and running weekly until August. Along with weekly physical preparation sessions the majority of athletes, parents and coaches received:

- 2 half term camps in October and January
- Injury prevention and Olympic weightlifting workshops
- Competition planning and preparation, goal setting and athlete wellness monitoring
- Weekly speed development and strength and conditioning
- Quarterly strength diagnostics
- Integrated Physiotherapy clinics provided by Anna Lawther (Jordanstown) and Stephen Haslam (Coleraine)

The Next Steps

2024 has been a positive step in the right direction towards achieving the long-term strategic aims of Athletics NI. Looking ahead to the next year, I am excited that we will have a new Pathway Lead starting imminently to continue the good work that has been done by the pathways team over the past decade and to focus on ensuring all event groups of Track & Field are developed aligning to our aim of having NI athletes competing at European Age Group level in jumps, throws, endurance and sprints by 2028.

We have an ambitious new Clean Athletics Implementation Plan which aims to educate more athletes, coaches, and stakeholders at all levels of the pathway and safeguard our sport and will work with the Board and Athletics NI Clean Sport Educator Lyn Fisher to get the crucial information on Clean Athletics to all our members.

We expect to hear good news about the Commonwealth Games in 2026 before the AGM which I believe will inspire athletes of all levels and ages. The Performance Pathways staff will work closely with our new Performance Pathway and Selection Committee chairs Jason Smyth and David Marrs to ensure that the best possible team is nominated, supported, and prepared to continue the excellent performances we have seen at the 2018 and 2022 Games.



Thanks

This year I would particularly like to thank Amy Foster who contributed a great deal to Athletics as an athlete, and particularly the talent pathway since becoming a staff member in 2019 and I wish her well in her new role at Sport NI. I would also like to thank Scott Paulin for going above and beyond in Amy's absence to keep the Academies functioning, all the while juggling his PhD studies.

I would like to thank Athletics NI staff members, programme personal coaches and SNISI service providers who have made the performance programmes stronger and contributed to the international successes in over the last number of seasons. I would also like to thank the Clubs, Volunteers and Committee Members 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.

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 Anna Lawther and Stephen Haslam for their continued support with Academy physiotherapy provision and Academy coach, Thomas Rogan who has been invaluable in his contribution to Academy programmes. We will continue to support athletes of all levels and their coaches across Northern Ireland and thank them for their continued efforts and commitment to fulfilling their abilities and representing Northern Ireland with pride.

Many thanks

Tom Reynolds,

Performance Pathway Manager



Development Manager Report:

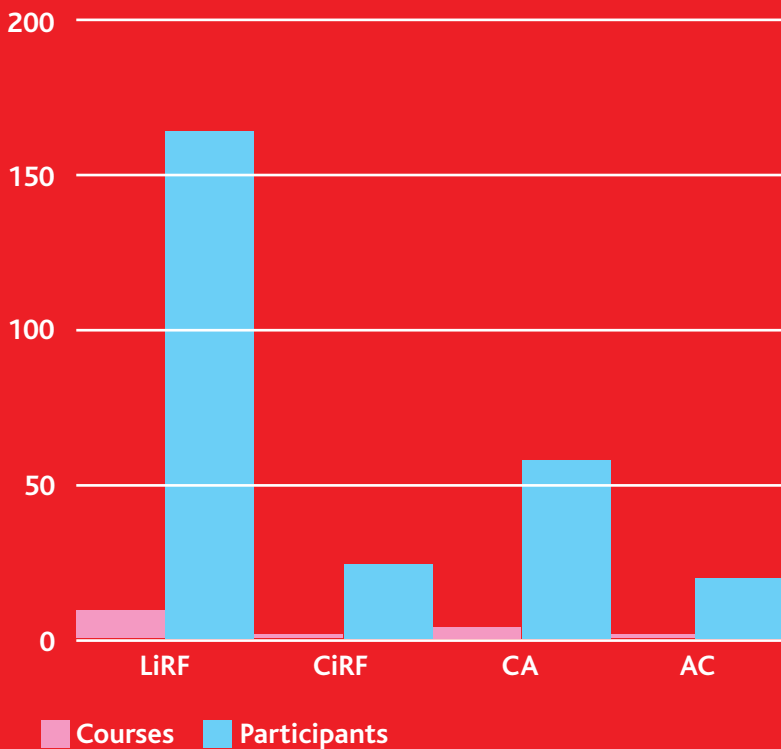
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1. COACH EDUCATION

Overview

We have seen continued growth in coach education across Northern Ireland, with increasing participation in our courses since 2023. Our focus on delivering high-quality education to both urban and rural areas has yielded positive outcomes.

