



MCAA Track & Field League AGM 2025 – MINUTES

Date, Time: Sunday 30th November 2025; 1300-1600

Venue: Clubhouse, Coventry Godiva Harriers

1. Present

In the room: Abingdon (Stuart), Banbury (James), BRAT (Nigel, Richard), B&R (Wayne), Burton (Jaime), Coventry (Kevin), Hon Treasurer (Stewart), DASH (Geoff), Halesowen (Ollie), Hereford Forest (Phil), KSAC (Adrian), Leamington (Paul), Newport (Peter), Nuneaton (Carolyn), R&N (Bryan, Chairman), SSH (Rob), W&B (Colin), Worcester (Richard, Secretary), Yate (Matt)
On VTC (Zoom): (included Birchfield (Seemita), RSC (Fiona), John (B&W with Bath), Elaine Davies (Telford))

2. Apologies

C&S, Telford (although joined for part of the meeting by VTC), Claire (Newport), Notts, Kettering.

3. Minutes from 2024 AGM

Accepted unanimously

4. Matters arising (other than covered by the agenda)

NTR

5. Chairperson's report

See Annex 1 to these minutes for a copy.

A discussion, initiated by Newport, about first aid provision ensued – basically around what to do if the first aid providers booked for a match do not turn up. It was noted that it is in principle possible for sports centre staff or other people in attendance at a match to provide first aid as long as numbers, qualifications, availability (i.e. you can't compete as well) and equipment is appropriate. Any decision would need to be taken against the specific circumstances for a given situation. Much better to book reliable providers and in support of that:

ACTION: Banbury (James) offered to draw together, and share, a list of first aid providers.

6. League Secretary's report

See Annex 2 for a copy of the report.

The discussion prompted by this report focussed on how we might make the league more attractive. No conclusions were expected (nor identified) from this discussion – it was to provide ideas for future consideration. The following points were noted:

- length of the meeting was noted as a key issue (matches are too long), with U18/U20 in particular having time pressures due to exams;
- it was noted that for open meetings you can turn up just for your event, implying a shorter time commitment;
- travel time – again (and still) a significant issue;
- part time jobs on Saturdays/Sundays (U18 and U20 mainly) impact ability to attend weekend matches – open meetings are often midweek; [Sec note: is there an option of having some supplementary league meetings, with selected events only, mid-week; they would need to be regionally based.]
- the ability to enter more athletes in some events (where a club is strong) whilst not demanding that each club provide a very large number of athletes, for example if we allowed A, B, C string across all events. [Sec note: this is the logic behind the committee's work to review the scoring in parallel with control of overall scoring numbers.]

7. Financial report for 2025, including

- a. Affiliation fees for 2026
- b. Match hosting fees 2026

There were no comments against the general finance report provided by the Hon. Treasurer and these were accepted by the meeting.

Stewart (current Hon. Treasurer) offered to continue for one more year only – this was accepted gratefully by the meeting and the AGM shared the Chairman's offer of thanks for Stewart's significant work over the last few years.

Discussion then focussed on affiliation fees and match hosting reimbursement value.

It was proposed (and accepted with 22 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) that the affiliation fee is increased by £25.

It was proposed (and accepted with 16 for and 5 against) that the hosting reimbursement remains unchanged.

There was a discussion around funding the provision of take-off cameras for LJ/TJ. It was decided that this be considered at the 2026 AGM.

Finally, the Treasurer noted that there is still almost £3,000 available for clubs to claim against officials' training and development.

8. Election of T&F League Management Committee

- a. Chairperson
- b. League Secretary
- c. Management Committee Members

Chairman, Secretary and committee members were all content with continuing into 2026 and these were accepted unanimously by the AGM. A request was made for further interest in joining the committee. No-one requested inclusion from the meeting – but note that people

may join at any time. Please get in touch with the Chairman or Secretary if interested.

9. Presentation of divisional trophies

Done. Although a little limited in impact given only two of the trophy winners were able to attend the meeting in person (i.e. not by VTC).

Jaime was presented with Burton's trophy (and also agreed to take Stoke's and Stratford's and pass them on), Richard (BRAT) took Birchfield's to pass on, Nigel was presented with BRAT's trophy. Sutton-in-Ashfield's trophy was retained by the Office (although it appears that may have been confused with one of the trophies taken by Jaime).

