



Race Walking Association

Annual General Meeting

Friday 23rd January 2026

The Race Walking Association is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:

Topic: RWA Annual General Meeting

Time: Jan 23, 2026, 07:00 PM

You must register in advance using the following link to attend this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7JSzXV1FRDCauAYO133U5A>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Agenda

1. President's Opening Remarks

2. Obituaries

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Minutes of previous AGM held on Friday 10th January 2025

5. Presentation of Officers' Reports

- a. Honorary General Secretary
- b. Honorary Treasurer (+ accounts for 2024/25)
- c. Championship Secretary

6. Presentation of other Reports

7. Presentation of Area Reports

8. Election of Officers

No advance nominations for officers of the association have been received. In accordance with the rules of the association, nominations for these positions may be made from the floor by any duly authorised representative of an affiliated club or body:

- Chairman
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Competition Secretary
- Coaching and Development Secretary
- Promotion Officer

9. Election of Extended Committee

Under rule 6(d) of the association, the Executive Committee shall convene bi-annual extended committee meetings to engage with the member base. The Extended Committee shall comprise the Executive Committee and up to ten committee positions nominated and voted for at the AGM. All nominees must be members of an affiliated member body.

10. Formal Closure

Voting Rights

The Rules of the Association place no restrictions upon attendance at the Annual General Meeting; anyone interested may attend and speak but may only vote according to the voting rights defined in rule 8 of the association. This will be slightly amended for this year as the affiliation process takes shape:

- One delegate from each club or body affiliated to England Athletics
- One delegate from each area body
- Existing officers of the RWA
- Life members of the RWA

No individual shall have more than one vote.

During the registration process, attendees will be asked to register their right to vote. If there is more than attendee registering a vote for the same organisation, then only the attendee with a valid form of authorization will be permitted to vote. The form below can be used for this purpose if required.



2025 AGM Affiliated Club / Body Voting Authority

Club or Body:

Name of Delegate:

Authorization:

The named individual is duly authorized to vote on behalf of the above club / body. (The named delegate may authorize themselves to vote if they hold a suitable position within that club or organisation).

Authorizer Name:

Signed:

Organisation Role/Office:

Date:

Role of Officers on the Race Walking Association Executive Committee

Under the new rules of the association adopted at the EGM held on Friday 7th November 2025, the committee structure of the RWA was revised. To assist delegates with an understanding of the roles of the officer going forward, the following descriptions provide a general overview of the responsibilities of each RWA officer. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of day to day tasks so enabling each officer to adapt the role around their individual circumstances (work, family etc.) and to provide room for innovation and development. People taking on these roles will be encouraged to put their mark on it, doing it their way in a manner that suits them to be efficient and effective.

It is anticipated that officers will meet as an executive committee four to six times a year, usually as a “Zoom” meeting but could occasionally be face-to-face on the back of another event. These meetings should be shorter and more focused than previous general committee meetings which tried to be more “all-singing-all-dancing” affairs.

The executive committee will also facilitate 2 extended committee meetings which aim to engage with the wider race walking community and report / discuss issues on a more general basis. These meetings will not necessarily require attendance of all the officers.

Chairman

The principal role of the Chairman is to provide effective leadership.

The Chairman should lead and manage committee meetings, making sure all matters are conducted according to the constitution of the Association and are dealt with in an efficient manner. The Chairman should ensure that everyone has fair opportunity to express their views or concerns without fear of criticism or ridicule.

General Secretary

The general secretary is the principal administrator of the Association.

They will manage Association correspondence and documents and facilitate the function of the Association by arranging committee meetings, preparing the agenda and other such documents as may be required for a meeting.

Competition Secretary

The Competition Secretary will be primarily responsible for the administration and running of the competition / championship program, being the main point of contact regarding event details, entries and results. Working with EA / UKA to ensure sufficient officials are available for championships and ensure championships comply with the rules of all relevant governing bodies.

Treasurer

The treasurer will be responsible for the financial management and control of the Association's finances, ensuring the Association's financial stability and compliance with all legal requirements. The treasurer should prepare regular financial statements for committee meetings and end of financial year statement.

Coaching and Development Secretary

A key point in the RWA strategy document is to be a coaching and development provider. The role of the coaching and development secretary is not necessarily to deal with the practical logistics of delivering all the C&D initiatives but to be an adviser, overseer and auditor of delivering this part of the strategy.

Promotion Officer

A key point in the RWA strategy document is to actively promote race walking within England. The role of the promotion officer is not necessarily to deal with the day to day press and publicity but to be an adviser, overseer and auditor of delivering this part of the strategy.

Minutes of 2024 RWA Annual General Meeting

Held virtually on Friday 10th January 2025 on Zoom.

Present:

Chris Hobbs – President	Glyn Jones – RWA Chairman
Colin Vesty – Honorary General Secretary	Mark Easton – Honorary Treasurer
Noel Carmody – Championship Secretary	Chris Flint – RWA(S) Secretary
Ann Perry – MRWA Secretary	Helen Elleker – Northern Representative
Andrew Clough	Ron Wallwork
Kevin Perry	Peter Boszko
Dave Ainsworth	Dave Annetts
Bob Dobson	Tony Wilkinson
Shaun Lightman	Len Rudock
John Borgars	

1 - President's Opening Remarks

As president, Chris Hobbs chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone, particularly those attending for a first time. He commented upon how much he had enjoyed the past year as president, going to events and presenting awards etc.

Some of the interesting points to note in his year was going to the Paris Olympics and being able to witness the new relay format walks first-hand and at the UK championships in Manchester he found the spectator engagement really encouraging. Another positive was the English Schools Championships and Chris wanted to thank Iain Presnell for his efforts in keeping this going.

Glyn Jones, as Chairman of the Association, thanked Chris for his continued role as President and stated that he had been exemplary and was a credit to the RWA.

2 - Obituaries

Chris led the meeting in observing a short silence in remembrance of members and friends of our race walking community who had died since the previous AGM:

Bob Watts (C838) – London Vidarians WC	Basil Gale (C761) – Trowbridge & District AC
Ken Livermore (C386) – Enfield & Haringey AC	Steve Arnold – Nuneaton Harriers AC
Mick Barnbrook (C661) – Ilford AC	Dave Delaney – London Vidarians AC
George Nibre – Ilford AC	George Barras (C361) – Wakefield Harriers
Brian Kibble – Leicester WC	Dave Trigg (C422) – Leicester WC
Barry Edwards – Southend-on-Sea AC	Mick Harran – Surrey WC
Mike Aris (C914) – Surrey WC	

3 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Eric Horwill	Peter Marlow
Chris Berwick	Authur Thomson
Steve Uttley	Iain Presnell
Mark Culshaw	Ed Shillabeer
Peter Selby	Pam Ficken

4 - Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 10th January 2024 were reviewed and accepted as a true record of proceedings with two minor amendments. Proposed by Glyn Jones and seconded by Ann Perry with all in favour.

5a – Honorary General Secretary Report

Colin Vesty backed up his written report by highlighting the statements that it had been another difficult year in finding the time to do the role as well as he would like. He has suggested that it would be better for someone else to stand up and take on the role, but no-one had been forthcoming. Unless anyone was going to take on the role at this AGM, he would only take on the role on the understanding that he would have very little time until March to do anything, and he may need to review the position in 3 or 4 months' time. He stated that if anyone was willing to take on the role then he would gladly give all the assistance that he could.

Chris Hobbs thanked Colin for his efforts and acknowledged the message was clear.

5b – Honorary Treasurer Report

Mark Easton tabled an audited accounts balance sheet for the year ending 30th September 2024 along with a statement of assets and liabilities as of 30th September 2024.

Ann Perry stated that it was very well presented and easy to understand.

Glyn Jones proposed that the accounts was accepted, seconded by Ann Perry.

5c – Honorary Officials Secretary Report

Colin Vesty reminded the meeting that although the rules of the association provide for an Honorary Officials' Secretary, the position is largely pointless as most of the responsibilities are now undertaken by England Athletics, so the position was left vacant at the previous AGM. He suggested that going forwards, all the officer roles should be considered in the review of the RWA structure.

6a – Championship Secretary Report

Noel Carmody gave a verbal report, stating that the situation was very negative. He stated that, putting things bluntly, the senior entry in the 10K & YAG championships was abysmal. In the 20K on the Isle of Man, the number of entries was expected to be low but there wasn't even a great take up from the local athletes.

Colin Vesty thanked Noel for his efforts in keeping things going and suggested that the provision of championships could do with "brainstorming". Noel agreed and stated the rules of competition need a complete review as they are very convoluted and confusing. Chris Hobbs agreed and suggested that the change in age groups and distances should be a key driving factor.

6c – Trophies Secretary Report

A written report had been submitted by Pam Ficken. Colin Vesty apologised for omitting to publish it in the original meeting papers. It was good news that the Edgar Horton and Lancashire Trophies had been found and Chris Hobbs stated Pam should be thanked for her efforts in recovering the trophies.

Len Ruddock suggest that we should consider presenting perpetual trophies on the day but then they should be retained by the RWA after photos had been taken etc. The risk of losing trophies would thus be minimised. Colin Vesty pointed out that, although sound in principle, it would a burden on the trophies secretary who already has an unreasonable number of trophies to store in their house.