Qualification	Number of Courses	Number of Participants	%Outside Belfast
Leadership in running Fitness	10	165	50%
Coach in running Fitness	2	25	0%
Coaching Assistant	4	58	50%
Athletics Coach	2	20	0%



Event Group

We have successfully partnered with other UK Home Nations (England, Wales, and Scotland) to deliver Event Group Specializations throughout the year.

Courses were hosted throughout NI with 50% of Entry level qualifications held outside of Belfast

Support for Coaches

Six coaching assistants were awarded grants towards their Athletics Coach Qualification via the Mary Peters Trust.

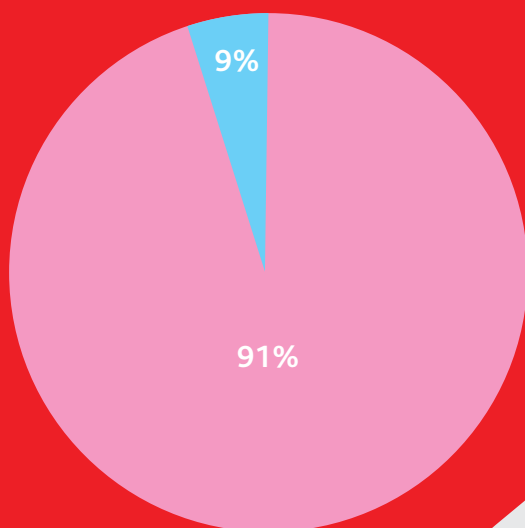
2. COACHING AND OFFICIALS LICENSING TRANSFER

From October 2023, we oversaw the transfer of Coach and Officials licensing from UK Athletics (UKA) to Athletics NI (ANI) for levels 1–3. This transition ensures full compliance with our terms and conditions. We are pleased to report that 874 coaches have successfully moved over, while a small number opted for retirement or failed to complete the process (87).

Athletics NI continues to be an active member of the Coach and Officials Education Management groups, ensuring our voice is heard on national platforms.

“Find a Coach” Platform

The launch of the “Find a Coach” platform has been instrumental in allowing clubs and individuals to verify the validity and qualifications of their coaches, enhancing transparency and accountability.



Re-licensed Coaches



3. COACH DEVELOPMENT AND CPD OPPORTUNITIES

We are excited to announce the upcoming Autumn program of CPD workshops, which will cater to all levels of the coaching pathway. These will include both virtual and practical sessions.

Confirmed

Race Walking Clinic

Introduction to Hurdles

Development of Throws

Safety on the Run : A workshop for Female Runners

Working with Parents in Sport

The Parent/Coach relationship with Geoff Wightman

Endurance with Honore Hoedt

High Jump Coaching Workshop with Janet Boyle

Awaiting confirmation

Sports Psychology with Dr Gavin Breslin

Intro to Mountain Running (NIMRA)

Series of Workshops for Youth Academy Athletes

Workshops Delivered:

- Physical Preparation for Youth Endurance Runners
- "RUN NI" – How to Run a Successful C25K Program
- LiRF to CiRF – Bridging the Gap
- Safeguarding Workshops (in collaboration with Sport NI)

4. OFFICIALS EDUCATION AND RECRUITMENT

We launched an Official Recruitment Drive in September, aiming to train 15 new officials with a focus on Field Events. Throughout the summer, our Level 1 and 2 officials gained valuable experience.

5. CLUB DEVELOPMENT

The Club Self-Assessment Tool, launched in 2021, continues to assist clubs in self-analysing their governance practices. In the past 12 months, 9 clubs have utilized this tool, leading to bespoke workshops such as:

- Attracting and Retaining Members
- Club Structure and Governance
- Exploring Change

The development team has engaged with over 30 clubs in the past year, delivering workshops, facilitating program delivery, and conducting club visits.

6. FUNDAMENTAL AND FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

We have continued to see strong participation in our Fundamentals and Foundation programs. The table below summarizes the programs delivered and participants engaged:

Program	Number of Participants	Area(s)
Panthers	112	Belfast
Rising Stars	58	Belfast
Halloween Startrack	12	Belfast
Easter Startrack	53	Belfast, Magherafelt and Omagh
Summer Startrack	294	Belfast, Newry, Derry, Magherafelt, Omagh, Bangor
Startrack T&F Comp	115	Magherafelt

Overall, we supported 19 programs and engaged over 1,000 participants.



