



THE 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ONLINE BY ZOOM on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Cath Muth, (Chair of WCAA, Birchfield Harriers), Graham Heeley (President, Sparkhill Harriers), Tony Mackness (WCAA Treasurer, Northbrook AC), Dave Ashbourne (Leamington C&AC), Christopher Hitchman (Leamington C&AC LM), Alan Edwards (Leamington C&AC LM), Matt Leydon (Spa Striders), Clare Hinton (Spa Striders), Kat Robertson (Spa Striders), Rebecca Freeman (Solihull and Small Heath AC), Dave Goodwin (Massey Ferguson RC), Richard Clarke (Kenilworth RC) Sally Anne Tully (Sphinx), Geoff Heaps (Lily Mae Foundation), Richard Carney (BRAT), Eric Fowler (WCAA Hon Sec)

Item 1 Apologies for absence:

Stewart Barnes (Coventry Godiva Harriers LM), Brian Acford (Rugby and Northampton AC), Katie Lea (Rugby and Northampton AC), Sonia Karamat (Massey Ferguson RC), Olivia Lea (Social Media Sec), Rachel Berney (LAA) Bob Carey (Trophies Secretary, Sphinx), Margaret Murphy (Rugby & Northampton AC)

The meeting paused in silence in memory of Margery Ewington who passed away this year. Margery was a Life Vice president of the Association and had served Warwickshire for many years.

Item 2 Acceptance of the minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 16th November 2022.

The minutes were published on the County web site soon after the meeting and no corrections were submitted. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Item 3 The Annual Report by WCAA Chair

The year has seen us get back to normal hosting both the cross-country championships and the track and field championships. We took a full complement of teams to the inter-counties' cross country championships, a senior team to the mountain race and fell running championships, and an U15 and U13 team to the inter-counties track and field challenge cup.

We had a new venue for the cross-country championships in December 2022 at Welkin Farm and we thank Katie Lea and family for hosting. This was an excellent course providing a challenge to runners of all ages. It was good to be able to put on this event after the unfortunate cancellation last year. This championship acts as a selection event to compete for Warwickshire later in the winter season and we had some excellent results at Prestwold Hall with three athletes winning inter-counties medals,

our biggest medal haul for many years. Jack Gray (senior men), Julie Emmerson (senior women), and Noah Homer (U13B) all took home an individual bronze medal.

There was also a highly successful track and field championships in May with a record entry. This was very encouraging and hopefully shows the sport is back on track after all the disruption of the last three years.

The young athletes travelled to Barnsley for the track and field match and Warwickshire was the top performing team with James Longworth as U13 athlete of the match after his 800m performance, where he ran a time that put him third fastest in the UK. This event is a quality competition and our thanks go to John Nash, ably assisted by Rebecca Freeman for managing the team and looking after all the organisation.

Whilst it is great to be able to celebrate the success of our championships we are currently in a position where we will not be able to put on these events in future unless more people volunteer their time to help. For a variety of reasons, several people who were key to putting on these events have had to now retire from the Committee. To date, even though we have publicised the vacancies, we have had no offer of help. As it stands, the Country Track and Field championships will not take place in 2024. This would be a great loss to the fixtures calendar as it gives athletes the opportunity to compete in a level above leagues before they progress to national competitions. We urgently need an Officials secretary and two officers to organise the championships. I want to appeal to all our affiliated clubs to ask their members if there is anyone who could step into one of these roles. The full support of the Committee will be given to help any volunteers who step forward.

I must thank several people who have put in an enormous amount of time to organise our events over the years. Firstly, Ray Morgan who I hope is enjoying his new life in New Zealand. Ray has been involved with Warwickshire for many years and was responsible for our successful open graded meetings as well as many other events in which he took an active role. His experience as a competition manager is sadly missed and we wish him well. Katie Lea has been a stalwart of both the cross-country and track and field championships leading the organisation of both. I would like to thank Katie for all her hard work over the years and I'm sure we will still see her at events. Finally, Maggie Murphy has been our Officials Secretary for many years ensuring we always had not only the number but qualified level of officials we needed to run success county events. All three are a great loss and will be much missed for their hard work and approach, very often under much pressure.

