

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND AA COUNTY TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Your Leicestershire & Rutland (L&RAA) County Association committee is continuing to provide the best possible championship event for this year. It is inevitable that some changes would be made to accommodate the fact that **we are having a one county championship for the first time since the first joint county event in 2005.**

However this has meant some heart-wrenching difficult decisions for the county association – the total entries would drop by about two-thirds. This coincided with a discovery last year that we could not book two consecutive days on any track in the county, nor could we overcome the problem of our lack of qualified “Photofinish” officials and available equipment. **The decision has been taken therefore to have a one day event on Saturday 12th May** but to provide additional opportunities by holding some events on other dates in other local competitions. The details of this are almost complete and we are doing our best to maximise the opportunities for entries over the two days of the competition weekend or as near to that date as possible. In deciding on events we have been mindful of age group restrictions for the maximum number of events, and for doubling up on specific events on a single day.

There have been various “doom and gloom” theories, stories or predictions over the past few years about the past joint championships and any likely return to a single county championship event. Your committee has kept statistics and records and would like to share some of these with you - to help you to understand our decisions.

Entries: There is an average of 450 entries for the events each year. This does not seem to have been affected by the location. The entries have been at their lowest of less than 400 in Leamington (2006), Birmingham (2010), Nuneaton (2014) and Leicester (2016). The entries have been at their highest when located in Nuneaton with more than 500 in Nuneaton (2005 and 2017).

Attendance: The percentage of “no shows” is on average 17%. This has varied between 3% (when we had our lowest entry at Birmingham) up to 28% (with the highest few years when we have been in Leicester).

Criteria of Entry: There has been little difference to the total number of entries whether or not there have been specific events for the 35+ age group, or for Under 11s individual events or the QuadKids multi-events. The inclusion of Parallel Success events has increased the presence of international athletes at the championships; some events have been won by para athletes who are eligible for the championships. **In 2018 we will be including individual Masters Championship events and individual development events for Under 11s.**

Technical Officials and Organisational Personnel: In 2005 L&R provided about a third of the officials for the events in the joint championship competitions. This has risen in more recent years to our county providing almost a half of the officials and more than half of the general organisational volunteers. The proportion of our local officials based in local clubs volunteering at the events has decreased from 60% to 40%. **All clubs MUST support their athletes by providing technical officials and volunteers for general roles on the day of the event.**

Event Entries: In the past few years we have had few (or no) competitors in some events and without another county this could mean some events may have no entries at all, or none on the day. We are still in the process of negotiating some of these events for the Sunday with other neighbouring counties and/or with other open competitions. This also includes some events which could ensure that athletes have a chance to enter a choice of events rather than have everything crammed into one day. We may have to make a decision to withdraw certain events if there have been no historical entries for that event. At the present time we envisage that the majority of track and field events will take place on Saturday 12th May. We are waiting for final confirmation about the inclusion of some events in other competitions – hammer, pole vault, walks, steeplechases, 3/400 flat and hurdles races, 1500m (for U13/U15), 3000m (for U17/15) and 5000m. All decisions will be made with your best interests in mind.

Prospectus: We aim to have the Prospectus and entry details available by the end of this month (March). We are likely to have a new online entry system and email contact details this year. All details will be on the county website www.LRAA.org.uk and on our Facebook page. However one championship event has been finalised. This is the **10,000m Championships** which will again be jointly with Northamptonshire County AA – but will be in Northamptonshire for the first time – on **Wednesday April 18th at 8p.m.** Entry details to follow as soon as possible.