7. RUN NI AND DAILY MILE INITIATIVES

Run NI

Run NI has supported 6 Couch to 5K programs, engaging 200+ participants, with a majority being women (80%) and over 50 years old (50%).

The Daily Mile

The Daily Mile network has expanded significantly since the Running Participation Officer joined in 2023, with key partnerships formed with Belfast City Marathon, Queen's University, and various local councils.

8. SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

We have taken a proactive approach to welfare by ensuring that clubs, coaches, parents, and athletes are aware of safeguarding procedures. Workshops were delivered in collaboration with Sport NI and UKA.

Voice of the Group Initiative

This new initiative allows young athletes to self-nominate as spokespersons, ensuring their concerns and feedback are heard. This will be launched for ANI led programs before a wider initiative to clubs

9. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVITY

Through our tutor and official recruitment drives, we aim to diversify our workforce by increasing representation from rural areas, engaging more female tutors, and ensuring a broad representation of ages, races, and backgrounds.

10. SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This past year has been one of growth and transformation. We have made significant progress in coach education, club development, and engagement across all levels. Increased participation in Fundamentals and Foundation programs remains a key part of our long-term strategy, and our commitment to rural areas has helped foster wider engagement in athletics.

Special thanks to the entire Development team—Eilish, Phil, Luke, Patricia, Toni, Pagraig and Calum—for their hard work and dedication, as well as to all the tutors, coaches, volunteers, and officials who contribute countless hours to keep our sport thriving.

Events, Memberships & Communications Report

AMANDA MORTON

Over the past three and a half months since joining ANI, I have had a very warm welcome from the Athletics family. I would like to particularly thank the members of the Track and Field and Endurance committees for their wealth of Knowledge during the staff transition period.

The Events, Marketing and Communications team for 2024 saw an additional change with Kristen Haire departing ANI, and Oran Young taking over as the Events, Memberships Officer, Amanda Morton as the Events, Membership and Communications Manager and Isaac McCollum rounds off the three person team as Digital marketing assistant and continues to work on our social media and website projects.

Club Affiliation & Registrations

For the 2023–2024 registration year, Athletics NI has seen an increase in affiliated clubs, from 99 affiliated clubs, to 101 with a modest membership growth of 161 members up to 8030. 1701 age group Athletes are currently ANI licensed, an increase on the previous year.

The number of Senior licensed athletes for 2024 was 1049, in addition to 5280 masters athletes. North Down AC continues to have the highest number of licensed members, followed by Ballymena AC and Jog Lisburn RC.

Club affiliations and Athlete registrations continue to be managed through the OpenTrack System, allowing a more automated membership renewals process for clubs.

Permits

Athletics NI issued 150 Road Race permits, 18 Track and field permits and 53 Cross country/mountain running/Ultra permits from Nov 2023 – Sept 2024.

We continue to offer guidance including but not limited to; event risk assessment, liability insurance, organisational guidance as well as general Athletics rule clarifications and officiating requirements. However it has been identified that more needs to be done to support event organisers to ensure the quality of events remains high for our members. Over the coming 12 months we will endeavour to offer more educational opportunities for race directors by using tools such as online workshops as well as more in person assistance.





Marketing & Communication

In mid 2024 we began to streamline and target our Marketing channels, with the intention of housing all things Athletics NI on a single domain within Athleticsni.org. We also have management of , 3 Instagram pages, 2 Twitter accounts, 1 Threads, 1 Tiktok as well as email marketing. Athletics NI continues to work with press and media, online, as well as print and broadcast media to ensure athletics. We have seen a notable increase in both views and engagement across Facebook and Instagram since June 2024, with a total reach year to date of almost 375k across the two main platforms.

Our YouTube channel, which houses our live streams has less reach comparatively, with 2.3k views for the 2024 Senior Track and field championships, and 8.1k views for the 2023 Bobby Rea and age group streams. We have identified this as an area of need for the coming 12 months, and have already started to create videography content to increase traffic to the channel, including a recent mini documentary on David and April Clarke as they talk about their build up for the Moy Park Belfast City Half Marathon where they will be attempting to break the Guinness World Record for the fastest combined half marathon time for a parent and child. This video reached 1.6k views in only two days.

Website & Email

The Athletics NI website continues to be a housing for resources from event fixtures and results, to development programs and governance information. It has seen 280k active users year to date in 2024, a similar number to that seen in 2023. The most frequently visited sections continue to be the Event fixtures and results pages. Work can be done in the coming year to ensure the website is more up to date and user friendly, particularly when accessed through mobile platforms. Work has begun with our website designer on improving the user experience and streamlining the menu navigation.

Our current Email Marketing System (EMS) is email octopus, this platform is used to communicate news and events to club secretaries, schools and targeted members. We also use direct email communication with athletes registered to events through OpenTrack, as well as personalised emails for more specific on topics. ANI sent 135 emails via email octopus emails in the last 11 months, a huge increase on the level of direct communication from the previous year.





2023/2024 Event Program

Flahavan's Primary Schools Cross Country League 2023-2024

The Flahavans sponsored Primary schools cross country league continues to be one of the most well attended events in the Athletics NI calendar. Three rounds of events took place across six regions, totalling 19 events with 57 individual races from October 2023 though to the final in Feb 2024. Over 5300 pupils took part. For the 2023/24 season, Kings Park primary school in Lurgan took the girls title, while Stranmillis Primary school in Belfast won the boys team event.

The top 20 girls and boys from the Final are invited to join the Flahavan's Endurance Squad, led by Coach Paula Wallace.

NI & Ulster Intermediate & Masters Cross Country- Sunday 28th January 2024

This years intermediate and masters XC took place at Billy Neill MBE country park, with 326 entries, very similar to the previous year. Dromore AC took the Masters men's title with 141 points, whilst North Down AC won the women's masters event with 125 points.

UUJ Indoor Meets- January 2023

Athletics NI hosted the annual Jumps & Throws Meet on Saturday 3rd and the Sprints & Hurdles Meet on Saturday 10th Feb at Ulster University, Jordanstown. The event catered to age groups from U14 to Senior. A combined 184 athletes took part. It was noted on the day that the equipment at the facility was not adequate and work has begun in partnership with UUJ to improve provision for next years events.

NI & Ulster Senior Cross Country Championships- Sunday 18th February 2024

The stage was set for an electrifying competition at the picturesque venue of Carndonagh, Donegal, on Sunday 18th February. In all 211 runners competed, 104 men and 107 women.

Emily Haggard Kearney made an unforgettable debut for North Belfast Harriers, showcasing her prowess as she dashed across the finish line to claim the top spot in the Women's race. Hot on her heels were her fellow clubmate, Roise Roberts securing an impressive second place and Robyn McKee of Annadale Striders clinching the third spot. In the team standings North Belfast Harriers Women soared to victory, with St Peters AC in second and Annadale Striders in third.

In the Men's race, Finn McNally of North Belfast Harriers dominated the field. Annadale Striders' Eskander Turki and Neil Johnston put up a valiant fight, securing second and third place



respectively. Annadale Striders emerged triumphant in the team standings, followed by North Belfast Harriers in second and Newcastle & District AC in third.

NI & Ulster Indoor Age Group Championships- Saturday 2nd March 2024

Hosted at the Sport Ireland Campus, Indoor athletics Centre, Blanchardstown, the event had over 600 athletes taking part in over 150 separate events. The athletes ranges from U12 to U20 and were supported by over 30 officials from both Athletics NI and the Ulster Athletics Council.

Finn Valley was the most represented club with 83 age group athletes competing, Whilst the largest event was the U14 girls hurdles, with 50 entries.

Team Trophy- Sunday 26th May 2024

The 2024 team trophy held at the Mary Peters Track in Belfast saw 5 women's teams and 8 men's teams compete for the trophy, an increase on the 2023 team numbers.

In the women's competition, similarly to the 2023 event, Lagan Valley AC finished in first place ahead of City of Derry AC by 9 points in a tight finish. The men's event saw Omagh Harriers lead the way improving on their second place finish the previous year.

Ulster Schools TF Championships- Friday 17th & Saturday 18th May 2024

The USSAA hosted the 2024 Ulster Schools track and field championships at The Mary Peters Track on May 17th and 18th. Athletics NI were proud to support the event with notable performances including a number of championship records in the senior girls 1500m and Long Jump to name a few. ANI look forward to assisting the USSAA in the future to continue the provision of Athletics competition opportunities for secondary schools across the province.

ANI Open Meets – April/May/August 2024

Athletics NI hosted three open meets over the course of this years track and field season, with the aim of increasing competition opportunities for members, and helping provide extra opportunities to obtain qualifying times for age group events. Over the three events there were 370 registrations for shorted format competitions which included a streamlined track and field program.

NI & Ulster Children's Games & U12-U13 Championships- Sunday 2nd June 2024 and NI & Ulster U14-U20 Age Group Championships- Saturday 8th & 9th June 2024

This years age group championships saw 687 young athletes compete at the Mary Peters Track in over 200 individual events, an absolute credit to the officials over two very busy days.

The children's games, and U12/U13 championships were hosted at Finn Valley AC centre by the Ulster Athletics

council. The range of ages from U9 – U13 saw a good program of events ranging from 60m to 600m, as well as long jump, high jump, shot put and turbo javelin.

The growing number of entries in these events highlights the continued growth in age group athletics and the work being done in the background by clubs at this level.

NI & Ulster Senior Championships- Friday 9th & Saturday 10th August 2024

The 2024 Senior championships saw 285 athletes compete, a small increase on the previous year, and closer to the number of registrations in 2022. The event was run in August this year, which attracted a number of higher profile athletes such as Orla Comerford, for whom the event was a final warm up prior to the Paralympic games. The event ran over the course of Friday and Saturday, with the inclusion of the 4x400 and 4x100 relays and 10,000m men's race on the Friday evening.

This year's event used OpenTrack features more fully, with registration, event seeding and track results all integrated online.

NI & Ulster Combined Event Championships- Saturday 31st August & Sunday 1st Sept 2024

61 athletes took part in the 2024 combined event championship, a 10% increase on the 2023 event. The event had a notable skew towards the U13-U15 age groups, with unfortunately no women completing the Senior Women's Heptathlon, disappointing considering Kate O'Connor's Olympic appearance in the same event this year.

Again the OpenTrack integration for this event was successful, with registration and total points calculations being automated for the first time.





Mary Peters Track Report:

CONOR MOORE

It has been another very busy and successful year for the Mary Peters Track (MPT) with usage continuing to increase and more high quality competitions been delivered.

A quick look at the booking calendar on the MPT website for April and May highlights a number of key events such as school sports days and training sessions every day during the week and competitions at the weekends. There was zero blank spaces on the calendar for April and May, this trend continued into June, July and August, meaning very few quiet days at the track for the MPT staff. This does not include all of the club training sessions and casual use of the track which happened alongside these bookings. This gives an insight into the current usage levels which have particular challenges attached.

Having only taken over in July, I have to give a special mention to Paul McParland who stepped up during this time and with support from the CEO was able to navigate this very busy period and still deliver the high level of service which MPT has become associated with.

Schools

The great relationship between Mary Peters Track and schools has continued to develop since last year. We hosted a total of 33 schools sports days', as well as over 50 schools training sessions as each school prepared for their Districts Competitions. MPT was delighted to host a number of the Districts Championships and also played host to the Ulster Schools Championships and Irish University Championships. The Ulster Schools' Athletics Association is a cross-community organisation with over 650 affiliated schools competing at the Mary Peters Track over various events throughout the year and this year in particular we seen the greatest footfall of athletes through the Mary Peters Track having hosted the Schools Districts and Ulster Championships. The District's Schools saw 3961 athlete take part across 4 districts(District A- 1429, B- 664, D- 740 & E-1128) and 1206 athletes took part in the Ulster Schools Final at MPT.

Over 14,000 students visited the track in June of this year with the addition of new Districts & hosting of the Ulster Schools championships for the first time MPT has had an incredibly busy year. Some of these students would have been stepping onto an athletics track for the first time. Speaking as someone who was not fortunate enough live in close proximity of MPT to get train on MPT on a regular basis, I can say with confidence that a lot of these students who experience MPT for the first time would have been inspired by the whole environment. This can only be a positive thing for our sport and will help to ensure that our young athletes continue to stay involved in athletics on a wider scale.



Corporate Events

Like previous years MPT played host to a number of corporate events with the likes of Pure Gym, McDonalds, Wing It and Fibrus all holding team building days at the track. The Mary's Peter Trust held another very successful corporate event at the track which was one of the track staff's favorite events. Dates have already been set for next year with another two day event planned. As always Mary continues to be an influential presence at the track, making numerous appearances at events and always taking time to engage with young athletes and coaches which is invaluable and appreciated by everyone.

Overall Usage

Usage across all age groups has increased once again this year, most noticeably in the 12 – 16 year age bracket. This is largely due to the increase in school usage. During and after the Olympics we seen a large increase in 5-10 year olds who were keen to test out their own athletic ability after watching the professionals. We were able to offer advice to their parents and as a result of trying out the excellent facilities the MPT track has to offer, staff were able to signpost these individuals to all the local clubs that train at the track. Also worth noting is the fact that daytime usage has seen a small increase due to CrossFit and Hyrox athletes using the track for their running training.

