



THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ONLINE BY ZOOM on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Acting Chair - Rebecca Freeman (Solihull and Small Heath AC), Graham Heeley (Past President, Sparkhill Harriers), Tony Mackness (WCAA Treasurer, Northbrook AC), Dave Ashbourne (Leamington C&AC), Christopher Hitchman (Leamington C&AC) Alan Edwards (Leamington C&AC), Matt Leydon (Spa Striders), Clare Hinton (Spa Striders), Kat Robertson (Spa Striders), Brian Ackford (Rugby and Northampton AC), Margaret Murphy (Rugby & Northampton AC), Katie Lea (Rugby and Northampton AC), Dave Goodwin (Massey Ferguson RC), Scott Kirton (Massey Ferguson RC), Helen Rowe (Massey Ferguson RC), Richard Clarke (Kenilworth RC) Sally Anne Tully (Sphinx), Geoff Heaps (Lily Mae Foundation), Eric Fowler (WCAA Hon Sec), Peter Thomas (Centurion), Ray Morgan (Past President), Jo Tork (Knowle and Dorridge RC), Peter Sugden (Stratford upon Avon AC), Roberto Ortolan (Sphinx), Dawn Court (Balsall Common RC)

Item 1 Apologies for absence:

Cath Muth, (Chair of WCAA, Birchfield Harriers), Stewart Barnes (Coventry Godiva Harriers), Olivia Lea (Social Media Sec), Rachel Berney (LAA), Bob Carey (Trophies Secretary, Sphinx)

Item 2 Acceptance of the minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 15th November 2023.

The minutes were published on the County web site soon after the meeting and no corrections were submitted. Acceptance was proposed by MM and seconded by AE. The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record.

Item 3 The Annual Report by WCAA Chair

EF read out the following submitted by the Chair;

Many thanks as always to our hard-working committee, volunteers and team mangers who give a huge amount of time organising county events. We had another successful Cross-Country Championships and look forward to a new venue in 2024.

Our track and field championships were another great success with record entries. However, the lack of volunteers is putting this event at risk and clubs who have large numbers of participants really need to step up and help out. Whilst we recognise that clubs have their own pressures this two-day championship gives an excellent competition opportunity for athletes of all ages and if we are to continue, we need more support from the clubs.

We hosted the junior inter counties match this year with Warwickshire coming out on top. This event gives young athletes the opportunity to represent the county and they are proud to do so.

We currently have a number of vacant positions on our committee and have had little interest from anyone to fill these. Please could everyone spread the word around their clubs to see if there are people who can spare the time to help us continue to provide great events for athletes across the County.

I do not wish to end on a sour note as there are so many people who make our organisation as good as it is but be warned without new people to help our events will become too great a burden on so few people and will not be guaranteed to take place in future.

Cath Muth, WCAA Chair

DA (officials co-ordinator for the T&F champs and member of England Athletics regional council) has reviewed the number of entries made by clubs against the number of officials provided and this shows a very unequal share. Some individual clubs have been approached and suggested that they can do more to engage people on the officials pathway. BA pointed out that clubs should have an officials' secretary or co-ordinator and should use that person to call-up officials to support the championships. GH stated that unless there are more volunteers the championships may not happen in 2025.

Item 4 Treasurers report for year ended 30.9.2024

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

The accounts for the period 1.10.2023 to 30.9.2024 show a net DEFICIT of £1566.39 (for comparison during 2022/2023 there was a SURPLUS of £2163.45)

Bank balances at year end were:

Lloyds Current Account	£136.05
Lloyds Entries Account	£7959.25
Santander	£ 18,393.70
TOTAL BANK BALANCE	£26,489.00

Note: Interest on the Santander account was £191.30.

Affiliation fees

INCOME = £480 from 24 clubs for WCAA affiliation and £270 from 9 clubs for Warwickshire Road Race promoters fees.

EXPENDITURE = £200 to affiliate the County Association to England Athletics

Cross-country Championships

The 2023 XC championships were held at Warley Woods on 16th December 2023 in conjunction with Worcestershire. Costs are shared in proportion to the number of entries.

There were 544 entries which was 44 more than 2022. Entry Income was £3,812.

Total costs were £3264.06 including £927.24 for trophies, £352.90 in commission for online entries and £140.36 for numbers. The net SURPLUS for the event was £548.35.

Track & Field Championships

The Track and Field championships were held at Pingles, Nuneaton over the weekend of 11th/12th May. There were 1,196 entries (up 14% on 2023) which generated income of £8,372. A grant of £500 was made by England Athletics. Vince Wilson contributed £200 for selling space and WCAA also wish to thank Coventry Runner for their sponsorship of the bib numbers (£289).

