

Questions for AGM 2024

From Wendy Phillips, COLAC

1. At the start of the year ANI was offered 6 free places to a Warm Weather Training Camp in Gibraltar. Can you explain why this generous offer from the Mary Peters Trust was not taken up or indeed passed onto any Coaches or athletes and as a result went to Swimming with Track and Field athletes losing out.

This offer was for reduced accommodation costs only and for a camp of 6 days or less. By this stage in the year many groups already had their warm weather training camps in place so it was agreed with the Trust that we would look at this for Easter 2025. The Trust were contacted at the end of the Summer to see if it was still possible to avail of this offer for next year. We are awaiting a reply and will communicate information with clubs when this is made available.

2. At last Years AGM it was stated that Track and Field would be a priority, please explain why this has not been the case.

This is a long-standing issue impacting the whole sport across the UK. Over the last year the CEO has been working closely with the other HCAF & UKA CEO's to launch a UK-Wide Track & Field Review to begin to tackle the issue. The CEO has been involved in the creation of a Terms of Reference for the project and now sits on the Strategic Group driving the project.

A vision group of Young People is being put together as part of the project and a survey has been shared by staff with clubs to ask our young athletes to put themselves forward to which we have had a good response. Two from NI will be put forward and this is currently being shortlisted.

Stage 1 of the UK Wide Track & Field review will focus on research to produce an evidence base that sets out the current position of track and field in the U.K, articulates the challenges faced and identifies key external factors that need considered when setting out a vision for the future. Athletics NI have committed to part fund this research in the current financial year.

Athletics NI are acutely aware of the issues relating to Track & Field Participation and this is a clear focus within our new strategy under a number of our key focus areas including:

Inspiration "Communicate inspiring success at national Senior & Masters level with an emphasis on inspiring more to get involved in track & field athletics." "Create and seek out performance development competition opportunities appropriate to this level of athletes with a particular emphasis on track & field to ensure growth in numbers competing in track & field."

Our communications lately have increased and improved particularly on the point of Inspiration using our great role models. It is clear from analysis that communications involving our top athletes create the greatest engagement and reach with at least double the interaction to other posts and therefore we plan to utilise this in our communications strategy going forwards in a more deliberate way.

At a local level much work has been done on Track & Field Development. We have successfully secured funding from SNI for an Athletics Development Officer full time who will be specifically focusing on Track & Field Development. Padraig Doran has started in post and he is currently working on the development of a new primary schools curriculum. This will be rolled out as our first introduction to Track & Field to ensure we begin to compete against some of the bigger sports who have previously been directly funded by the Department of Education for a primary schools programmes which has had a detrimental effect on other sports position in the curriculum.

The development Team have been focused on reestablishing Startrack, Sportshall Athletics and Rising Stars back to previous levels of engagement. These Foundation and Fundamental programmes are the essential building blocks for track & field participation and have dropped off in terms of delivery previously but are now part of our recovery strategy for growing Track & Field participation. This has involved extensive recruitment and development of new coaches to deliver these programmes and much has been done to extend these offerings and engage new coaches and clubs from outside the greater Belfast area to help reestablish these offerings across NI.

MPT Panthers has also grown and is now being delivered beyond the MPT by Athletics NI Staff.

Our Youth Academy and Speed Power Academy continue to grow in strength and popularity and our Pathways Coach is now undertaking a PhD based around the athletes in the academy which will add to the overall evidence base for Athlete development and injury prevention in talent development for the sport.

Athletics NI successfully delivered 4 Track & Field Championships, 4 Track & Field open meetings and a Youth Development Track & Field competition this year.

Club league normally delivered external to ANI did not go ahead as clubs withdrew support and work is ongoing by ANI staff and committees to reinvigorate this with a new approach.

ANI & MPT Staff supported the delivery of District and Ulster Schools Championships taking place at the Mary Peters Track.

ANI issued 18 Track & Field permits in the year, supported all Track & Field Committee meetings.

