

Records of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association

**Reference:
MCAAA**

Records of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association

Records of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association 1900-1982

Records of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association comprising attendance at committee meetings register, 1967-1968; permits, 1958-1982; Lloyds Bank account book, 1925-1936; reinstatements, 1922-1953; Trust Fund correspondence, 1932-1966; Championships Sub-Committee, 1927-1940; Championships Committee, 1940-1955; General Committee attendance register, 1949-1962; minutes of the General and other committees, attendance registers, programmes, results and other records.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, athletics had been dominated by the upper middle classes who had experienced athletics at public schools, at universities and in the army. However, during the 1860s and 1870s, athletics became a popular national sport and working men in the North and the Midlands in particular were drawn to the sport. Many local clubs, run by committees, were set up and these often held open meetings and competitions which attracted large numbers of spectators. The Amateur Athletic Club, founded in 1866, was one of the principal clubs and it organised an annual national championship. However, there was growing concern about malpractice and corruption in the sport arising out of betting practices and the requirement to make a clear distinction between amateurs and professionals. In 1879 representatives of northern clubs had established the Northern Counties Athletic Association (NCAA) in order to regulate the sport of athletics in the north of England. In February 1880, Frank Smith, the Secretary of the Birmingham Athletic Club invited clubs in the Midlands to send delegates to a meeting on 1 March to consider forming a Midland Counties Athletic Union to regulate similarly the sport in the midlands. The Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association (MCAAA) was established at this meeting.

Following the establishment of the MCAAA and the NCAA, Montague Shearman, a former President of Oxford University Athletic Club and a member of the London Athletic Club intervened to ensure that there was national coordination and leadership for

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the sport. He invited delegates from the MCAAA, the NCAA and athletic and cross country clubs in the south to a meeting in April 1880 at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford to establish a national governing body and the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) was formed. The Association was to be managed by a General Committee composed of representatives of various athletics organisations, including the NCAA and the MCAAA, and other elected members and it was also agreed that the annual championship meeting was to be held in different parts of England in rotation.

Athletics remained a sport for men until the 1920s when women entered the sport. The independent men's and women's organisations have now merged and the amateur-professional separation has been abandoned. In 1989, the MCAAA (founded in 1880) and Midland Counties Women's Amateur Athletic Association (MCWAAA, founded in 1925) amalgamated to form the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association. This now serves as the governing body for athletics within the Midlands

Reference: P. Lovesey, *The Official Centenary of the Amateur Athletic Association* (Enfield: Guinness Superlatives Ltd, 1979). ; Richard Cox, Grant Jarvie and Wray Vamplew, *Encyclopedia of British Sport*

(Oxford: ABC-CLIO Ltd, 2000). ; websites of UK Athletics - <http://www.ukathletics.net/> and of the Amateur Athletic Association of England - <http://www.englandathletics.co.uk/> Accessed June 2002.

The collection is arranged alphabetically together with archives of other sporting bodies.

13 boxes

Open

Access to all registered researchers

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unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material

Language: English

This collection was deposited in 1988.

University of Birmingham Information Services, Special Collections Department holds many other collections relating to sport, including both private and corporate collections. Records of other governing bodies include the Amateur Athletic Association (GB 0150 AAA), and the Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association (GB 0150 SCAAA). Papers of individuals include Harold Abrahams, who served on the General Committee of the Amateur Athletic Association (GB 0150 HA).

Administrative Records 1900-1982

Records documenting the administration of the MCAAA.

Artificial series

13 boxes

Open

It is possible that gaps in this sequence of records occurred due to destruction caused by a fire as many of the volumes suffered from smoke damage and on occasion have clearly been burned.

Committee Minutes 1900-1982

The minutes of committees contained within this collection are not comprehensive. Within the series are single minute books which are clearly part of a larger series, the whereabouts of which are unknown. It is assumed that some of these records have been lost due to fire.

Open

General Committee 1900-1982

The General committee had responsibility for the overall management of the Midland Counties

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Amateur Athletic Association. Matters dealt with by other committees were fed into the meetings of the general committee which were held on a monthly basis, minutes and reports from other committees are therefore occasionally included in with the general committee minutes. Particular issues that arise during other committees are often deferred to the general committee meetings which then had the power to ultimately resolve the issue.

Amongst the committee's responsibilities are the election of association and committee officers, dealing with applications for race meetings and request for affiliation to the association by local clubs, the discussion of finances and association rules, as well as receiving reports from other committees. Issues arising in the AAA, the parent body, are also reflected within the minutes and the collaboration between the two bodies is illustrated such as with the National Cyclists Union debate, sporting fixtures, coaching and the olympic games.