6d – Press & Publicity Report

There was no report as the position is vacant.

7a – Northern Area Report

No report was received from the Northern Area.

7b – Midlands Area Report

Ann Perry had submitted the MARWA annual area report. Chris Hobbs thanked Ann for her report. In response, Ann highlighted that in all recent senior events, all competitors were Masters which was a very concerning situation.

7c – Southern Area Report

Chris Flint had prepared a written report, but it wasn't received in time to be included in the meeting papers. Before verbally summarising his report, Chris supported the comments made in the Honorary Secretary's report and he too felt that a full review of roles was called for, not just nationally but also at area level.

The area had updated both their committee structure and their championship rules. As part of this, there will now be three coaching and development officers, splitting the area into three sub areas: North, West, South. Several taster sessions have been held, but it is proving difficult to get athletes to go on and participate in a race.

7d – ESAA Report

Although not officially in the agenda, attention was brought to a written report on the work of the English schools Athletics Association submitted by Iain Presnell. Chris Hobbs said that we should acknowledge the work put in by Iain and thank him for his continued efforts to keep walks going in the ESAA.

8 – Election of Officers

Being the only nominee notified by the scheduled date, the following was declared elected unopposed:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|-------------|
| d. | Honorary Treasurer: | Mark Easton |
|----|---------------------|-------------|

The following were nominated from the floor but being the only nominees were declared elected unopposed:

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. | President: | Chris Hobbs |
| b. | Chairman: | Glyn Jones |
| | | Prop: Ann perry, Sec: Colin Vesty |

- c. Honorary general Secretary: Colin Vesty
Prop: Glyn Jones, Sec: Helen Elleker

The following offices were had no proposals and were left unfilled.

- e. Honorary Officials Secretary:
f. Vice President:

9 – Election of Other Posts

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. | Championship Secretary | Noel Carmody
Prop: Surrey WC |
| b. | Trophies Secretary | Pam Ficken
Prop: Surrey WC |
| c. | Assistant General Secretary | No Nomination |
| d. | Press and Publicity Officer | No Nomination |
| e. | Honorary Auditor | John Elrick |

Honorary General Secretary's Report

As highlighted at last year's AGM, time and opportunity was going to be an issue. This proved to be the case, but there were a few opportunities to catch up. But essentially it has been another year where I have not been able to fulfil the role to the extent that I would like. Indeed, at times I feel that I have been letting the team down, and I probably have. As usual, the main problem is that nobody seems to show any interesting in coming forward to take on the role.

Issuing of race permits has continued, but some have ended up being done at "the eleventh hour". Not ideal, this doesn't help the hard working race organisers. I have stated a few times now that the permit process is due for an upgrade to both streamline the process and to better align with other disciplines.

Probably the biggest achievement for the general committee this year has been the adoption of a five year strategy and a revised set of rules which provides for a more focused committee structure to drive the strategy. The biggest challenge now is to fill the positions on the new committee and drive the RWA in to the future.

I am both excited and fearful for the future of the RWA. The new structure and strategy pave the way for progress but this will require time and commitment from a team of people. The potential for success is fantastic, but equally the potential for a continuation of the downward trend is also very real. I hope to be a small part of this if time and health permit, but if not then I wish everyone involved the best of luck in creating the future of race walking in England.

Colin Vesty
Honorary General Secretary

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Currently the Accounts are unaudited, although they may be audited prior to the AGM. This is entirely due to the Gen Sec not supplying all the past meeting minutes in a timely manner. To date I still don't have copy of March 2025 minutes

The plan for the Support Fund was to become self-funding with money from the President's Appeal and the 200 Club. Unfortunately, donations to the President's Appeal have been very low and the number of numbers taken on the 200 club is still less than 100, as of October 2025

One RWA trophy is missing and whilst trophies don't appear on the balance sheet, it is important this trophy is tracked down.

