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AFFILIATED TO



LICENCE STANDARDS

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BARR RACE GRADING SCHEME

SEPTEMBER 2025

BARR

It is, with great sadness, that the BARR Committee has had to make a very tough decision, in that BARR will cease to operate as from the 31st December 2025.

The Committee has asked a number of times for volunteers to join them but to date we have not had a single volunteer. At this year's AGM it was unanimously agreed that BARR would stop functioning as at the end of this year.

Both our Chairman (Paul Wood) and President (Roland Gibbard) and other committee members will continue to volunteer for UKA / England Athletics / RunEvents.

The History of BARR

The door is closing on the British Association of Road Races (BARR) at the end of this year. With no new blood coming onto the Committee and the number of member events falling, we have had to call it a day. We knew this would happen one day.

Many of you will have been members of BARR for many years, some committee individual members for a number of decades (myself just 36 years – half my life!) so it is with a heavy heart that I would like to give you a short history of the Association.

BARR emerged from an organisation call MARR – the Midlands Association of Road Races. Believing that this should be a UK-wide organisation, on the eve of the 1983 London Marathon, Race Director, Chris Brasher (father of the current RD) called a meeting and after lengthy discussions, BARR was formed.

With Chris elected as Chairman, he was joined on the Committee by, amongst others, Olympian John Whetton (Nottingham Marathon), Bob Dalglish (Glasgow Marathon) and Les Jones (Belfast Marathon) giving it a truly UK-wide representation. The Secretary was Billy Wilson (Wolverhampton Marathon) but perhaps better known by some for being the somewhat eccentric organiser of the 'Tough Guy' event.

With mass participation events only just starting, BARR was kept busy advising new RD's of their roles and responsibilities, supported by a number of event scrutineers. We set up the first 'Code of Practice' and developed the first process for race grading amongst our membership. With a lack of organisational knowledge and practical experience amongst emerging race organisers, BARR filled a much need gap within the sport.

Considered a bit of a maverick group by the sports' governing bodies for a number of years, it was not until the emergence of BAF (British Athletics Federation) in the 1990's that we became officially recognised. Over the past 30 years, the experience of our personnel has been recognised having been elected onto numerous 'management groups' at national level.

We facilitated the National Permit (now Minimum Licence) Standards and a national grading scheme. We worked on the Event Code for Sport on the Highway, producing event risk assessments and the current Road Race Handbook. We were also instrumental in the setting up of RunBritain.

BARR was asked to set up and run the first "Event Adjudicators" for RunBritain as we had the expertise of scrutineering, which then got taken over by RunBritain as they wanted it to be "Theirs", but BARR being BARR decided that we would work within the system to improve the system.

Bill Reynolds, our past President, wrote the first "Race Directors Handbook" which is still the main basis of the present one.

Currently, we work very closely with England Athletics via its Road Running Manager, Barry Hopkins, and I am one of the UKA's members in my role as UK Road Running Representative. In various roles, some of us are involved with race licencing on a regional level, so as individuals we will still have involvement in the organisation with road and multi-terrain events. Much of the advice that BARR gave can be had via these new regional groups.

At BARR, we have shared both the frustrations and the good times of the sport and have enjoyed a longer life than some other organisations within the sport, including some governing bodies! Looking back through our records we are indebted to such stalwarts as Chris Brasher, John Walker, Bill Reynolds and John Joyner, all sadly no longer with us.

Chris Brasher always said that over time, BARR would not be required and would become a victim of its own success. However, he could not have foreseen the increasing raft of requirements demanded by law, local authorities, governing bodies and the like, with the result that race directors being faced with increasing demands.

There has been over the last few years, a huge growth in the number of commercial companies taking over events and offering clubs their services, this has led to the decline of clubs putting on events themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank Paul Wood, Sue Threadgold and Mike Parker for their unstinting work over many years. And finally, I would like to thank you, our members for the support you have shown in us over the years. I wish your events every continued success.

Roland Gibbard
President

RunEvents Medical Standards

There is to be a review of the Medical Standards this year and it's hoped that these will be a bit more user friendly than previous editions. The working group will consist of medical providers, some of both large and small promoters. BARR has been asked to be part of this review.

The current Medical Standards have not been reviewed since 2018.