On the Track & Field arm of our formal Coach Education pathway we have trained & licenced 58 new Coaching Assistants & 20 New Athletics Coaches. 6 Coaching Assistants were endorsed and supported in Grant applications to have their Athletics Coach Qualification funded.

- Why was Annual Training and Competition equipment not bought for the Mary Peters Track in 2023, and only a portion bought mid-season this year with training Hurdles and blocks only arriving at the end of the competitions season this year, so we had two full seasons of poor inadequate equipment not suitable for competitions or training.

There have been uncertainties around the future management contract at Mary Peters Track (MPT) due to Belfast City Council (BCC) giving extensions to the contract at short notice. This along with delays in payments of invoices from BCC has made decisions around large purchases very difficult. Under these circumstances Andrew Hutchinson worked closely with officials and staff to make an informed decision on the best way forward for the purchasing of equipment and had focused on essential items to ensure effective running of competitions at MPT.

Successful negotiations with BCC resulted in an uplift in their funding of MPT to cover the extension to the contract and increased costs but due to severe delays in BCC's internal system monies were not received until late May 2024 and this limited our ability to buy new equipment until monies were received.

The contract has been extended to March 2025 and we await confirmation of funding in relation to this extension.

Below is a list of equipment purchases:

Details	Amount
Mark Harrod 2 x set of 10, Olympic Competition Hurdle	5299.99
Timing Ireland Equipment Purchase Field Equipment	3839.65
3 Air Flyer Competition Javelin 500g	
3 Air Flyer Competition Javelin 600g	
3 Sky Challenger Competition Javelin 700g	
3 Sky Challenger Competition Javelin 800g	
Shot Put Rack	
Discus Rack	
8 Long Jump no jump indicator boards	
10 Hammer Wires - various lengths	
3 competition HJ crossbar	
3 competition PV crossbar	
3 Plastic training discuss (0.75kg)	
3 Plastic Training Discus 1 kg	
3 Plastic Training Discus 1.5kg	
3 Plastic Training Discus 1.75kg	
Mark Harrod 15 Senior Speed Training Hurdle (W Base) 16 Polanik Competition Steel Starting Blocks	3938.59

Mary Peters Track office computer & Monitor	874.00
	13,952.23

Other Spending: Equipment

EDM Equipment Hire	360.00
Discus Cage Maintenance- resetting	3381.23
Trademark inspection & Load mark of cages	1800.00
Start Equipment Repair	538.00
TESS Electronic Start Equipment Repair	198.00
High Jump Replacement Brackets	337.70
	6614.93

Total **20,567.16**

A proper asset list has been created and will be reviewed regularly to ensure adequate provision in future.

A full list of equipment needed ahead of the start on the 2025 season has been created and purchasing will begin once current Cashflow issue resolved.

4. What action has been taken over the last two years to recruit Officials and volunteers given that there wasn't enough of either to run competitions and championships this year.

Retention and recruitment of officials is a UK Wide problem which has been highlighted at HCAF CEO Forum and Official Education Management Group meetings and at various officials working groups.

England Athletics & Welsh Athletics have reduced experiences for Level 1 Officials to try and tackle the issue to remove perceived barrier to qualification and subsequent deployment. Following local consultation and safety advice ANI have remained at 2 experiences minimum but with option to add extra if deemed necessary particularly for heavy throws.

Covid impacted the running of courses and changed volunteers thoughts and behaviours around committing time to volunteering across all sectors but sport has been particularly affected. Therefore recovery of pre-pandemic levels of volunteering have been slow to recover however ongoing work has been done to try and recruit and train new officials in the last year including:

Two Track courses, with 9 attendees.

Two Field courses, with 8 attendees.

One Endurance course, with 4 participants.

Upcoming Initiatives:

Planned Field course for 9th November and Track course for 23rd November 2024. We are also awaiting tutor availability for an upcoming Endurance course.

Specialised Areas:

Currently, we are well-equipped with Photo Finish officials, and we are working closely with our Starter team to ensure they are signed off at the next level of certification.

Marketing and Promotion:

Marketing efforts, including a well-received video showcasing two of our officials, have generated significant interest, with many individuals expressing interest in future courses. Clubs have been contacted via the secretaries directly for onward sharing to their members.