Competitions

Over the course of the season, we hosted 38 different competitions. These included club events, ANI championships (seniors, age groups and combined events) and elite competitions such as Belfast Irish Milers Meet and British Milers meet. Both attracted international athletes and large crowds of spectators. We also hosted the very successful Northern Ireland Master Championships.

Lagan Valley AC were once again regular visitors to the track, hosting another very successful and well attended Fab Five series. This gives young athletes an opportunity to develop their racing craft and try different events over the five competitions. These competitions bring a lot of energy and atmosphere to the track on a Thursday evening regardless of the weather. Lagan Valley also hosted their club championships at the track as well as organising events alongside the BMC.

Hosting these events requires a lot of teamwork so thanks to the CEO and ANI staff for all their support. A huge thank you and massive respect to all the ANI officials who give up their free time to make all these competitions possible. Thank you to John Glover who provides excellent commentary during the events and is the voice of the Mary Peters Track. Finally, thank you to Paul, Aoife, Mark, Ethan, Neil, Phoebe, Jason and Ben who worked tirelessly throughout the season making sure that the track was ready for every competition.

Challenges/Future

Unfortunately, it has not been all smooth sailing this year with a number of challenges, some have been overcome while others are ongoing. Equipment being the main challenge, training blocks and training hurdles were not up to the required standard for most of the season, however on a positive note, we have been able to purchase two new sets of blocks and fifteen new training hurdles which means we now have a competition set

of blocks, two sets of training blocks and thirty-three training hurdles. Faulty timing & measuring equipment has also been a challenge this year, which has put extra pressure on our officials. All equipment is currently being reviewed to ensure it meets the required standard.

Unfortunately the council did not follow through with their assurance to have the track cleaned and lines resprayed for the start of the season. We have escalated this risk as something that needs completed before the beginning of next season as a clear priority. The council have also agreed to replace 50 seats in the stand before the end of the year and a further 50 before the start of the season.

Another issue which needs to be addressed is the increase in usage of the track which has at times led to overcrowding on the track during peak times. This has the potential to have negative effects on the quality of sessions due to lack of space available. We are currently reviewing our booking system and plan to introduce a new system in the near future, this will take some time to implement, and may be met with some resistance, but we believe in time it will only improve and enhance the experience for all track users.

I would like to thank all the clubs and individuals who use the track for their patience and understanding as we work through these challenges. Talks are currently ongoing between ANI management and Belfast City Council about the future of Mary Peters Track. A recent survey has recently been carried out by Belfast City Council to gather the views and opinions of all service users. The CEO is working tirelessly to get a more fit for purpose agreement in place which will involve investment in the facility and equipment and secure the future of the Mary Peters Track.

On a final note, on my first day as track manager there was a schools sport day taking place. The noise of the children enjoying competing in the fresh air was a real pleasure to see and hear. A few days later we hosted the Northern Ireland Master Championships. These athletes might not have been as young as two days prior but the noise of laughter and enjoyment was the exact same. This emphasizes the positive contribution athletics has on young and old alike.

There are not many sports where in the space of two days you would see athletes as young as 6 years old and athletes aged 80+ enjoying the same space with big smiles on their faces. Our sport may not be perfect, and whilst challenges exist it is important not to lose sight of the positive aspects that athletics brings to everyone. Let's hope in 60 years some of them kids are still enjoying our wonderful sport at the Mary Peters Track.





Track & Field Committee Report

The Track & Field committee is mostly comprised of volunteers from officiating, coaching and club representatives, supported by staff members. The committee meet a minimum of six times over the season, with a lot of additional work done via email and phone calls.

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The aim of the committee is to deliver high quality competition to athletes of all ages and abilities. Despite many difficulties, the 2024 season was no exception.

There were 29 competitions which were organised by seven different meeting providers, as well as ANI. These meetings over the season were attended by many 100s of athletes across all the ages and abilities. These meetings go from strength to strength, congratulations to the clubs and the organisers.

Our own Age Group championships were well attended and it was good to see the Senior Championships had a better attendance than the previous year. However despite there being a clear closing date for entries, there are still requests for late entries. The time table (which is an extensive piece of work for staff and committee members) is planned around the entry numbers, so closing dates must be adhered to.

The multi events competition provided two super days of competition with some wonderful performances from the athletes.

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

The Staff continue to engage with UUJ to ensure the upkeep of the facility and the equipment are a priority. Antrim track is progressing; however it will be the 2025 season before it is ready for any competition.

Another very important area for any competition is the officials. This was a particularly difficult year for officials.