We had representation from Warwickshire athletes at major championships with Matthew Hudson-Smith and Elliot Giles selected for the World Championships. Matthew had an excellent competition winning a silver medal in the 400m and Elliot made the semi-final of the 1500m. Elsewhere Cassie-Ann Pemberton was part of the winning 4 x 100m relays team at the European U23 Championships. On the domestic front Craig Murch was once again on the podium at the British Championships with a third place in the hammer and Elliot Giles picked up the silver in the 1500m.

It has been a good year for the County and my greatest wish is that we will get more help to ensure we continue to deliver competitive events for our athletes.

Cath Muth, WCAA Chair

DA asked if social media routes had been used to publicise the vacancies and the risk that the championships might not go ahead. CM acknowledged that this would be a good additional way to ensure that the message is put out to clubs.

Item 4 Treasurers report for year ended 30.9.2023

Tony Mackness WCAA Treasurer showed the accounts on screen and gave the following report.

The accounts for the period 1.10.2022 to 30.9.2023 show a net SURPLUS of £2163.45 (for comparison during 2021/2022 we recorded a DEFICIT of £ 500.31)

Bank balances at year end were:

Lloyds Current Account	£133.04
Lloyds Entries Account	£9,144.45
Santander	£ 18,202.40
TOTAL BANK BALANCE	£27,480.39

Note: Interest rates on our Santander account continued to rise. Earnings for this year were £103 compared to just £8.38 in the previous year

Affiliation fees

INCOME = £480 from 24 clubs for WCAA affiliation and £300 from 10 clubs for Warwickshire Road Race promoters fees.

EXPENDITURE = £150 to affiliate the County Association to England Athletics

Cross-country championships

The 2022/2023 XC championships were held at Welkin Farm, Easenhall on 10th December 2022

There were 500 entries which was 224 fewer when compared to the 2020 event, when there were 724 entries, that's a decrease of 31%.

Income was £3,289 (against £4,093 in 2020, a decrease of 19.6%). £100 was received for selling space rental and £589.58 from co-hosts Worcestershire County AA as their contribution to the shared expenditure.

Summary of Expenditure

Trophies And Medals	£1,027.48
Toilet Hire	£911.40
Officials Refreshments	£588.00
First Aid	£580.00
Tape / Stake Hire / Paint	£161.99
Online Entry Fees	£74.92
Miscellaneous	£50.00
Bibs *	£200.37
Total Expenditure	£3594.16

* WCAA wish to thank Malt Kiln Farm Shop for their sponsorship of the bib numbers.

The net SURPLUS for the event was £585.39

TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Track and Field championships were held at Pingles, Nuneaton over the weekend of 13th/14th May. There were 1,047 entries (up 13% from 927 in 2022) which generated income of £7,357 an increase of £868 (13.4%) on the previous year's £6,489

A grant of £500 is due from England Athletics (Accrual included in the accounts)

WCAA wish to thank Coventry Runner for their sponsorship of the bib numbers.

Summary of Expenses

	2021/2022	2022/2023
Equipment, Safety and Facility Hire *	£1,764	£2060
Bib Numbers (Sponsored by Coventry Runner)	£231	£235

Officials and volunteer Costs - Food and Beverages	£716	£690
Trophies and Medals	£1,736	£1692
Commission paid on race entries to Entry 4 Sport	£649	£735
Printing	£5	£22
	£5,101	£5434

*The main increase in expenditure can be attributable to EDM +£100 and Facilities +£200

The surplus on the event was £2,758.01. Compared to the surplus of £2,119.42 on the 2022 event this represents an increase of 30%.

Inter county events

Costs of £1,165 were incurred for Inter County Events

Derby 2022 (Late Claim)	£179.40
Prestwold XC March 2023	£217.80
Barnsley September 2023 U13/U15	£767.80

Miscellaneous expenditure

Costs of £107.09 were incurred

County website Costs	£74.39
Postage	£9.70
Gift for Ray Morgan	£23.00

Audit opinion

The accounts have been audited by Hargreaves - Ward Ltd and have they have made the following statement: *"The accounts have been audited by Hargreaves-Ward Limited, and I'm happy to say that there were no significant findings, and the accounts have been signed off as a true and fair view of Income, expenditure and surplus/deficit for the year reviewed and of the financial position at the year end."*

The full accounts are available on request.

