

Sunday 1st December 2019 saw the end of an era for the Midland Counties Athletic Association with the retirement of Chairman Geoff DURBIN. Geoff was connected with the organisation for over 25 years, firstly with the Track and Field Committee and for the last 18 years as Chair. During his time as the leader of the Association he oversaw the demise of BAF and the evolution of England Athletics in taking over the governance from the AAA of England.

As always with the Chair of any organisation there were ups and downs but Geoff always worked for the best for the Midland Counties. In the early days of EA there was no financial support for the Area Associations, income streams were lost with Road Race unattached levies being transferred to Run Britain and EA taking affiliations. With the assistance of the North and South some funding was obtained but nowhere near the sum taken from them.

Geoff has overseen three office moves in his time! The first two due to the ever changing financial restraints the Association found themselves downsizing. The latest being necessary due to the demolition of the then office in preparation for the rebuilding for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

On top of his position as Chair of the Association Geoff continued in his love of officiating as a Field Judge with his presence at almost every Midland event during his involvement with the Association.

Mr DURBIN always assisted on all aspects of the Association to the best he could. His enthusiasm will be missed by all. Athletes, Officials supporters and volunteers thank Geoff for his work in the Midlands over a long period of time and wish him well in his retirement and relocation to the sunnier climes of the South of England.

Geoff is succeeded by Stewart Barnes.