



*Registered Charity No. 1213800
England Athletics Affiliated Club*

19 July 2026

Dear TRC Community,

I'm delighted to share that Tooting Run Club (TRC) has become an affiliated England Athletics club and is now part of the national framework that supports and develops running and athletics in England. Affiliation means TRC joins nearly 2,000 other organisations recognised within that framework, while remaining an independent charity.

This marks an important step in our development and reflects the scale and maturity that TRC has reached as an organisation. It aligns our charity with nationally recognised standards and best practice while giving us access to additional support, protections and opportunities. Importantly, it does so without changing the TRC experience. Our sessions remain free and bookable via Eventbrite, and everyone aged 18 and over will continue to be welcome.

Why We've Affiliated

Run clubs choose to affiliate for many different reasons. For TRC, the key drivers behind our decision included:

- Formal recognition within England's running community.
- Alignment with nationally recognised safeguarding, welfare and governance standards.

- Comprehensive insurance cover at no extra cost, providing greater protection for our activities, volunteers and participants.
- Better support and development opportunities for our volunteers.
- Greater long-term sustainability through improved access to funding, lower operating costs and a simpler route to delivering larger community events, including the proposed Tooting 10K.

As TRC has grown, affiliation has become an important next step. It puts us on the same footing as other affiliated organisations across the country, giving us access to the same standards, resources and opportunities. For us, it is largely about strengthening the governance, safeguards and systems that sit behind the scenes, helping ensure TRC can continue to grow sustainably while staying true to the values that define our community.

What Stays the Same

There is no single operating model that affiliated clubs must follow. Many affiliated clubs operate a membership model and charge subscriptions. TRC has chosen to preserve the community-focused approach that has defined us from the beginning and will not introduce memberships, charge fees or change the way people participate. This means:

- We remain a volunteer-led, community-driven charity.
- Our sessions will continue to be free, accessible and open to adults aged 18 and over.
- We will continue to promote health, wellbeing and social connection through movement.
- We will remain committed to removing barriers to participation and helping people from all backgrounds get active.
- We will remain focused on participation and community running rather than competition.

Our Relationship with Herne Hill Harriers

I'd also like to reassure everyone that this affiliation does not change the strong relationship we have built with Herne Hill Harriers over many years. Many of you will be aware that TRC was originally launched under the auspices of Herne Hill Harriers, and we remain grateful for

the support and encouragement they have provided throughout our journey and continue to provide today.

Herne Hill Harriers is a key partner and a valued part of the local running community. Our organisations serve different but complementary purposes. TRC's focus remains firmly on participation, inclusion, health and wellbeing through free and accessible running opportunities, while Herne Hill Harriers provides a traditional athletics club environment for those who wish to pursue competitive running.

Affiliation does not change that distinction. TRC has no plans to enter leagues, championships or athletics competitions, and we will continue to encourage runners seeking competitive opportunities to consider joining Herne Hill Harriers, as many TRC runners have done over the years.

Thank You

This affiliation marks an important milestone in TRC's journey, and it would not have been possible without the people who have supported us every step of the way. To everyone who has given their time, encouragement and belief in TRC, thank you. Your support has helped TRC grow from a simple community initiative into a charity supporting hundreds of runners every week, while staying true to the values on which it was founded.

As we take this next step, we remain committed to the same principles that have guided us from the beginning: keeping running accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all. Thank you for being part of this incredible community and for the continued support that will help shape TRC's future. We are excited about this next chapter and look forward to continuing the journey together.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tahir Shams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tahir Shams
Chair of Trustees
Tooting Run Club