10. Resignations from the league

None noted.

11. Applications and re-applications to the league

We have received an application from Corby to re-join the league.

This was unanimously accepted by the AGM.

12. Licence (match) applications:

For 2026 we will continue with host clubs applying for their licences. This agenda item is simply to give a quick update to the licence application process in terms of what UKA requires.

This was noted. The secretary also provided further information on how these licence applications need to be completed in terms of naming/enumerating officials:

as per the licence application form: clubs to name (with EA/WA numbers) the key officials (Chief TK, Field Ref, Track Ref, Starter). Note: it is a host club's responsibility to fill these posts.

where the form asks for numbers of other (not those noted above) officials, simply leave blank. We have an agreement with UKA/EA to leave these boxes blank noting that league rules exist mandating clubs to provide officials.

13. Proposals to the AGM

see Annex 4 for the full descriptions.

a. Burton.1: Introduction of minimum standards for scoring points in the throwing events.

- i. Seconded by Newport.
- ii. In-depth discussion on this proposal including:
 1. That the particular standards may be too harsh;
 2. That the standards should differ by division;
 3. That we could invoke the WA/UKA rule that demands a bone fide effort from athletes / discussion that in practice officials do not feel empowered to impose this;
 4. That the standards are important to protect the timetable with the idea to remove "fillers";
 5. That we should agree/reject as an in-principle idea and that a small group set the actual numbers posts AGM;
 6. That there are separate (lower standards) set for divs 3

- iii. The AGM agreed to vote on one amendment: that the **standards be applied to divisions 1 and 2 only. This was passed** (for: 16, against 4; abstentions 2).
- iv. **The main proposal was then accepted (subject to the caveat provided by the amendment above)** (for 11; against 6; abstentions 5).
- b. **Newport.1:** A standard is introduced in the throws
 - i. OBE given acceptance of Burton.1
- c. **Newport.2:** The 800m B/C athletes' race is combined
 - i. After a short discussion it was accepted that the essence of Newport's second proposal was already part of the rules. Secretary took an **ACTION to ensure that this requirement (to combine 800m races, or indeed other races where it is appropriate to do so) is drawn clearly to the attention of race match officials.**
- d. **Telford.1:** The Team Declaration Portal is reinstated.
 - i. Telford (Elaine) had to leave the VTC early (apologies offered pre-AGM) and so this proposal was not taken.
- e. **Telford.2:** Instead of Guest athletes each club is allowed A/B/C athletes.
 - i. Telford (Elaine) had to leave the VTC early (apologies offered pre-AGM) and so this proposal was not taken.
- f. **Small-group.1:** That the minimum age group allowed by the league is U18.
 - i. **Accepted** (no further information, Secretary out of the room).
- g. **Small group.2:** that we accommodate, as guests, other age group hurdlers where possible.
 - i. **Accepted** (For: 16, against 4, abstentions 1)
- h. **Small group.3:** Experiment with reducing the length of the overall timetable.
 - i. **An amendment was proposed that this only apply to divisions 3.**
This was not accepted (For: 7, against 14)
 - ii. **The main proposal was not accepted** (For: 4, against 15, abstentions 2)
- i. **Committee.1:** That a host club must nominate an overall "meeting manager". Can be dual hatted.
 - i. A point was made that this should be recognised as Meeting Director and it was agreed that the person undertaking the role could also take on another duty. It was agreed that any rule drafting would include these points. **Proposal accepted.**
- j. **Committee.2:** That we introduce named additional events into the technical match.
 - i. An amendment was made that we vote on the inclusion of the para events first. This was carried out and the **para events were accepted** (for 19, against 2).
 - ii. For the 3k walk the discussion centred around a) whether this should be open to athletes from any UKA club; b) that it should be scoring (rather than the proposed non-scoring). The proposal voted on was: **that the 3k walk be included as a scoring event and that it would be open to athletes from other clubs. This was accepted** (for 12, against 9).
- k. **Committee.3:** For the technical match, clubs be asked to pay a small charge (suggest £2) for any pre-match event declarations that are not fulfilled on the day.
 - i. **Accepted unanimously.**

- I. **Committee.4:** For the technical match: that we have different starting heights for the two PV pools.
 - i. **Accepted unanimously.**

15. Divisional Structure for 2026

Division 1

BRAT
 Burton
 Bristol & West (with Bath)
 Halesowen
 Leamington
 R&N

Division 2

Birchfield
 C&S
 City of Stoke
 Gloucester
 Newport
 Notts
 Stratford-upon-Avon

Regional divisions:

(Not alphabetical, more by geography – see ANNEX 3.)