Also contained within the volumes are the minutes of the district committees which were meetings held by area and which discussed and fed into MCAA matters. District committees included in these minutes consist of: Leicestershire and Rutland District, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire District, South Derby and South Nottinghamshire District, Northampton, North Buckinghamshire, North Oxfordshire, and North District, North Gloucester, North Hereford and South Worcester District.

Discussion within the general committee minutes confirms that the MCAA collection is lacking a number of committee papers representing the administration of the association.

Open

General Committee Minutes

1900-1906

This volume contains meeting minutes and agenda covering the dates May 10th 1900 to January 11th 1906. The minutes have been printed professionally, pasted in the volume and signed as an official record at the subsequent meeting.

6 parts, 2 boxes

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Open

This volume was broken down into 6 parts for preservation reasons

General Committee Minutes

1906-1911

This volume contains printed meeting minutes and agenda covering the dates February 8th 1906 to August 10th 1911. The volume also contains minutes for the Annual General Meeting and has the yearly statement of accounts and the Annual Report also pasted in. Other reports are also documented within the volume for example minutes from the Handicapping Board of Control, minutes of the Midland Championships sub-committee who had responsibility for organising the annual meet and minutes of the district committees e.g. Leicestershire and Rutland District, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire District, South Derby and South Nottinghamshire District.

3 parts, 2 boxes

Open

This volume was broken down into 3 parts for preservation reasons

General Committee Minutes

1911-1920

This volume contains printed meeting minutes and agenda covering the dates September 14th 1911 to May 13th 1920. Inserted in the volume is a pamphlet consisting of the programme and rules and regulations for the Stockholm Olympics of 1912 alongside an Amateur Athletic Association issued form concerning British competitors at the games. Statement of accounts, AGM minutes and agenda, minutes of the district committees, annual reports of the Board of Control and committee minutes, and finance sub-committee minutes are also included in this volume. The general committee was held on a bi-monthly basis as of May 1915.

1 volume

Open

Records of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association

General Committee Minutes

1920-1926

This volume contains printed meeting minutes and agenda covering the dates June 10th 1920 to January 14th 1926, the committee meetings are once again held on a monthly basis. The volume also contains the annual statement of accounts and minutes of the AGM. A small number of news cuttings from local newspapers have also been pasted into the volume. These generally relate to the court cases brought by the AAA against athletes who fraudulently attempted to obtain race prizes under false pretences. For example, in December 1921 MCAAA athlete David Aldous attempted to obtain a silver rose bowl, the prize for winning the three-quarter mile flat race at Rugby, under the name of a non-competing athlete William Walker of Hallamshire Harriers, the AAA took Aldous to court and he was eventually fined £5. The rear of the volume contains the General Committee minutes of a meeting held by the AAA and the minutes of meeting regarding the Inter county team and relay championships which was also held by the AAA.

1 volume

Open

General Committee Minutes

1926-1933

This volume contains printed meeting minutes and agenda covering the dates January 28th 1926 to January 12th 1933. Also included are the annual statement of accounts and AGM minutes, on occasion minutes circulated from AAA General Committee and AGM have also been inserted.

Matters of note include the jubilee celebrations of the MCAAA held in 1930 and the discussion of matters relating to Shropshire County AAA and their dissatisfaction with the handicapping board of the MCAAA. A pamphlet of all winners at the MCAAA championships up to 1930 from the beginning of the event has been pasted in, as have pamphlets containing a list of official referees, judges, starters, timekeepers etc. The volume also contains some local newspaper cuttings regarding local athletics and clubs including an advertisement for 'Ovaltine' as used to train by the long distance

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and cross-country runner J.E.Webster.

1 volume

Open

General Committee Minutes 1933-1940

This volume contains printed meeting minutes and agenda covering the dates February 9th 1933 to January 13th 1940. Also included are the annual statement of accounts and AGM minutes.

1 volume

Open

General Committee Minutes 1954-1964

Minutes covering the dates 9th October 1954 to 10th November 1964.

These papers have been kept in original order, they were previously stored in a ring binder

2 folders

Open

General Committee Minutes 1967-1975

Minutes covering the dates 1st December 1966 to November 1975.

These papers have been kept in original order, they were previously stored in a ring binder

2 folders

Open

General Committee Minutes 1976-1982

Minutes covering the dates February 1976 to 7th January 1975.

These papers have been kept in original order, they were previously stored in a ring binder

2 folders

Open

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Handicapping Board of Control

1910-1965

Incomplete series of minutes of the Handicapping Board of Control. The earliest minute book of the committee is missing and the series begins in 1910, there is also a gap in the sequence from 1934-1955. The Handicapping Board of Control had responsibility for the issuing of handicapping licenses as well as the power to revoke them. The minutes of the meetings cover the administrative aspects required of the committee in dealing with applications from athletes for the licenses, and the granting and refusal of the licenses for all classes and types of racing. The minutes reflect the seriousness with which the rules of handicapping were taken and the enforcement of these rules which often lead to appeals made by athletes who felt they had been unjustly penalised by the handicapping board for misconduct. The committee received a significant number of appeals on a regular basis which were considered and treated in a variety of ways, often leading to the reinstatement of the athlete, temporary suspension or the issuing of a warning. Athletes often attended the board meetings in person to defend the committee's claims of misconduct against them.