Support for Incomplete Courses:

We are organising a workshop for 20 individuals who started courses but have not yet completed the final paperwork or online modules, as identified by Liz Glover. This will help move them towards certification. This is to be held on the 11th November 2024.

Future Involvement:

Declan Leung now represents ANI on the Officials Education Management Group, giving ANI the opportunity to influence the delivery, content, and learning experiences for officials going forward.

Internally Staff from Events Team and Development Team are collaborating on recruitment strategy to grow the Officials pool, and in the future aim to get in to more schools in particular for PE students.

We are also planning a full staff development session (ANI & MPT) to allow all staff to achieve a basic level of officials qualification.

ANI are hosting an Official social event at Mary Peters track on the 2nd November 2024 which will include sampling of new kit prior to orders. ANI have also attributed additional SNI funding to the development of officials and to cover the cost of new officials kit.

Change of experience- Worth noting poor experiences reported UK wide for new official putting new recruit off the sport.

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.

Given that last year Officials had depleted to approximately 58 why was nothing done.

As above

5. Following the success of Multi Event Championships in 2022 it was agreed that we should develop this event so explain why the contribution of only £3,000 was not paid to European Athletics to continue to attract overseas athletes, and also to offer our own athletes support, to compete outside of Northern Ireland, given the total lack of Senior Track and Field Competitions at home.

In 2023 much work was done by staff and the Track & Field Committee including changing the date of the multi-events to accommodate the other HCAFs but disappointingly the other HCAF's withdrew at the last minute which was outside of our control and frustrating to staff & committee's involved in organising. Therefore we have taken sometime to review this offering and have decided to fully commit to making this the key Track & Field event hosted in Northern Ireland and we have garnered support from the other Home Nation's to host a re-imagined Home Countries International in 2025. This is part of our commitment to growing Track & Field participation as part of our strategy and inspiring the next generation linked to our legacy of lady Mary's Gold and also recent medal winning performances by Kate O'Connor.

As regards the 3000 euro referred to which was the cost of being included in the European Athletics Permit meet series, lessons were learned internally that in practice there was much additional costs including accommodation, membership and conference costs annually and so costs were well above the quoted 3000 euro which was deemed by staff and the committee to not be delivering value for money. The decision was made to take a break from EAP membership to allow time to review our competition offer.

6. Why has there been no Belfast International Track and Field Competition for two years given that Track and Field was meant to be a priority.

As part of the overall consultation "Our Sport, Our Strategy, Our Approach for Athletics NI" a clear focus was requested by members to review our competition offer. This review was wide ranging and included event finance, competition format, fixture congestion, staff/volunteer capacity and need.

As a result during review we have focused our priority deliver on Championship deliver and our focus has been on improving the overall success of these championship events including improving budgets, entries, spectator numbers and athlete/volunteer experience.

The decision to not host a Belfast international was part of this review and also impacted by withdrawal of grant funding from Belfast City Council which had supported the event previously. ANI deliver Age-group (Indoor & Outdoor), Senior and Combined events Track & Field Championships yearly and we have been focusing on improving these fixtures.

Other high quality Track & Field events have been supported by Mary Peters Track including hosting District and Ulster Schools, Belfast Irish/British Milers and plans have been agreed that ANI will host a re-imagined Home Countries International Combined events championships in 2025. This has only be made possible by the overall review of ANI's competition offer and focus on each events financial management including securing SNI support of ANI events.

7. What action has ANI taken to lobby for an Indoor Track when other Sports are being awarded hundreds of Millions.

Lack of capital investment from the Department into Sport NI & consequently SNI investment into Sports has been an issue for over a decade. Political pressure on infrastructure strategy and funding has longstanding bias towards culturally significant sports (Bigger Participation Sports) and this is evident in the latest draft Programme for Government. We are competing against bigger sports with larger participation bases and hence why we are striving to grow our participation base and fully capture the breadth of the sport to begin to add more weight to the argument from more funding and garner more political support. This is why our current strategy to capture more participant and members data through OpenTrack is incredibly important.

