Chair's Annual Report to the AGM November 2026

The league committee have worked incredibly hard over this year putting into place the arrangements for the league, organising the finals, designing and interpreting the survey, scrutinising results and athlete availability and generally trying to look forward to 2027. The operational workload has impacted on our ability to spend much time focussing on the results of the survey so we are not proposing to make major changes to the league for 2027. Any kneejerk changes, such as taking out U20 competition comes too soon after the implementation of the age group changes, which we believe need another year to bed in. We are also still seeing some impact from the COVID generation where we had smaller numbers of young athletes starting athletics.

2026 was in many ways a challenge, especially from the point of view of fixtures and Marian has addressed that in her Administrators report. However, 2027 looks a little better and we have worked with the regional senior leagues and other competition providers to try and avoid too many clashes.

Going forward we are intending on working more closely with England Athletics, who have committed to marketing and promoting the league to our U18 and U20 athletes to encourage them to compete in this league, as either first or second claim members of clubs. To this end we want to push the clubs in the Upper Age Group to ensure that the competition meets athletes expectations and by providing photofinish and online results where at all possible.

We desperately need another couple of volunteers to work on the committee which will free us up to look more closely at the league and how we continue to evolve to deliver appropriate competition to the 4 age groups we represent.

There are a couple of controversial proposals, including one on fees for composite teams and a tightening of the rules around provision of officials. We also want to introduce minimum standards to score. All these proposals will be debated and voted on during the meeting. We hope that members will take a holistic view and vote to benefit the overall sport and not just their individual club or team.

I would formally like to thank everyone on the YDL committee and others who have supported us this year. Without all of you the hundreds of athletes who enjoy this competition wouldn't have the experience of competing with their team mates in well structured and well organised competition.

Janice Kaufman
CHAIR