The proceedings of meetings arranged by the Amateur Athletic Association's Joint Board of Control Committee are also contained within these committee minutes. The Joint Board of Control was a committee meeting held between the handicappers of the Midland, Northern and Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association's as organised by their parent body whose handicappers were also involved. The meetings reflect the desire of the AAA to standardise the handicapping process and for there to be uniformity of practice across the regions. Often however, each region had its own way of handicapping events within their domain and generally fail to agree to adopt identical rules.

Additional information recorded within this series of minute books are details of those appointed as handicappers, occasional accounts of the fees paid to officers in the role of handicapper and details of correspondence between the MCAAA and other parties such as regional athletics clubs, individual athletes and the Amateur Athletic Association. The

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minutes from the 1950s tend to be broader in scope with regard to what is discussed and committee responsibilities clearly extend further than their initial remit. Additional business includes election of representatives on AAA sub-committees, organisation of championships or race meetings and appointment of officials. The meetings are generally held in Birmingham.

6 volumes, 1 file

Open

Handicapping Board of Control Minutes 1910-1918

This volume is clearly a continuation of a previous (missing) volume of minutes having referenced a meeting held on September 5th. This volume contains manuscript meeting minutes covering the dates September 19th, 1910 - July 4th, 1918. Loose enclosures at the rear of the volume include a complete and blank entry form for the 'Victory' Cross Country Championship at Raynes Park, March 1st 1919, and a programme for the same event.

1 volume

Open

Handicapping Board of Control Minutes 1918-1926

This volume contains manuscript meeting minutes covering the dates 22nd August 1918 to January 4th 1926.

1 volume

Open

Handicapping Board of Control Minutes 1926-1930

This volume contains manuscript meeting minutes covering the dates February 1st 1926 to February 3rd 1930. This volume is partially but not comprehensively indexed and contains some blank sample entry forms for the MCAAA Championships, June 15th 1929, as loose enclosures at the rear of the volume. The minutes of October 2st 1929 record that there was a case of one athlete impersonating another in the 880 yards and mile races at Croft sports. According to the

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programme of that event Keith Dixon of Kettering Town won the event, however, he emigrated to Australia in March the previous year. It was decided that the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Assistant Secretary would travel to Kettering in order to identify the culprit.

1 volume

Open

Handicapping Board of Control Minutes 1930-1934

This volume contains manuscript meeting minutes covering the dates March 3rd 1930 to May 25th 1934.

1 volume

Open

Handicapping Board of Control Minutes 1955-1959

This volume contains manuscript meeting minutes covering the dates May 2nd 1955 to October 5th 1959.

1 volume

Open

Handicapping Board of Control Minutes 1959-1965

This file contains minutes covering the dates November 2nd 1959 to February 1st 1965. The minutes become typescript in February 1964 and also contains the minutes of the Area Executive Committee held on Monday 1st February. The Area Executive Committee appears to have developed from the Handicapping Board of Control assuming a new name and broader responsibilities.

1 volume

Open

Reinstatements 1922-1954

Partially filled volume containing detailed entries of athletes who have broken association rules with regards to competition. The register details the athlete, the offence committed, the prize money

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they have won, the money forfeited and the decision of the Handicapping Board of Control as to whether the appeal made by the athlete for reinstatement be refused or approved. Loose inserts in the form of correspondence from the committee informing the athlete of their decision were stored at the rear of the volume.

1 volume, 1 folder

Open

Championships Committee

1927-1955

The Championships committee and sub-committee was responsible for the organization of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association championships at various competition such as Senior, Junior, Marathon, Steeplechase and other inter-club matches. The committee was responsible for every aspect of an athletic meet and issues discussed include officials, finances, programmes, equipment and the eligibility of athletes. The committee was also given the task to review the performances of the athletes in the Midland Championships and assess as to whether their performance warrants entry to the AAA national championships. A winning athlete did not automatically gain entry to the national championships, this decision was at the discretion of the MCAA officers.

2 volumes

Open

Championships sub-committee minutes

1927-1939

Volume of manuscript minutes dated April 4th 1927 to November 11th 1929. The volume also contains minutes of the Marathon sub-committee. Loose inserts are enclosed at the rear of the volume.