Athletics NI's current priority is on lobbying for the future of the management arrangement of the Mary Peters Track to safeguard the future of the sport at the premier athletics facility in Northern Ireland, with an eye on the fact that a re-surfacing project is needed with an estimated cost of 1 million in the next 5 years. This lobbying has included highlighting the issue at the All-party group on Sport & Recreation at Stormont.

Athletics NI are currently building their PR presence in multiple ways including hosting an event with the Health Minister for invited MLA's in December with the intention of further developing contacts, improved presence and garner future support.

We continue to apply pressure to Sport NI and the NI Sport Forum (NISF) to look for parity across the sport sector in term of infrastructure. ANI took part in a recent Programme for Government consultation facilitated by the NISF aimed at highlighting gaps and areas where parity is not evident such at the subject matter of this question.

Next steps is to begin to evidence need for future infrastructure development in the sport through development of a business case and a linked Feasibility Study/Latent usage study and we have had initial discussions with a suitable Consultant who can support this direction of travel.

8. What Commercial Sponsorship has been secured in the last two years.

Grants, Sponsors & VIK	Discount providers	Commercial Partners
Sport NI Belfast City Council Lisburn Castlereagh City Council Rank Foundation Belfast City Marathon Enkalon (New 2324) Erasmus + Flahavans Daily Mile (New 2324) Athletics Ireland (New 23/24)	AfterShokz Kingsbridge Private Hospital Runners Need	Proparamedics Championship Ireland Open Track Grahams Traffic Management Invest in Sport Mary Peters Trust

Athletics NI have also collaborated with the other HCAF's and contributed to the cost of a social value video campaign aimed at commercial sponsor's via LinkedIn and we are very close to closing a new deal based on that campaign and with further opportunities on the horizon.

We are also working hard with Flahavans to increase there sponsorship into the organisation as their investment has remained flat for some time.

From Phill Snoddy

1. Commitment by Tom Reynolds to share injury cause study with ANI coaches.

At the AGM in 2022, when the question was raised about the high incidence of foot injuries by our CW track athletes, Tom shared that a study was already underway within UUU which he would make available to ANI coaches. As some time has elapsed, can Tom please give an update on this?

The study is ongoing between Ulster University and the Irish Sports Institute (Funded by Sport Ireland), specifically looking into the potential positive and negative effects of super spikes. Some preliminary results on the performance of the Spikes has been released but the full study is ongoing and papers haven't been published as yet. Caution is still advised in terms of the volume of running that is conducted with super spikes, as suggested by shoe expert Peter Thompson on his webinar he delivered for us a few years ago, athletes ought to use a variety of training shoes / spikes and save the super spikes for particularly fast sessions and races.

2. During last year's AGM, with the scripted answers to pre-submitted questions, allowing no follow on questions, Kathryn Walls insisted there were several times a year that the board sought questions to be submitted. Can she now detail those communications, and via which channels? And then share some of the questions and answers, as these would have been minuted in the board meeting minutes.

Kathryn has considered this question and would suggest that the question does not reflect her actual comments at the 2023 AGM. In her comments to the AGM last year, she noted that there remains confusion in the sport as to the role of the board (all of whom are unpaid volunteers) and she emphasised that its primary purpose is strategic governance and oversight and not day to day management, operation or decision making. She stated that the Board was happy to speak to members at any time during the year and that the AGM was not the only opportunity for members to approach the Board. Her comments encouraged members to feel able to approach the board members, the CEO or the professional staff either in person or in writing if they had questions on the sport at any time.

The governance restructure that took effect in the past year has created additional opportunities for members to become involved in the delivery of our sport, and additional channels for communication with the board and staff. A dedicated board member and member of the professional staff attends all committee meetings to listen to the committees and ensure any questions they may have can be answered directly. The CEO also attends these by rotation. The CEO and staff are developing additional initiatives to foster improved communication with the membership.

To improve communication with the membership we have also published Board minutes and Senior Manager Reports on the website.

The new Board will further review its communication strategy with members.