Proposal - For the forthcoming year the treasurer and committee propose the Club Affiliation fee remain at £20 per club and the WRRP Promoters fee at £30 per race.

- **Both proposals were accepted by unanimous vote.**

RC queried why the amount of interest received in the bank balance is so low. TM agreed that the interest rate is not good but observed that many banks are unwilling to provide a 'club account' so switching to gain a better rate is difficult.

CM thanked TM for his diligence in managing the finances.

Item 5 Election of Officers, Officials, Trustees, Auditors, Vice Presidents

Incumbents had indicated a willingness to continue in role. The Chair did not receive any new nominations so no positions were contested.

The following Officers and Officials were duly elected.

President	Graham Heeley
President elect	to be nominated by the Committee
Hon Chair	Cath Muth
Hon Secretary	Eric Fowler

Hon Treasurer	Tony Mackness
Hon Officials Secretary	
Hon Promotions Secretary x2	
Team Managers' coordinator	Keith Burgess
Website secretary	Eric Fowler
Hon Trophies and Medals Secretary	Bob Carey (note – for 2023/4 only then will retire)
Social media Secretary	Olivia Lea
Trustees	Ian Riley and Maggie Murphy
Auditors	Matthew Hargreaves
Hon Endurance Secretary	Dave Goodwin

The following have previously been elected as Life Vice Presidents

Maureen Blore	Alan Edwards	Stewart Harris	Rebecca Freeman
Graham Heeley	Mary Hodges	Dyfrig Rees	Henry Mortimer
Ian Riley	Richard Carney	Bob Carey	Ray Morgan
Keith Richards	Les Barnett	Stewart Barnes	

The following are Past Life Vice Presidents

Margaret Babbington	Ted Clifford	Ken Dare	John Walker
Marianne Lingen	Peter Milton	Norman Walker	Frank Kirby
Winnie Dalton	Janet Paul	Edna Walker	Mike Doyle
Ken Bull			

It was agreed that short role descriptions for the 3 vacancies would be prepared so that these can be sent to clubs for onward publicity.

Item 6 Constitutional Changes.

None proposed.

Item 7a Report on the Inter Counties cross country championships at Prestwold Hall

Recent rain and sleet ensured that the Prestwold Hall course was a fitting test for the best cross-country runners in the UK. The course included a long climb uphill followed by a difficult and slippery right turn on the descent. The uphill towards the finish also required real strength of character.

In the senior women's race Julie Emmerson was always in the leading pack and at the end was involved in a sprint with Gemma Steel for the medals. In the men's race the finish was even closer, Jack Gray and Tom Evans recording the same time with Jack just edged to collect the bronze to add to his English national silver won at Bolesworth Castle in February. Noah Homer in U13s emulated his older teammates by winning out in a sprint finish and also adding an inter-counties bronze to his medal collection.

Other top 20 finish performances came from Alexander Adams 7th and Ash Burgess 14th in the U17 men's race, Charly Marshall 11th in the U20 women's race and Archie Lane 16th in the U15 boys race. Top team performances came from the U13 boys and U20 men (both 9th place), the senior men 10th and senior women 11th.

Congratulations to all the Warwickshire athletes that represented the county. Thanks also to the team managers and officials.

Item 7b Report on the Inter Counties Fell Running Championship

The 2023 Inter County Mountain Race Championships for Men and Women was held on the 7th May at Sedburgh in Cumbria as a selection event for World Championships. The route was the "Up and

Down" race which is a two-lap course making 14km with a 760m climb. The Warwickshire men's team finished a creditable 18th and the women's finished a superb 6th. Thank-you to Julie Emmerson for organising the County teams and well done to all who ran.