Blue, Div3NE	Green Div 3SW	Yellow Div 3SE
Sutton-in-Ashfield	DASH	Leicester
Charnwood	Tipton	SSH
Shrewsbury	K&S	Coventry
Telford	B&R	Kettering
Tamworth	Worcester	Corby (re-joining)
W&B	Hereford	Daventry
RSC	Cheltenham	Banbury
Nuneaton	Yate	Abingdon

NOTE: an option was raised to swap Nuneaton and Leicester. Post meeting both clubs are content to remain as noted above.

16. Fixture Dates for 2026

Sat 29 Aug accepted as the preferred match date for the last match (rather than Sun 30 Aug). This was in response to a request from KSAC to avoid, as much as possible, a conflict with a key open meeting on 31st Aug at Stourport. This gives the preferred dates as:

Sat 16 May
 Sun 21 June (Technical match to be held at Birmingham Uni)
 Sun 19 July
 Sat 8 Aug
 Sat 29 Aug

17. AOB for the plenary session

NTR

18. Division discussions: Match hosting and election of secretary by division:

- a. Election of the divisional secretary.
- b. Club representatives to work with the Divisional Secretaries to discuss hosting and venues for each fixture. Please ensure that stadiums are available and comply with UKA certification.

Annex 1: Midland League, Report of the Chair – November 2025

We have once again enjoyed a successful season with good competition being provided for all clubs and athletes. One slight downside were variable attendances due to the allocated League dates clashing with other high-profile competitions such as the ESAA & UKA Championships. Hopefully this year will prove more satisfactory, but it's hard to find dates for League competitions in spite of the numbers competing.

We made very few changes to the format of the League this year, but I believe that those that we did make, predominantly merging the B & C String scoring had a positive effect.

At last year's AGM we highlighted the potential effects of the changes to Age Groups by EA / UKA, and the implications for both Athletes & our League. We have a concern that the U20 Age-Group, in particular, may be poorly catered for by other Leagues.

After discussion we are proposing that the League moves to U18 as the youngest Age. This will remove a one-year cohort from eligibility to compete in the Midland League. We believe this to be the right decision for the development of younger athletes, but it may affect some clubs ability to fill events more than others. We will monitor the effects of the changes and listen to the views of both athletes and clubs as the 2026 season progresses.

As a League we are therefore in a 'Wait and See' position for the 2026 season, but if there is a need to bring forward any appropriate proposals the League Management Committee believe that there are solutions which could be offered at next year's AGM.

In terms of delivering competition, we all need to be mindful of our obligation to comply with the terms of our Licence before an event can proceed. This is not merely the provision of suitably qualified officials, but also First Aid and certificated venue with appropriate equipment. We experienced issues of both of the latter cases and there seems to be a continual decline in the quality of venues in terms of both their condition and their staffing.

I would like to express my thanks to our secretary Richard White for his tireless efforts to deliver the League. Also thanks to the Management Committee, Officials, Team Managers & Athletes without whom the League would not take place.

Finally, please ensure that Referees are familiar with the League Rules and Scorers are familiar with the Results Program in advance of each match. This will greatly reduce the effort for Divisional Secretaries when checking the results.

Bryan Acford – 19th November 2025

Annex 2: 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.