3. For T&F, the year began poorly with the 2 UUU indoor meets highlighting issues.

Please explain;

3.1 why the begging email to athletes for an extra voluntary sum of money?

Regrettably the event pricing was uploaded incorrectly on OT, a correction was made after launch and for equality purposes all competitors who had registered were informed of the correction and asked that on a voluntary basis they would pay the correction to fee at registration. An internal checking process is now in place to verify pricing set up before events go live.

3.2 why the blue competition blocks were not brought from MPT which led to some athletes having to use the then substandard blocks that reside in the UJJ?

Unfortunately the staff had to transport a large amount of equipment including hurdles to UJJ and training blocks for the indoor meeting. Competition blocks were not transported as Track staff did not want these to get damaged or lost with the outdoor season imminent.

3.3 why the indoor area was littered the following morning with the contents of the indoor shots, did this mean they were getting lighter throughout the competition throws? It was reported that one of the shots completely split during the competition. A full audit of the shots has been carried out and enough replacements will be ordered for the indoor throws competition in February.

3.4 why the jumps boards are poorly maintained and rutted that badly as to be hazardous? Having hammered the LJ. board flat it was then stuck in place for the triple jumpers.

The boards get worn down by spikes on take-off, at no stage has the board in current use been reported to be hazardous however it has been requested to UJJ that the boards are repaired before the new year and that one is kept separately for competition use. Regular audits are now being done and regular meetings with UJJ staff.

4. At the age group indoors in Abbottstown, there was a rule whereby any event can be brought forward 45mins. Can we have this dropped? It basically amounts to child abuse to be that vague.

Timetables for all track and field events remain provisional until the day of the event. Every athlete must check in 1 hour in advance of their event start time and therefore are on the premises for any event time change announcement. After athlete check in we can seed heats and events, depending on how many athletes do not check in, we may need to amend timetables to reduce/increase the number of heats. We can implement a common understanding across events that if there are not enough athletes to run in the heats we run the final at either the allocated final time, or the later heat time. At no stage would we encroach on an athlete's recovery time between heats and finals.

It is dangerous to use words such as "Child abuse" for a common activity widely understood in the sport, normally reserved for times when field events have had very small numbers complete and so finish early or where heats have not been needed. The welfare of the athlete will be at the centre of all decision making by officials at a competition and athletes and officials work together on the day of competition to navigate timetable changes safely and amicably. This can be discussed with T&F committee pre 2025 season.

5. At the ANI senior T&F championships, sadly it was noted that certain events had little or no competitors. Will you please share how you are going to encourage participation in Track and Field next year.

As mentioned previously in question 2 above this is an issue across the sport and is being looked at UK wide via a Track & Field task force. Use of Manchester International (or equivalent) as an incentive with reduced standards meaning more athletes gain auto selection at NI & Ulster Seniors worked to a certain degree this year. However it is a longer term project to begin to populate the pathway at lower levels over the course of the current strategy.

6. At the senior T&F championships there wasn't always a clear call room procedure followed. Is it possible to have those operating the call room and starts to be coordinated and a process followed. Womens 100m heats, there was only one athlete at the assigned call room time, heats were vague, however 2 athletes bypassed call room procedures and just went to the start line only to cause heats to be reallocated. Were the staff operating the call room qualified officials?

We implemented the use of OpenTrack for automatic seeding for the first time for Senior championships this year (trials at open meeting in August first), as the races are seeded the call room gets an online update within 60-90 seconds. There were two experienced staff members on the call room who were writing start lists and sending to the start team. In the case of the Women's 100m two younger athletes did not report to the call room which is what caused the heat redraw. This is a new procedure for athletes and officials alike, these issues will be addressed for the next event. We hope to include officials training on how to effectively use OpenTrack on competition days. Coaches are encouraged to also support the athletes learning on new competition procedures such as call room which we know is not always common practice locally but part of progression to higher level competitions.

7. What sanctions are you prepared to implement for the people who take equipment from the store and leave it around the track when they leave the MPT.

