

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st day of September 2023 to 31st day of August 2024

Charity Name: Armagh Athletic Club

Other Name Charity is known by: Armagh A.C.

Charity's Principal Address: 17 Drumcoote Road, Armagh BT60 4PL

Names of the Trustees who manage the Charity:

<u>Trustee Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
1. Brian Vallely	President & Joint-Publicity Publicity Officer
2. Oonagh Haughey	Chair
3. Mark McKeown	Secretary & Joint- Publicity Officer
4. Fearghal Delaney	Treasurer
5. James Vallely	Assistant Treasurer
6. Cate Nicolay	Designated Officer
7. Evanna Fitzsimons	Junior Coordinator
8. Celine Doran	Junior Parent Rep.
9. Dermot Kerr	Committee Member
10. Martin McKenna	Committee Member
11. Lorcan Vallely	Committee Member
12. Angela Kerr	Committee Member
13. Stefan Kennedy	Committee Member

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the Charity's Trust

Type of Governing Document: Constitution adopted 11/07/2021

How the Charity is constituted: Unincorporated Association

Trustee Selection Method: Trustees are appointed or re-appointed at the AGM held in April.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY SET OUT IN ITS GOVERNING

DOCUMENT: The purpose of the club is the advancement of Amateur Sport, specifically Athletics, for the benefit of its members in terms of physical and mental health

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the Public Benefit in relation to these objectives:

In planning our activities we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit at our Committee meetings. Our main activities were as follows:-

- Coaching and training of our members (over the year we had 85 Senior members of whom 25 were female; and 59 Juvenile members, of whom 32 were female) to improve their skills and performance levels in the various disciplines of Athletics.
- Participation in events organised 1. By our own club; 2. By neighbouring clubs, usually in Ulster or North Leinster; 3. By Athletics Northern Ireland (the Athletics governing body to which our club is affiliated) which organises and promotes N.Ireland & Ulster Championship events in Cross-country, Road Racing and Track & Field; 4. By the Northern Ireland Mountain Runners' Association (NIMRA); 5. By Athletics Ireland, who organise and promote All-Ireland Championship events in Cross-country, Track & Field, and Road Racing; 6. By Shettleston Harriers of Glasgow, to whose annual Road Relays we usually send a team; and 7. By the FSGT (French Federation) who invite a mixed team of 6 to take part in the annual Vivicitta Road Race in Paris.

As the programme of each promoted event generally includes competition suitable for all age-groups, the younger athletes competing will also witness the performance of the Seniors, which gives them a glimpse into what it is possible to achieve in athletics and demonstrates to them that athletics is not just for children, but is an activity that can be enjoyed throughout one's life.

Additional Details of Objectives and Activities

We are indebted to our club coaches who are all volunteers and freely give up their time to coach groups of athletes at one, two or three sessions per week, and frequently accompany them to athletic events taking place at the weekends. In the Senior section we have 2 athletics coaches, 1 coach in running fitness, 4 leaders in running fitness, and 3 assistant coaches. In the Juvenile section of the club we have 2 athletics coaches and 6 assistant coaches.

As declared in Section 9 of our Governing Document, "Armagh AC is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club/organisation should at all times show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines provided by our

governing body and contained in the code of ethics and good practice for children's sport."

Achievements and Performances

In September 2023 we staged our annual McElmeel Cup Cross-country Races, jointly sponsored by McElmeel Mobility and by White's Oats. Once again this event was very successful, providing top-class competition for the runners in all grades, and bringing in much needed funds for the club.

In the ANI Cross-country League our Women's team finished in 6th place which was an excellent result, while the Men's Team really excelled itself, finishing in 2nd place behind North Belfast Harriers.

At the AGM our Club Secretary stated, "Over the past 4-5 years our Juvenile and Senior Cross-country teams have raised the club's profile across Ireland. Cross-country is the backbone of the club. It is wonderful to see a number of new faces, and indeed young athletes merging into the Senior teams. It all augurs well for the future."

Five of our cross-country runners, 3 male and 2 female, were selected to run for N. Ireland at the Home Nations Masters Cross-country in Glasgow.

In Road Racing, the club organised the Armagh 10-Mile Road Race and 6k Fun Run in October 2023, both of which were successful in terms of the quality of racing and organisation, but the unavoidable outgoings (£7530.04) were heavy and the race showed a deficit of £311.

The Armagh International Road Races held in February 2024 were successful, with athletes from some 14 countries taking part. In the Men's 5k a new record was set by Raitanen of Finland who incidentally was fresh from victory in the European Steeplechase Championships. The Women's 3k produced a titanic struggle with Scotland's Megan Davies just getting the better of Wales's Cari Hughes and the reigning champion, England's Olympian, Alexandra Bell.

The 11 Juvenile races for Boys and Girls attracted record entries of over 1200, including a good turn-out in the Special Schools and Special Olympics Clubs 400M. For many, these Juvenile races are the highlight of the evening, with the children being cheered to the echo by thousands of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings of the young runners.

We had an income for the Road Races event of £57,051.75, but expenditure was £66,598.90 giving a deficit for the Races of £9,547.15, which we covered out of revenue from the various other events we organised over the year, without having to touch the Membership fees for that year, which, incidentally amounted to £13,392.30.

In Marathon running, the club was once again very much to the fore, with Michael Fox setting a new club record of 2 hours 24 minutes and fifty-nine seconds, and the Armagh AC team taking the team bronze in the All-Ireland Marathon Championships run in conjunction with the Dublin City Marathon.

Track & Field

The club had some strong performances in Track & Field competition, with the Juveniles in particular showing the benefit of expert coaching over the winter months. 5 Juvenile runners from the club won Ulster Star awards based on their Track & Field performances over the course of the year. One of our female Juveniles qualified for the All-Ireland Schools Finals after placing second in the Ulster Championship 400M Hurdles. Two of our male Juveniles also qualified for the All-Irelands following a silver and a bronze in the 800M and 600M respectively.

In the Ulster Juvenile Indoor Championships, held in Dublin, one of our runners took bronze in the Under-17 400M, while many others achieved personal best performances. Two of our Juveniles, a boy and a girl, were awarded County Star awards.

In the NI & Ulster Masters' Championships our runners won four gold medals in track events, two for the Women and two for the Men.

Mountain Racing

The Armagh AC -organised Sliabh Gullion Mountain Race in March 2024, held in bright sunshine, was a great success and brought a profit of £1203.84. The Flagstaff Mountain Race also organised by Armagh AC was again lucky with the weather and showed a good profit of £779.84.

One of our top 'Mountain Men', Keith Johnston, was selected for the NI team competing at the Home Countries International Cros-country event.

This form of racing has increased in popularity among the Senior distance runners in the club, while some of the Juveniles are also showing an interest.

Sponsorship and Grants.

We have been very fortunate with sponsorship over the course of the year, with substantial contributions for the various events we organise coming from Sportshoes.com, White's Oats, Armagh Sports, Armagh City Hotel, Linwoods, McElmeel Mobility, Traynors', Killeavy Castle and Digby's Restaurant all being very generous, while in terms of grants the local Borough Council and Athletics NI have been major contributors to our revenue.

Financial Review

Cash in Bank at 31st August 2024 was £26,961.42 in unrestricted funds, compared with £27,472.37 at the same date in 2023.

Once again the main financial risk to the Charity is loss of funding from the local Borough Council, and reduced sponsorship.

Details of any funds materially in deficit: Not applicable.

James Vallely

James Vallely (Assistant Treasurer)
19 June 2025

Fearghal Delaney

Fearghal Delaney (Treasurer)
19 June 2025