Several different circumstances made this so; a low turnout of our regular officials due to illness or officiating elsewhere, unreliable or broken equipment, last minute additions to the fixture list and often poor weather conditions (which obviously we have no control over) made this a somewhat frustrating season for officials. There, unfortunately, continues to be verbal abuse and criticism from parents or coaches towards officials', this can be and is very concerning.

The Officials Sub Group met during the year to make referee appointments for all local meetings. Well done to these referees who organised the available officials and kept events on time.

In spite of the problems, officials managed to keep all competitions running, allowing athletes the opportunity to achieve their best performance in the 29 competitions.

At present Athletics NI have 84 licensed officials, but we regularly only have around 25 of the same dedicated people officiating at each competition. Although officials enjoy this volunteering role it places a big demand on their personal time and several are finding this difficult to keep up.

We need clubs and coaches to encourage their volunteers to enrol in a Level 1 course and become officials. Without officials there will be no competition.

Congratulations to all ANI Officials who officiated at UKA top level meetings including;

The World indoor Championships in Glasgow,
British Indoor Championships in Birmingham,
The Diamond League in London,
The British Championships in Birmingham.

Also congratulations to our newly qualified officials who completed the Level 1 course and practical experiences and have now joined the ANI Officials Team.

Their help was greatly appreciated this year and it is very encouraging to see some of them working towards the Level 2 qualification in their discipline.

World Athletics have identified the need for a pool of WA Referees and have therefore introduced a new level in their current system, The World Athletics Bronze Referee Award. The aim of this programme is to ensure that, from designated meetings, valid performances are recognised for a range of purposes, World records, World Rankings, entry qualifications for championships and other competitions.

From Northern Ireland we have had officials who were invited to participate and have passed the award;

Joy Alexander – field judge
Wendy Davis – track judge
Tom Thompson – starter

Many, many congratulations to these officials for attaining this award.

Many thanks to all those who supported our track & field programme throughout what was a very busy and sometimes difficult year.

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 2025

Barbara Scott
T&F Secretary

Endurance Committee Report

This year has been particularly busy and it is very pleasing to see that numbers competing in endurance events continue to rise with many events particularly on the road being quickly sold out. It is also pleasing to see that the weekly Park Run events continue to attract large numbers on an on going basis.

Our Road Championships were run off successfully all being incorporated with other events as follows

- 5k at Queen's 5k in March:
- 10k at Bangor 10k in September
- Half Marathon at Omagh Half in April
- Marathon at Belfast Marathon in May
- Road Relays at Victoria Park Relays in October.

Road Racing continues to attract large numbers with many promotions being sold out and record numbers taking part in many events. For example both the Belfast Marathon and Half Marathon had record numbers with many hundreds of would be entrants having to be refused. It is good to see that the events are on the whole becoming noticeably better organised, and the committee is committed to working with promoters to increase the level of professionalism in our permitted events. The out workings of the road closure legislation is still causing problems in some areas but one positive is that it has raised the level of organisation required to promote an event and so contributed to the enhanced experience of participants.

Our Cross Country Championships were successfully delivered in conjunction with UAC as follows

- Even age groups at Dundonald in October
- Uneven and Novice at Stranorlar in November
- Intermediate and Masters at Dundonald in January
- Senior at Carndonagh in February

The Cross Country league ran successfully over nine rounds throughout the winter season. Once again it proved very successful and has had a very positive effect on participation levels among adult runners particularly women. North Belfast harriers won both Mens and women'd sections of the league.

In addition the Primary Schools league ,sponsored by Flavahans, was promoted by ANI with 6 regional heats and a grand final. It was extremely well supported by schools. It is proving to be a very worthwhile introduction to endurance running for children of older primary school age.

During the year we fielded a number of representative teams in the following international events

- Bobby Rea International XC
- Telford 10k Road Race
- Parliament Hill London XC
- Trafford 10k Road Race
- Cardiff Podium 10k Road Race
- Antrim Coast Half Marathon

Over the course of the year we encountered a number of issues around athletes eligibility to compete. We urgently need some process to be initiated whereby the rules regarding eligibility can be clarified. At the time of writing this has not happened despite repeated requests



Performance Pathway Committee Report

The Performance Pathway Committee met three times in the past year which exceeded the minimum requirement.

At the first meeting before Christmas 2023, the committee met to discuss the terms of reference and elect a chair and secretary. As one of the elected members had withdrawn from the committee prior to this it was suggested by Jim Alexander that the committee co-opt Lyn Fisher and Alan Kennedy and that elections take place at the next meeting.

The committee met again in May with the new co-opted members and also David Marrs who attended as chair of the selection committee. Jason Smyth was elected chair and therefore took up a board seat and Tom Reynolds was elected secretary.

