

Annual Report 2023-24



Developing Community Athletics

Registered Charity Number: 1174636

In a world of the individual sport brings together people of race, cultures, ability, genders, sex, religion and faith for one purpose: improvement of the self. Confidence builds self-esteem, power builds strength, resilience builds determination, purpose builds ambition, solidarity builds compassion and belief builds trust. Faster, stronger, bigger, agile, supple, flexible. Through sport we make our own destiny.

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Executive Summary

The North of Tyne Athletics Network (NOTAN) is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) reflecting a partnership between local athletics clubs and Harriers, who work collaboratively with local partners organisations.

‘for the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the inhabitants of North Tyneside and its surrounding areas by the provision of facilities for athletics’.

(Object 3, of our Constitution)

Once more, due to long COVID-19 we were unable to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was due to happen in April. Rather than postpone indefinitely, our trustees have agreed to cancel the AGM for this year and to share information with our members digitally via this report and invite any questions via our website www.info@notan.org

The trustees are pleased to present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the period April 2023 to March 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements of a Chair’s report and accounts for the Companies Act purposes.

Due to the level of inactivity the Trustees felt it unwise to commission an accountant to review our accounts as there has been no transactions in or out since 2021, as evidenced in this Report.

Chair's Report

On 23rd March 2020, the Government announced national lock-down measures to stop the spread of a virus that at that time had no known cure. This report reflects the continued impact COVID-19, had on small charities such as NOTAN, who are solely dependent on volunteers to organise, operate and deliver events.

To say that we have not yet recovered is an understatement of the truth. As I write this, it is hard to believe that it has been almost five years since NOTAN hosted an event. Thankfully, that event (our Winter Handicap last hosted in February 2020) has returned to its owners, North Shields Polytechnic Club, and it is thriving under their stewardship. Yet, for those of us who gave so much time and effort to junior athletics, the need in this niche of our sport is now as great as it was when we began.

Despite the hundreds of children under the age of 11 now joining our network clubs, and with them a new crop of parents and coaches, none of those parents and coaches have been able to resurrect our once thriving activities programme. Year after year, I get asked if it will return.

Our once army of volunteers, some of whose children are now participating in junior international athletics meetings, have understandably had their heads and hearts swayed to athletics in stadia away from North Tyneside to support their offspring. Yet, they remain loyal to grassroots athletics. Their limited time spent coaching rather than event delivery.

As I write this Annual Report the Trustees monthly conversation is now turning toward dissolving the Network rather than activity delivery. We, the Trustees, are aware that our sport brings joy to so many children, adults, and officials. And it is that has encouraged me to seek new allies within our Network Clubs so that the phoenix can rise from the ashes of COVID-19 and once again have a place in the athletics calendar.

Trustees

Normally at our AGM we would ask our members to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting and the appointment of new trustees. Since April 2023, the Trustees have met briefly at the quarterly meetings we jointly attend. As such, I can confirm that the board remains unchanged from that reported in 2020 i.e.

Tommy Brannon - Chair
Christopher Mole

Daniel Njai-Rowney
Michelle Wordsworth

Volunteers

In 2023-2024, NOTAN were unable to honour our volunteers in the usual fashion i.e., nominations for awards at the annual England Athletics Regional Volunteers Awards ceremony. It is uncertain whether we will ever do so again.

Portfolio of Activities

Spring Relays Postponed

Summer Grand Prix Postponed

Visually Impaired Runners Club Postponed

North Shields Commemorative Fun Run Postponed

Financial Report

Our AGM is also the time when we usually present our year end accounts to our members. They are as follows:

Overview 202323 (Period 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024)

Balance on 01/04/2023: £20,529.83

Balance on 31/03/2024: £20,529.83

Income: £0

Expenditure: £0

No income or expenditure occurred in the reporting period, as evidenced in Appendix 1, attached.

Appendix 1:

