MCAA T&F League – AGM 2025, Secretary's report

Another track and field league season completed – hopefully clubs enjoyed the year. I again enjoyed my season as a team manager and secretary and was very happy I avoided picking myself (team manager after all) for the odd point here or there. I again greatly appreciated the positive comments from league members – many thanks.

Many congratulations to BRAT for winning the overall (division 1) title and to the other division winners: Burton (division 2), Stoke (Div 3NE), Stratford (Div 3SE), Birchfield (Div 3SW) and Sutton-in-Ashfield (Regional Trophy).

Away from the detail of the 2025 season and looking to the future, I'm keen to hear how we might improve the league. I believe it has a key role in Midlands' athletics in encouraging athletes to compete, through the support of their club, and for the role we provide in protecting many of our sport's events. For myself I would very much like to take the good bits from elsewhere and improve the league experience. I'm always impressed with the popularity of open meetings (I know typically only across the better supported events) and as an old BMC member I do like the BMC series. I suspect there are lessons we can learn and apply to the league. I'd really like to be able to seed all of our races (supported by some clever way of making this easy to do) and to move to a single scoring ladder. I'm also still interested in exploring options to open the way for further flexibility on entries from clubs, with some control mechanism to avoid the larger clubs just winning by virtue of numbers.

As well as supporting all T&F events (10,000 and heptathlon/decathlon aside) I would also like to think we can help athletes and clubs with more support for the tricky transition between U16 and senior. This is a particular challenge for athletes in the technical events where it can be difficult to find appropriate competition.

Maybe we can find ways of moving UK athletics (well at least in the Midlands, plus the South and Wales of course) away from a predominance of track/middle distance. I feel we should try.

Finally, back to 2025: again, as last year, my grateful thanks to the officials who supported the Technical Match – it would be impossible for me to organise if folks didn't volunteer. Excellent performances on the day were again a satisfying reward for the work of the officials and Rugby's volunteers. Numbers were again up from last year which was very pleasing.

All the best to clubs for next season.

Richard
League Secretary