Men's team – Andy Boon, Daniel Dalton, Pete Eccleston, Matthew Hadlum

Women's team – Emma Bexson, Julie Emmerson, Emily Negus

Item 7c Team Manager's Report on U13/U15's Inter Counties Match at Barnsley

This year's fixture was hosted by South Yorkshire and took place in a sun-baked cauldron at the Dorothy Hyman Stadium, Cudworth on 9th September. The hot/sunny conditions were ideal for spectator viewing but took a drastic toll on many athletes' warm-up schedules. Performances tended to be lower than anticipated and many fewer pb's were recorded than in most previous fixtures. There were, however, several exceptional individual performances.

Our Team was composed of a total of 48 athletes (23 girls and 25 boys) drawn from 11 different clubs. Despite the large number of withdrawals from the initially selected squad we were still able to field athletes in all but one of the Match events – that down to an injury which we were not made aware of until the day. Even our judicious juggling of resources did not, however, enable us to fill all available supplementary (non-scoring) 100m race slots.

Solid performances across the board showed our strength in depth and, despite the effective minus 20 points handicap through not providing the required number of Officials, we were able to retain the overall Inter Counties Trophy.

The U13 Girls recorded 4 wins, 1 second place and 6 third places from their 15 events and set 3 new pb's in the process. Marissa Lumani (Nuneaton) was awarded the trophy for best Field performance for her Shot Putt of 8m77cm. The squad were runners-up by 6 points in their section to Nottinghamshire.

The U15 Girls achieved 9 wins, 4 runner-up spots and 2 third places from their 22 events and recorded 3 individual pb's. They won their section by 14 points from Nottinghamshire. The major sour note here was the 'voiding' of the 4 x 200m relay because of incorrect directions given to runners by Officials concerning break points – Warwickshire actually ran 500m in the outside lane off the short stagger start marks.

The U13 Boys recorded 4 wins, 2 runner-up spots, 8 third places and 1 fourth spot in their 15 events and set 5 new pb's in the process. James Longworth (Birchfield) was awarded the section's best Track performance trophy for his 800m in 2:12.65. The squad won their section by 10 points from South Yorkshire.

The U15 Boys recorded 11 wins, 4 runner-up spots and 2 third places from their 23 events with 1 new pb being set. They won their section by 25 points from South Yorkshire.

The Team won the Match with an overall scoring points margin of 56 from Nottinghamshire (final margin reduced to 36 after Official's points included in totals). Having first entered this competition in 1999, Warwickshire youngsters have now won the event on 18 occasions from 23 Matches (2020 & 2021 cancelled due to Covid). In doing so, they have surely cemented their claim to be the County's most successful ever Team.

Each year we share the pleasure, satisfaction and pride exhibited/experienced by our young athletes and are grateful to be a part of their development within our sport.

We should like to thank the Warwickshire Committee for its support over the years and look forward to that continuing as we prepare to host the 2024 Event and on into the future.

John Nash and Rebecca Freeman - Warwickshire County A. A. U13/U15's Team Managers.

Item 8 The Ellis Trophy and the Endurance Trophy

The Ellis trophy - is awarded to **Matthew Hudson-Smith** of Birchfield Harriers. Matthew had an exceptional World Championships in Budapest culminating in him winning a silver medal in the 400m on 24th August.

The Endurance trophy – is awarded to **Jack Gray** of Cambridge & Coleridge (and previously BRAT) for his 2nd place in the English National cross-country and 3rd place representing Warwickshire in the Inter Counties cross-country championships in March.

Item 9 Any other business

CM advised that a revised safeguarding policy document will be published on the website dealing with 'lost children' at county events and also safeguarding for representative team events. This will bring WCAA guidance in line with best practice.

GH will obtain some additional bars for the President's chain of office as several of the recent past-presidents are not acknowledged.

DA brought attention to the fact that **Ray Morgan** has received an award from England Athletics for his long services to athletics. This recognises his commitment to all forms of athletics since 1986: coaching young athletes for 25 years, club committee roles for 35 years, as a graded field official since 1992, and his work on track and cross-country champs results since 2005. He has been Warwickshire County chair, club president and life member, and chair of the local Athletics Network. He also founded and evolved the county road race series, set up QuadKids and open meetings for juniors, and helped set up the local parkrun.

Date of the 2024 AGM- Wednesday 13th November 2024

Meeting closed at 20:14