If you have any views, we would be interested to hear from you.

Chairman Paul Wood paul.wood@barr-online.org.uk

President Roland Gibbard roland.gibbard@barr-online.org.uk

UKA Rules for Competition

There is to be a review of the UKA Rules for Competition for 2026 and it's your chance to change the rules. Again, BARR has been asked to be part of this review.

The current UKA Rules for Competition end on 31st March 2026.

If you have any views, we would be interested to hear from you.

Chairman Paul Wood paul.wood@barr-online.org.uk

President Roland Gibbard roland.gibbard@barr-online.org.uk

Bill Reynolds Memorial Trophy

We are pleased to announce that the winners of the Bill Reynolds Memorial Trophy are –

The Great Baddow 10 Mile.

John Joyner Memorial Trophy

We are pleased to announce that the winners of the John Joyner Memorial Trophy are –

The Ilkley Half Marathon.

Good Practice Water Stations

BARR saw a very good idea at an event recently. The event had a number of spray water bottles for the runners to use to spray themselves with rather than take extra water. The Race Director said that they had saved over 30 large water containers by using this method and a large number of plastic cups.

THE TERRORISM PROTECTION OF PREMISES ACT 2025, ALSO KNOWN AS "MARTYN'S LAW"

The Terrorism Protection of Premises Act 2025, also known as "Martyn's Law," aims to enhance security measures for certain premises and events in the UK to protect against terrorist attacks.

BACKGROUND

The Act was introduced in response to public inquiries following the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing and the London Bridge attacks. It received Royal Assent on April 3, 2025, and is named in memory of Martyn Hett, a victim of the Manchester Arena attack. The legislation is part of the UK government's broader counter-terrorism strategy, known as CONTEST, and addresses the need for improved preparedness and security measures in public spaces.

KEY PROVISIONS:

Qualifying Premises and Events: The Act applies to premises where it is reasonable to expect 200 or more individuals to be present, such as shopping centres, hotels, and educational institutions. Events with 800 or more attendees are classified as "qualifying events".

DUTIES OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS:

Those in control of qualifying premises or events are required to implement appropriate public protection procedures to mitigate risks associated with potential terrorist attacks. This includes evacuation plans, safety information dissemination, and coordination with security authorities.

ENHANCED DUTY PREMISES:

Premises expecting 800 or more individuals become "enhanced duty premises," which entails stricter compliance requirements and security measures.

COMPLIANCE AND PENALTIES:

The Act establishes compliance notices and penalties for non-compliance, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the new security standards. Failure to comply can result in significant penalties.

ROLE OF THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY:

The Act confers specific functions on the Security Industry Authority to oversee compliance and ensure that responsible parties meet their obligations under the law.

PURPOSE AND IMPACT:

The primary goal of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 is to create a consistent approach to managing the risks of terrorism across various public spaces and events. By imposing legal obligations on those responsible for larger premises, the Act aims to enhance public safety and preparedness against potential terrorist threats.

This legislation marks a significant step in improving the UK's counter-terrorism measures, ensuring that public venues are better equipped to handle the risks associated with terrorism and protect individuals from harm.

UKA / England Athletics / RunEvents will be issuing a guide document latter this year for race directors and event organisers.

Race Director's Courses

Listed below are the next tranche of England Athletic Race Director Courses presented by BARR. There are 12 places available on each course. More may follow once venues confirm availability.

If one is not near you but you would like a course then contact Ben Skinner at England Athletics. Email: bskinner@englandathletics.org

Saturday 4th October 2025

Location: Parrs Wood High School, Wilmslow Road, **East Didsbury, Manchester** M20 5PG
Time: 09:30 to 16:00

Location: Langford Village C. C, 8 Nightingale Place, **Bicester, Oxfordshire** OX26 6XX
Time: 09:30 to 16:00

Saturday 18th October 2025

Location: Dalton Seeds, Dalmark House, **Eye, Peterborough** PE6 7UD
Time: 09:30 to 16:00

Saturday 25th October 2025

Location: Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, **Chelmsford Essex** CM1 2EH
Time: 09:30 to 16:00

BARR Membership 2026

As BARR membership will cease at the end of this year, there will be **no** renewals or race gradings for 2026.

Please **remove all** of our logos from all your race literature at the end of this year 2025.