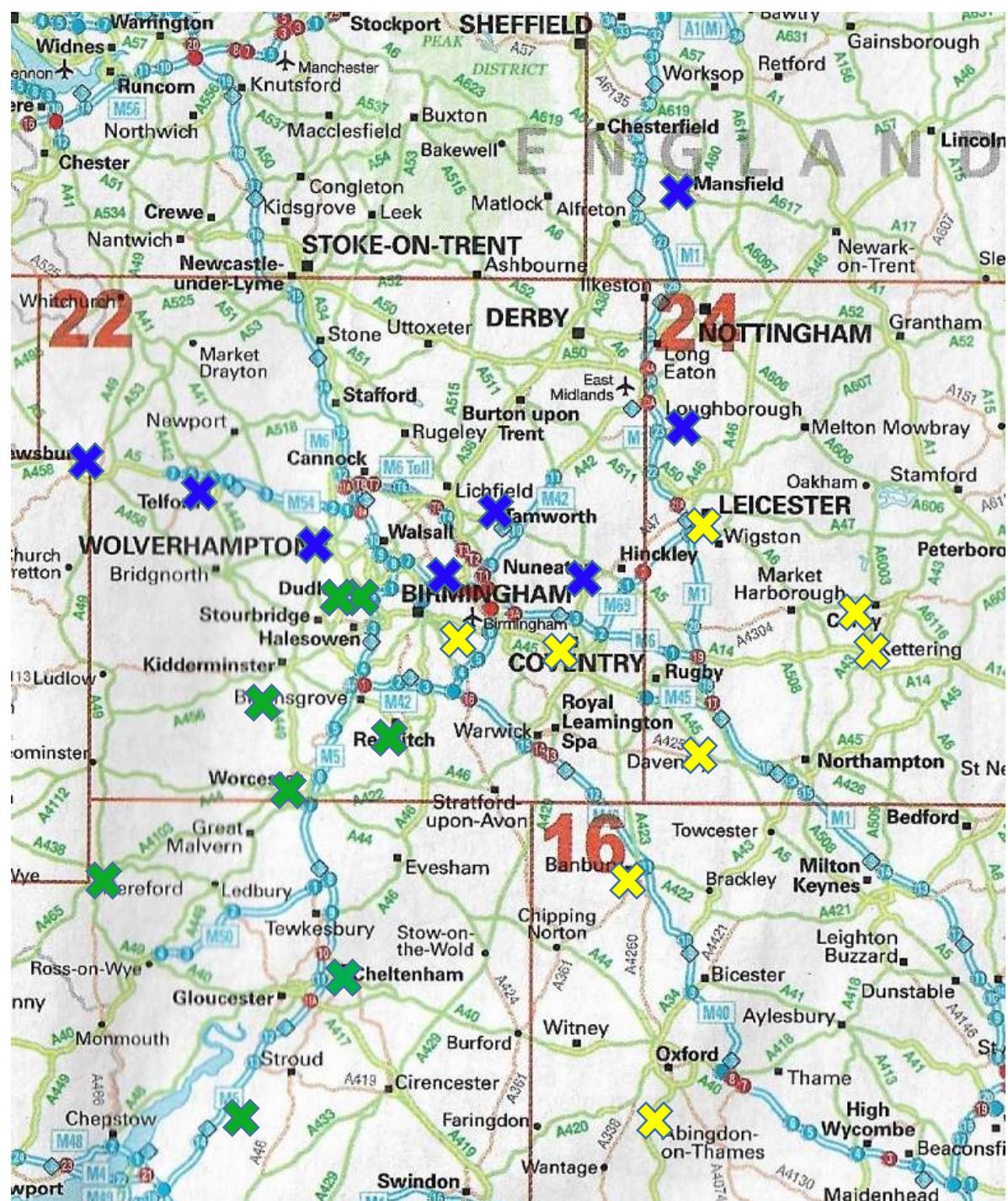
Maybe we can find ways of moving UK athletics (well at least in the Midlands, plus the South and Wales of course) away from a predominance of track/middle distance. I feel we should try.

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

Annex 3. Geographic distribution of clubs in the three regional divisions



Annex 4. Proposals for consideration by the 2025 AGM of the MCAA T&F League

1. Proposal from Burton AC

Burton.1:

We [Burton AC] propose the introduction of minimum standards for scoring points in the throwing events.

This season we observed that some athletes, who were only entered to fill events, were deliberately throwing implements into the ground simply to register a mark or of very poor standard in both men and women events. This disrupted the competition and caused delays to the timetable. By setting minimum standards to score, we would eliminate these 'filler' performances and ensure a higher-quality competition.