£300 from the ESAA Palfreman Trust still needs to be spent

Mark Easton

Hon RWA Treasurer

RACE WALKING ASSOCIATION

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 30th September 2025

	2024-25 Payments (£)	2023-24 Payments (£)	2022-23 Payments (£)	2024-25 Receipts (£)	2023-24 Receipts (£)	2022-23 Receipts (£)
200 club	620	620	620	948	1056	1056
Legacy	0	0	0	173	180	576
ESAA Palfreman Trust (Note 1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Committee Expenses	216	156	144	0	0	0
Levy (Note 3)	392	409	399	1177	1228	1197
Levy release to NRWA	160	0	0	0	0	0
Levy Award to the IOM	150	150	150	0	0	0
National Championships (Note 2)	403	1127	865	0	335	317
Permits	0	0	0	147	186	180
Registration	205	200	150	0	0	0
Support for travel	2096	2781	0	0	0	0
CH President Appeal	0	0	0	103	243	10
Total Payments/Receipts	4243	5442	2327	2548	3228	3335
Net Surplus \ Deficit for the Year	-1695	-2215	1008			

Note 1

£300 from the ESAA Palfreman Trust still needs to be spent

Note 2

The National Championships(s) are shown as a single item in the receipts and payments

Note 3

Levy not paid to NRWA in 22-23, 23-24 & 24-25

RACE WALKING ASSOCIATION**Assets & Liabilities Statement as at 30th September 2025**

Assets	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Balance at Barclays Bank	19293	20988	23203
Total	19293	20988	23203
 Liabilities			
Levy payment to NRW	-440	-404	-199
Total	-440	-404	-199
 Total Net Assets	 <u>18853</u>	 <u>20584</u>	 <u>23004</u>
 Represented by:			
General Reserve	7109	7456	10289
Presidents' Appeal	103	243	10
Legacy (Note 1)	558	12885	12705
Support Fund (Note 1)	11083	0	0
	<u>18853</u>	<u>20584</u>	<u>23004</u>

Note 1

£12500 from Legacy moved into the Support Fund

23-24 President's Appeal and 23-24 Profit from RWA 200 club put into the Support Fund

The plan is to spend the Support Fund over 5 years

Support fund first drawn on in 24-25

Midland Area Report

2025 has been quite a difficult year for all disciplines of athletics in the matter of numbers of participants, and race walking has not escaped that trend. We lost a lot of younger athletes following the covid lock down when they were keen to join team sports after being isolated for such a length of time, which is understandable, but regrettable.

Fortunately, due to the efforts of the organisers of training courses for officials, in particular our own Judges and Officials Secretary, Andrew Clough, we have some new younger judges coming through, although we have lost some of the older ones due to age and infirmity. Thanks to them all for their efforts in putting on and running these courses.

The parent body of the Association, the Race Walking Association, is undergoing consideration of a revised constitution and strategy to encourage new athletes, and better competition. It is still at the discussion and decision stage but is progressing well.

The Midland Committee meets regularly, usually on a bi-monthly basis. This has proved impractical recently due to commitments outside the sport, but a revised way of holding these meetings has been arranged and should be in place for the next meeting.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow officers for their support and the Committee members for helping to run our discipline in a correct and organised manner, which we consider to be important and to ensure that all athletes taking part understand and abide by the rules of the sport.

We are looking to the next year to alter the way in which our competitions are run, importantly the distances of races and the potential for doubling up on some of our distance races to make it (a) easier to judge and record; and (b) give more choice to the athletes.

Ann Perry
Hon. Secretary
Midland Area Race Walking Association

Southern Area Report

Introduction

The RWA (Southern Area) AGM held on 14th November followed the RWA Extraordinary General Meeting on 7th November which considered and voted on the adoption of a revised set of rules that would help support the implementation of the new 5 year strategy. The rules were approved.

A note added to the proposal for the revised rules has implication for the Area structure as it implies the removal of area associations as de facto parts of the RWA but retains provision for them to be affiliated organisations with voting rights and the ability for them to be funded from the RWA. They will become linked but independent bodies with common aims but operate without constraints set by the RWA.

This requires each Area to make a decision whether to apply to be affiliated to the RWA. The rationale is not explained and adds to uncertainty how the RWA Executive Committee would manage an Area should it adopt a strategy that conflicts with the RWA.

SRWA Finances

RWA (Southern Area) finances have been examined and the auditor reports that the latest accounts show the finances are in good order and that the monies are being used wisely. He has no cause for concern.

Strategic Development

The committee has met regularly and is committed to its 5 year strategy and to recruit more judges and coaches, especially the latter who are seen as essential to attract more participants into race walking. Taster sessions and development walks have been held and appear to be making some gains, and the Area championships held on 29th November at Tonbridge and hosted by Surrey WC showed an encouraging number of U15 and U17 athletes, and Senior Women. The participants represented a wide range of clubs spread over an expanded geographical area.

Geographical Coverage

Kent is a strong hub, and Sussex and Hampshire/Wiltshire are very active. The London based clubs such as Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC and Bexley AC continue to show progress, and the work done in north London and the Essex/Suffolk borders is showing promise. This reflects the hard work of coaches and development officials.

Chris Flint, Hon. Secretary SRWA

Hon. Secretary
Midland Area Race Walking Association