1 volume

Open

Championships committee and sub-committee

1940-1954

Volume of manuscript and typescript minutes dated 15th April 1940 to October 25th 1954, the title championships committee and sub-committee

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appear to be interchangeable. Amongst topics discussed is the award of the John Urry Memorial Cup

1 volume

Open

Various committee minutes 1927-1955

This sequence consists of minutes from a variety of committees. Some of these volumes are clearly a part of a more complete series, it appears that some of these committees were long standing and that the existing minutes are only a partial reflection of its administration.

Open

John Urry Memorial sub-committee 1928-1950

The volume opens explaining that the Midland Cycling and Athletic Club committee established the sub-committee to discuss the matter of a memorial to the late John Urry, the officers of this committee were members of the MCAA including H.A. Butler and A.E. Machin. The volume is partially filled with manuscript minutes and contains typescript accounts of the memorial fund. Cups funded by the memorial were presented to many clubs and events within the midlands including the National Cyclists Union Midland Centre, Michelin Athletic Club, King Edwards Grammar School and Bournville Sports amongst others.

1 volume

Open

Hard Cases and First Claim Qualification Committee minutes 1934-1966

Volume containing minutes for the Hard Cases committee 1934-1948 and the First Claim Qualification committee 1952-1966. Both committees were responsible for assessing the eligibility of athletes to represent their local club on certain conditions, such as whether they were resident within the catchment area for the club they wished to represent. The committee and the club in

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question were responsible for approving the validity of the athlete.

1 volume

Open

First Claim Qualification Committee minutes 1962-1981

File containing papers dated April 2nd 1962 to 7th September 1981.

1 file

Open

Area Executive committee minutes 1965-1970

Volume containing typescript minutes dated March 1st 1965 to March 2nd 1970. The area executive committee discussed a large range of issues concerning the administration of the association. Athletics events within the midlands are discussed such as the British Universities Athletics Championship, the Birmingham Games, inter-area matches in addition to the senior, junior and indoor championships of the MCAA. Requests for affiliation were heard by the committee and complaints received from member clubs, the honorary treasurer also reported to the committee on the state of the association finances.

1 volume

Open

Tug of War Association (Midlands Area) minutes 1979-1980

The Tug of War Association became affiliated to the Amateur Athletic Association in 1965, on the same terms as the English Cross Country Union and the Road Walkers Association. When tug of war was part of an athletic meeting within the midlands it was the responsibility of the MCAA to collaborate with the Tug of War Association. The file contains general committee minutes, annual general meeting minutes and association newsletters.

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1 file

Open

Various committee minutes 1959-1981

File containing incomplete minutes from the following committees:

Indoor and Outdoor promotions committee; Centenary Celebrations committee; Amateur Status; Finance and Fincance and General Purposes committee; Coaching committee; Facilities committee; Five Star Award committee; Officials and Combined Officials committee.

1 file

Open

Various committee minutes 1965-1982

File containing incomplete minutes from the following committees:

Area Executive committee; Track and Field League committee; Rules Revision and Records Committee; Development and Organisation committee; Also included is a list of committee members 1980-1982.

1 file

Open

Attendance Records 1952-1968

The attendance registers created separately from the committee minute books provide a thorough record of the personnel involved in the administration of the MCAAA.

3 volumes

Open

Attendance Book 1952-1961

This volume documents the date of the committee meeting, name of those in attendance and the

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office or club to which they belong. The meetings held clearly had good attendance rates.

1 volume

Open

Attendance Register

1967-1968

Volume documenting those in attendance at the following committees: Executive; First Claims; Coaching; Promotions; Development and Organisation; Officials; Indoors. The name of the committee member is noted and a tally made to indicate attendance or non-attendance. In addition to being organised by committee, the rear of the volume is also indexed alphabetically according to surname.

1 volume

Open

Attendance Register

1967-1971

Volume indexed alphabetically by surname of the attendee, the name of the committee meeting attended is not always noted.

1 volume

Open

Financial Records

1925-1965

The financial records of the MCAAA are few and incomplete.

Files

Open

Financial papers

1925-1965

File of miscellaneous financial papers consisting primarily of balance sheets and accounts for the 1940s and a Lloyds bank account book covering entries from 1925 to 1936.

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1 file

Open

Publications and Printed Material

1920s-1960s

Programmes of athletics events as organised by the MCAAA

1 box

Open

Miscellaneous

1920s-1960s

Files

Open

Trust Fund Correspondence

1934-1965

File containing correspondence and financial records relating to the establishment and administration of the H.A. Butler and W.W. Alexander Trust Fund. The trust fund was established to commemorate H.A. Butler and W.W. Alexander after their deaths in 1933, they played significant roles in the MCAAA and in the sport of athletics and so Butler's brother Sir William Water Butler set up the fund with £1000 enabling prizes to be awarded annually by the association and Birchfield Harriers.

1 file

Open

Free Permit stubs

1934-1965

1 box

Open