Proposed minimum standards:

Shot Put –	Men: 8m		Women: 7m
Hammer –	Men: 22m		Women: 20m
Javelin –	Men: 25m		Women: 21m
Discus –	Men: 20m		Women: 18m

2. Proposals from Newport AC

Newport.1:

A standard is introduced in the throws (as in the Hammer in the technical event) to help assist with numbers, length of event and safety of athletes and officials.

Newport.2:

The 800m B/C athletes' race is combined due to the fact that they are now scored together and that in all 1500m above events all athletes compete together already, however, in the 800m this wouldn't be suitable due to the pace of the event but perhaps a staggered start could be introduced on times.

League Sec note: the existing rules recommend combining races where possible with the specific wording being:

"In shorter races [i.e. less than 1500m] where there are sufficient lanes for all the athletes, races should be combined. This should be done in a way that combines entire races (for example all B, C and D (ambulant) string athletes in a single race or A, B, C and "D"(ambulant) together). Whenever races are combined in this way, in order that athletes compete together, the highest placed competitor from a club will be considered as the highest string, next placed athlete second string and if all three races are combined third placed athlete the C string. D strings are scored separately."

3. Proposals from Telford AC

Telford.1:

The Team Declaration Portal is reinstated. YDL league use a team manager portal and it is much easier for team managers and results recorders

Telford.2

Instead of Guest athletes each club is allowed A/B/C athletes. This would not impact the timetable and would make it easier for everyone. *[League Sec note: I am awaiting further clarification on this one.]*

4. Proposals from the small group set-up by the 2024 AGM to consider the impact of UKA's age group changes.

Small-group.1:

That the minimum age group allowed by the league is U18 and that rules currently applied to U17 athletes be applied to U18 athletes (for example how many events an athlete may compete in).

Small group.2: that we accommodate, as guests, U18 and U20 hurdlers where possible (and, in the interests of fairness, masters' hurdlers).

Therefore, we allow guest competitors, **as long as they are pre-declared**, as follows:

- 1) 100mH: U18 women allowed as guests over their own hurdle height (separate lanes with a gap) in 100mH. (U20 and older height 84cm, U18 76cm). This would also allow M50 and M55 athletes (100m 91cm) to guest.
- 2) 110mH: U18 and U20 allowed as guests over their own hurdle heights in 110mH. (U18 at 91cm, U20 at 99cm). This would also allow M35-M45 (110H at 99cm) to guest.
- 3) 400mH. U18 men (84cm) and M50/M55 (also 84cm) be allowed to run over their own hurdle heights as guests.

Small group.3: Experiment with reducing the length of the overall timetable.

That for two of the standard matches we remove one long throw and one track event in order to shorten the meetings and to gather feedback on its impact. For one match we would remove HT(men) and steeplechase(women); for the other match we would remove HT(women) and steeplechase(men). (Note: the sprint hurdles could be swapped for the steeplechase as an alternative proposal.) The match length for each of these two meetings would reduce by around 90 minutes.

5. Proposals from the League Management Committee

Committee.1:

That a host club must nominate an overall meeting manager to oversee the entirety of the match.

Committee.2:

That we introduce the following events into the technical match:

- 1) 400m wheelchair (scoring)
- 2) 100m wheelchair (non-scoring)
- 3) Ambulant para SP (scoring)
- 4) 3000m race walk (non-scoring)

Committee.3:

For the technical match, clubs be asked to pay a small charge (suggest £2) for any pre-match event declarations that are not fulfilled on the day. (Note: an issue we have had with timetabling and seeding at the technical match is that it is easy for clubs to declare athletes, just in case they can cover an event, or possibly just in case they can make the match. This can spoil races for other athletes.)

Committee.4:

For the technical match: that we have different starting heights for the two PV pools.

We are always keen to offer flexibility, for example to allow athletes to swap out of their seeded pool into the alternative – potentially to accommodate other

events or to satisfy travel demands. An issue for 2025 was that this created two very long PV competitions – both ran from the MCAA T&F league minimum starting height to essentially the same match maximum height. We did look at having different start heights in 2025 but as it was not enshrined in our rules, clubs, quite naturally, wanted to hold on to the flex of pool swapping and asked for two identical PV pools (in terms of starting height).