

## **Cancellation of Event at Arena Birmingham 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

It is with great regret and disappointment that Midland Counties Athletics Association has had to cancel the proposed event at the Arena Birmingham on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (Midland Championships Part 2 and Birmingham Games Open).

Despite negotiations, where both the Arena Birmingham and the City worked together to reduce the costs to the Association, Midland Counties was unable to pay the hire charge which was still a significant increase on the amount paid by us last year. We considered the size of the entry fees and what spectator ticket prices would have had to have been to break even and considered this to be beyond what we would expect the grass-roots athletics family to pay. Combined with the increased parking charges at the Arena, this supported our decision to cancel the event.

The Midlands is the only Area of England with no permanent indoor facility with a 200m track. Midland Counties Athletics Association, hopefully with the support of the Governing Bodies, will press for a legacy from the 2022 Commonwealth Games of a permanent indoor facility. We look for the support of clubs, athletes and coaches in our quest.

Geoff Durbin

(Chairman MCAA)