Summary of Expenses (rounded values)

	2023	2024
Equipment, Safety and Facility Hire	£2060	£2735
Bib Numbers (Sponsored by Coventry Runner)	£235	£289
Officials and volunteer Costs - Food and Beverages	£690	£650
Trophies and Medals	£1692	£1725
Commission paid on race entries to Entry 4 Sport	£735	£837
Printing	£22	£22
	£5434	£6257

The main increase in expenditure can be attributable to Facility hire which increased by £700. The surplus on the event was £3103.56.

Inter county events

Costs of £2424 were incurred for Inter County Events including a deficit of £788 which was incurred by Warwickshire acting as hosts for the 2024 U13/U15 inter-counties T&F match. (Humberside withdrew which reduced income by £200)

Miscellaneous expenditure

Costs of £3296.59 were incurred

County website Costs	£74.39
Postage	£9.80
County vests	£3,312.40

Our singular biggest expense this year was the purchase of 170 representative vests. (none purchased since 2022)

Road Race League

Race promoter fee 9 x £30	£270
Trophies*	£453.21

*This includes £ 109.15 for 23 "Ever present medals"

Audit opinion

The accounts have been audited by Hargreaves - Ward Ltd and there are no findings of significance, and the accounts have been signed off. They made the following statement: *"Nothing has come to our attention to refute that the financial statements presented to us represent a true and fair view of the income, expenditure and surplus / deficit for the year reviewed and of the financial position at the year-end"*

The full accounts are available from the Treasurer on request.

KR asked why the cost for trophies is so high. TMc responded that cost per item has increased. RF pointed out that for the cross-country champs there are engraved medals in each age group for individuals and for the teams. In addition, the under 11 age group was added in 2023, requiring 4 new trophies.

RM highlighted that for the track and field champs there are 18 events per age group and that for many athletes the county competition is the highest level that they achieve so medals are valued.

Tony Mackness was thanked for his diligent work as Treasurer and in preparing the accounts. Acceptance was proposed by BA and seconded by DA. **The accounts were unanimously approved.**

Proposal - the Treasurer and committee propose the Club Affiliation fee remain at £20 per club.

AE stated that the fee had been at this level for a long time and asked if it should be increased. TMC responded that there are sufficient reserves and the championships are the primary source of income for the association so while those events are held there is no need to increase the affiliation fee.

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

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 proposals of the committee to have Maggie Murphy as President and Katie Lea as president elect were approved. Elections for all positions were unanimously confirmed en-bloc.

The following Officers and Officials were duly elected.

President	Maggie Murphy
President elect	Katie Lea
Hon Chair	Cath Muth
Hon Secretary	Eric Fowler
Hon Treasurer	Tony Mackness
Hon Officials Secretary	vacant
Hon Promotions Secretary x2	Katie Lea and David McGuffin
Team Managers' coordinator	Keith Burgess
Website secretary	Eric Fowler
Hon Trophies and Medals Secretary	vacant
Social media Secretary	Olivia Lea
Trustees	Ian Riley and Maggie Murphy
Auditors	Matthew Hargreaves
Hon Endurance Secretary	vacant * see note below

Maggie Murphy offered to assist training if an Officials Secretary can be found.

It was suggested that the Endurance Secretary role be re-formed as the Road Race League Secretary and that it become the link between the WRRL committee and the Association committee. Kat Robertson offered to act in such redefined role. **A review of the constitution and committee roles was taken as an action for the committee.**

Item 6 Constitutional Changes.

None proposed.

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

EF read a precis of a report prepared by John Nash and Rebecca Freeman - Warwickshire County A. A. U13/U15's Team Managers. The full report will be published alongside the minutes.

EF advised that WCAA had sent a written response to a suggestion by Midland Counties that a new Midland-based fixture be set up to be held in May/June, although that period can be quite congested. RM expressed concern for the future viability of the existing fixture in its current format and agreed that if the Midland Counties Association can develop a new junior inter-counties competition then this would likely be preferred. BA added that Northamptonshire Association has also expressed support

for a Midlands competition although a fixture in July may be better. DA reminded attendees that age-groups will change in 2026.

Item 8 The Ellis Trophy and the Endurance Trophy

The Ellis trophy - was won by Kare Adenegan for her two silver medals in the T 34 wheelchair events, 100m and 800m at the Paralympics.

The Endurance trophy – is awarded to Archie Lane of Leamington for his win in the U/15 Boys Warwickshire and Midland Cross Country Championships. (He also went on to win the Warwickshire U/17 championships). I'm looking forward to seeing how he gets on in this year's Midland. It will be his first year in this age group.

Item 9 Any other business

Are team managers expected to have a DBS and safeguarding training? DA asked whether WCAA should have a designated welfare presence at any of its competitions. RF responded that this is likely to be a requirement but that a review of the written specifications would be useful. In any event, all coaches and officials licenced by EA will have such safeguarding checks.

Date of the 2025 AGM- Wednesday 12th November 2025