Several matters were discussed including the set up of a meeting to provide an incentive for our best local athletes to participate in the senior T&F championships using the Manchester International selection policy. The competition pathway for each event group was discussed and Combined Events was highlighted as a key gap currently, some possible solutions were put forward. There were also discussions around the development of a pool of team coaches that ANI can utilize at all of our various domestic internationals and that there would be a programme alongside this to upskill those managers who have aspirations towards higher level team coaching opportunities such as Youth or Senior Commonwealth Games in the longer term.

The committee met for the third time in October of this year to discuss the final terms of reference for the Committee, development of a programme for prospective team coaches and managers, a review of current performance pathway programmes and budgets as well as a proposal to increase athlete access to field events.



Selection Committee Report

Following an initial meeting of the selection committee, where David Marrs was elected Chair, the business was generally carried out by e-mail.

The initial work included the development of a selection timetable and the production of a policy template for the selection of Northern Ireland and Ulster teams. The aim of the new template was to provide consistency and clarity, as well as covering aspects such as anti-doping.

Over the year a total of 16 selectors have been used on 13 different panels. The selectors include board members (2), staff (3), committee members (5), independent coaches (4) and UAC representatives (2). Selections were carried out for Northern Ireland and Ulster teams, ANI academies, Mary Peters Trust awards and Belfast City Council awards.

The events requiring selection tend to occur annually and the aim is now to use the experience of this first year to provide the other committees with a selection timetable which will be a live document and will be updated by the committee throughout the year.





Development & Participation Committee Report

The purpose of this new committee is to support ANI in ensuring our Sport is vibrant, diverse and thriving at all levels throughout Northern Ireland. In doing so, the committee will work to ensure ANI's ongoing operational delivery is in line with our strategy and the key strategic priorities of our stakeholders and funders.

In 2024 the membership included Alison Stocks as Chair, Chris Burns, Secretary, Declan Leung (ANI Development Manager), Eoghan Furey, Siobhan Grant and Matt Shields. Representatives from Ulster Secondary Schools Association and Irish Universities have also attended and there is work underway to bring in a Daily Mile representative.

The committee had 3 formal in-person meetings held throughout the year and an additional face to face meeting took place with the full ANI development team in April 2024. This was a great opportunity to meet all the team, hear from them on what their roles entailed, their priorities for 2024 and the challenges they are currently facing. This helped establish ways of working between ANI and the Committee. A list of key activities for 2025 has been discussed and documented. An exercise has taken place to prioritise and agree timelines. These priorities will form the focus of the committee meetings going forward.



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PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

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Athletics Development Officer Pdraig Doran - Pdraig.doran@athleticsni.org

Athletics Development Assistant Calum MacGregor - calum.macgregor@athleticsni.org

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Main Officer Bearers

President: Gerry Carson

Chairman: David Abrahams

Vice-Chair: Paul Lawther

Honorary Treasurer: Sharon Louise McKay

Vice-Presidents: Brian Smith

Company Secretary: Valerie McDonough

CEO: Elaine Grant

BOARD MEMBERS

Members

David Abrahams

Paul Lawther

Sharon-Louise McKay

Valerie McDonough

David Marrs

Brendan (Herbie) McDaid

Gerry Carson

Kathryn Walls

Hannah Irwin

Jason Smyth

Ian Taylor

Role

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

Company Secretary and Safeguarding Champion

Independent and Anti-Doping Champion

Ulster Athletics Council (UAC) Rep

President

Independent & Legal

Independent & HR

Performance Pathway Rep

Competition and Events Rep

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Audit & Risk Committee

Ian Taylor

Jim Alexander

Malcolm McCausland

Sharon-Louise McKay

Competition & Events Committee

Ian Taylor

Malcolm McCausland

Ghislain Demeuldre

George Morris

Joy Alexander



Development & Participation Committee

Matt Shields

Alison Stocks

Chris Burns

Eoghan Furey

Endurance Committee

Mags Mathieson

Paul Magee

Adrian Daye

John McGarvey

John Allen

Niall Bell

David Seaton

Deane Fisher

Andrew Han

Raymond Fullerton

Performance Pathway Committee

Jason Smyth

Jim Alexander

Lyn Fisher

Alan Kennedy



Selection Committee

Robin Mack
Deane Fisher
Niall Bell
David Marrs

Track & Field Committee

Joy Alexander
Barbara Scott
Gerry Carson
Robin Mack
Paul Lawther
Kurtis Scott
Jim Alexander
Pauline Thom

Honorary Members

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





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