Thankfully all MPT staff would agree that this is not currently a problem. The vast majority of users are very respectful and return all equipment to the store when they are finished. However, anyone found to be repeatedly leaving equipment around the track and not returning it to the store will be refused use of equipment for a short period of time.

8. What are you doing about the number of MPT users not paying?

Long standing issue how access to the track is controlled and has been raised repeatedly with BCC. Unfortunately this remains an ongoing issue and has been an issue for some time. We are currently planning to tackle this issue in two ways. Short term, we are going to reintroduce membership cards with photos which will have to be shown to MPT staff prior to entering the track, otherwise the standard casual fee will be charged. Having the membership cards will make it quicker and easier for MPT staff to check memberships trackside, with least disruption for the user. Long term we are reviewing both the membership and group booking structures, and a new

system will be in place in April. This will include a new off-peak membership and a new booking system for peak times.

Track staff try to identify as many non-members as possible to pay a casual fee if they are not part of a booking.

9. What solution are you going to implement against the track users who disrespect other users by blocking their way? I was present when the paralympic athlete crashed into an athlete standing at the finish line. Their front wheel on the chair was bent out of shape and the athlete was clearly injured . There are other examples.

Due to the popularity of the track during peak times overcrowding can be an issue . Unfortunately this can lead to near misses and collisions. We plan to tackle this issue with the implementation of a new booking system which will allow us to control and monitor the number of track users using the track at any given time . This will significantly reduce the likelihood of above forementioned examples occurring and ensure a commitment to the safety of all track users. In relation to track etiquette we have new signage which advises that users are not to use earphones which will help further promote safety and best practice on the track . These measures that we plan to implement will only enhance and improve the experience for the both the athlete and coach alike.

All new members will be issued with a copy of the Mary Peters Track Terms & Conditions of use including track etiquette to sign up to alongside their membership. All coaches must abide by the coaches Code of Conduct.

10. What cost benefit was the buffering big screen and bouncy slide at the senior T&F championships this year?

Following various discussion at Track & Field Committee and Board level regarding the poor numbers of athlete's competing at the Senior Championships in the last number of years a Task & Finish Group was established to share ideas on how the Senior Championships can be improved and how we can incentivise more athletes to compete and spectators to attend. Off the back of the ideas generation internally and via the task and finish group an Olympics There was decided upon drawing on the fact that our championships coincided with some of our top athletes competing at the Olympics.

The screen worked continuously from late afternoon right up until the point where we all turned to watch and it was very unfortunately that at this critical time something went wrong with the internet supply which had been tested all afternoon and then immediately resumed.

All expenditure was signed off by Audit & Risk Committee prior.

This is part of our commitment to listen to members suggestions and continuous improvement to what we deliver.

From Gary Keenan, VPAC

Race Permits - Road and Cross Country

1. How many race permits have been issued by Athletics NI in the past 3 years?

RR 2022 – 137

RR 2023 – 144

RR 2024 – 150

XC/MR 2022 – 64

XC/MR 2023 – 43

XR/MR 2024 – 53

2. How many Referees Reports have been returned following these races as stipulated in permits requirements?

Race return forms include a Referee Reports on page two. These are issued to all permitted races at the time of issuing. We receive returns within 1 Month of the date the date of the race.

There was a 6 month audit of this procedure completed internally. This was reported to the 18th June 2024 ARC meeting and sampled road race returns and invoicing. 30 of the 66 Road running event files were sampled and 37% of race return were filed and 33% subsequently had an invoice raised.

This was then went to the July Board for decision and was ear marked as a key development area for the new manager and her team.

This has subsequently been discussed at Competition and Events committee and put as a priority development project to enhance both internal process and external education for Event organiser's.

Amanda the new Events, Memberships and Communications Manager and her Team have begun to implement key recommendations of the audit.

3. How many Referee Reports are available for scrutiny following these races? And if not, why not?

37 % as per audit. Failure for race organiser to return relevant forms.

4. How many of the above races had suitably qualified officials in attendance - as should be the case in all permitted races?

It is the responsibility of the Race Director to appoint the correct amount of suitably qualified Officials (Race referee, Course Marshalls & Volunteers). This should be reported as part of the race organisers return forms. As part of an internal review of Event Licencing which has been actioned as a key project for the Competition and Events Committee alongside the Events Team Staff will include a thorough audit of all race returns so that improvements can be made to this process and make key recommendations for future education offers.

Bye Laws

1. When were the Athletics NI Bye Laws introduced? There is no date noted on the document issued to my club following the NI Road Relays Championship.

They were introduced in 2006 at the point of incorporation of the Northern Ireland Athletics Federation (NIAF) when Athletics NI created its Memorandum and Articles and bye-laws. However they had originally been part of the NIAF constitution prior to this for many years and where unchanged at the point of moving them to Bye-laws. The next phase of the Athletics NI Governance Project (following on from the update to Article and Committees) is a review of the Byelaws.

2. Who signed these Bye Laws off as they appear to be unsigned (noted by the document provided to my club following NI Road Relays Championship)?

There were signed off at the Northern Ireland Athletics Federation (NIAF) Annual General Meeting on the 30th March 2006.

3. Did these Bye Laws go out to consultation and if so when and to who?

They were presented ahead of the AGM on 30th March 2006 and voted and passed by members at the same meeting.

4. When and how were clubs made aware of these Bye Laws?

As above they were circulated in advance of voting at the AGM in 2006 but the idea to create Bye-Laws had been previously accepted at the AGM in the previous year (2005).

We are currently working under the current byelaws until the review project is complete and signed off by the Board.

Athletics NI Championships - Road and Cross Country

1. Why do Athletics NI not organise and run their own Road and Cross Country Championships? ANI organise the Uneven & even age groups Cross Country (XC), The Intermediate/Novice and Masters XC (in conjunction with the UAC) as well as the Senior XC championships. This has been discussed by the endurance committee as an area for improvement and we are currently working to implement an ANI organised Road Race in 2025 which may be a new 'Les Jones'. On advice of Endurance committee, these historic events have been paused to ensure we meet the needs of our athletes and offer something unique and we are taking sometime to deliver this to the best of our ability and to meet the needs of the community.

We believe that having clubs apply and be allocated championship races allows championship events to be spread around the province and helps clubs promote their flagship events. While ANI can (and has historically) organised smaller events (Les Jones and Titanic), it is not practical for a small team to also organise large events such as a half marathon or marathon.

2. Why do Athletics NI not appoint qualified officials to Road and Cross Country Championships (to ensure permit rules are followed)?

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Appendix 2 and 3, Appointment of, duties of and selection of officials.

“Race Referee

Appointment: the referee and all other officials are appointed by the competition provider.”

3. Why are senior representatives of Athletics NI not in attendance at Athletics NI Championships?

A senior representative of Athletics NI is in attendance in the majority of cases for Championship events run and organised by Athletics NI. The sheer number of championships and other events organised across the country including Track & Field, Cross country & Road running and development events make it unrealistic that a Senior representative of Athletics NI be present at every event however in these small number of cases there should be a representative of the relevant Athletics NI committee. Endurance committee reps represent the Board at these events, and some board members attend as competitors. In the term of the current Athletics NI president he has attended almost every event representing the organisation. We can make a concerted effort to try to ensure a senior representative (Board or Executive) or Senior staff member is present at all Championship events.

4. What support is given to promoting clubs who put on Championship Races on behalf of Athletics NI?

The Athletics NI Events team are on hand as an ongoing support for race organisers. In recent months it has become clear that more support is required and the Events team are planning to run education opportunities for race organisers. We are also in the process of publishing a competition booklet update current Guidance documentation to support this role going forwards.

5. Why is the Seeley Cup promoted, marketed and organised through Athletics NI while Athletics NI Road Races are not?

ANI manage the entries on the OpenTrack system and some event management for a number of races including the Seeley Cup & Craic 10K for a fee. This is open to any ANI permitted event including Championship events, and we hope to work with championship allocated race organisers to provide the same service in 2025. However in previous years, providers have opted to use external registrations systems for their event, which is currently their choice.