

North of England Track and Field League

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

on Saturday November 10th starting at 13:40
at Longford Stadium, Trafford

Attendance: Terry Bailey (Chairman & Doncaster), Alan Johnson (Secretary & Trafford), Mike Welford (Finance Officer & Altrincham), Colin Daniel & Bill Haygarth (Bingley Harriers), George Davis & Tony Wood (Blackburn Harriers), Stan Taylor (Blackpool Wyre & Fylde), Helen Goodwill (Burnley), Ken Smith & J. Simpson (Bury), Paul Baxter & Roger Leverton (City of York), Denise & Bernie Harris (Deeside AAC), Barry Parker (Derby AC), Kevin Lincoln (Doncaster AC), John Murphy (East Cheshire Harriers), Chris Betts (Gateshead), Tim Cook & Steve Green (Holmfirth Harriers), Pat Schofield & Steve Linsell (Leeds City), Joe Galvin (Leigh Harriers), Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers), Karen and David Brown (Liverpool Pembroke), David Owen (Longwood Harriers), Andy Ward (Middlesbrough AC), Ric Johnson (North Shields Poly), Paula Booth (Oldham & Royton), Cyril Jones (Pontefract AC), Bob Welfare (Preston Harriers), Steve Gaines (Rotherham Harriers), Jack Frost & David Marsh (Sale Harriers), Gordon Agar (Skyrac), Lee Coupland (Southport Waterloo), Frank Reddington (Spenborough & District), Bill Murphy (Trafford AC), Margaret Grayston (Wigan & District), Norman Waterson (Wirral AC), Dave Edwards (Wrexham AAC) and Scott and Rachel Cooper.

34 Clubs Attended

Apologies: Border Harriers, Peter Acland (Kendal AAC), Jennifer Crowther (Salford Mets) and Dennis Wall (West Cheshire),

1. The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. The minutes of the 2017 AGM were signed as a true record of the meeting
3. There were no matters arising from those minutes.
4. Secretary's Report. As in previous years the report has been distributed in advance of the meeting so AJ wasn't going to go through every paragraph. AJ highlighted the issue the Isle of Man team will have in 2019 with one match in Yorkshire. As this was the first time they had been in division one it was felt that it would be a good idea to have a meeting on the Island in 2019. Unfortunately, the funding for this from several bodies isn't in place yet so to be fair to clubs they need to know what possible monies they will receive. The aim now is to try and host a meeting on the island in 2020.
5. Treasurer. Following the aim to get back to one year's expenditure in the balances in the wake of the £18K refunded to Northern Athletics, this aim has now been achieved. The accounts show a surplus for the year of £3,430.74. This was achieved through prudent spending and the fact that one club didn't claim the track hire fee. Income from clubs was £28,500 and interest of £359.98. Track hire reimbursements were £21,150.00. League Numbers, management meeting costs, div sec expenses and AGM costs amounted to £3319.37. On top of that was the cost of the promotion match (£961.37). Currently we have £12,328.09 in the HSBC Current Account and £21,139.35 in the Cambridge & County deposit account.

Moving onto the budget for 2019 MW proposed that:-

- a) Propose no change to the club affiliation fees
- b) The hosting fee is increased from £450 to £500

This would then give us a proposed surplus of just under £3,000 based on 77 clubs at the moment.

The two proposals were accepted unanimously by 32 votes to none.

6. Nominations for Officers of the league. As there were just the three nominations made the three officers are re-elected en bloc.

The officers are: -

Chairman	Terry Bailey
Secretary	Alan Johnson
Finance Officer	Mike Welford.

7. Proposals from the Management Committee.

Amend the wording for clause 5 (a) of the constitution to:

“An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the autumn of each year in order to consult Clubs, exchange views on appropriate matters and to facilitate the selection of Divisional Secretaries and other Officers. Member clubs shall receive 28 days’ notice of the Annual General Meeting. All nominations and proposals must be received in writing, on club headed paper and signed by two officers of the club, 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Any club proposal must be seconded by another member club either on or before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Both the proposer and the seconder must be present at the AGM.”

The change is purely the addition of “on club headed paper and signed by two officers of the club,”

TB explained that this wording had been discussed at the pre-season Management meeting and wasn’t due to proposals received this year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

8. Proposals from clubs

- a. NSP explained the reasons for the proposal over officials and points being deducted. It seems this was put there for discussion so it was agreed to discuss this at the end of the meeting in AOB. NSP then withdrew the proposal.
- b. Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton Harriers & AC. “That the League request 4-7 volunteers to form a sub-committee tasked with delivering to this AGM in November 2019, a detailed proposal for a method of consolidating the current seven Division 3 and 4 groupings into four across the region. Of utmost importance must be the maintenance of fairness and quality of competition. Other key objectives will be keeping travel and track hire costs to a minimum and the reduction of the burden on individual clubs to provide officials

DB (LPS) explained the reasoning behind this. Again it was more of a request to form a subcommittee to look at levels 3 and 4 where athlete numbers can be low and officials a big issue. The subcommittee could look at the issue and if possible come back with firm proposals for the 2019 AGM. AJ one solution would be H’s.

TB suggested the following is sent to division 3 and 4 clubs. AJ would also send DB a list of the divisional secretaries.

“Liverpool, Pembroke & Sefton Harriers & AC are seeking to create a small group of clubs from divisions 3 & 4 to investigate the possibility of re-structuring those divisions for the 2020 season.

LPS is suggesting that there might be merit in consolidating the usual 7/8 groupings that normally comprise these two divisions into 4 groups. Whilst it is important to maintain the fairness and quality of competition, the other key objectives will be to keep travel and track hire costs to a minimum and to reduce the burden on individual clubs to provide officials.

If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please contact David Brown at speermeister@outlook.com. “

This was accepted as a fair solution

9. 2019 Season.

- a. The dates for the 2019 season will be Sunday 19th May, Sunday 16th June, Sunday 14th July and Saturday 10th August. For the first time since the two leagues formed the joint league we have 3 Sundays and a Saturday. League rules purely say 2 must be on a Saturday and two on a Sunday, WHERE possible. This is a different set of dates to previous years due to changes made by UKA to the fixtures calendar. Firstly, YDL Upper have taken the first weekend in May and the area senior championships the first weekend in June. As well as that, UKA are trying to get all area leagues to agree to go with the alternative dates on the calendar, which are the ones proposed. AJ explained that there had been confusion on the day before the AGM when a call from the Northern Office showed a clash with our August date and the area age group champs. AJ explained that this was an error by UKA (an email from Dean Hardman confirmed this after the AGM) on the final draft of the fixtures which had moved one or two events around wrongly. Northern Athletics were going to go with the area champs on the 17th August even though it means they will have to resend out the availability forms again.

The Promotion Match will be Saturday/Sunday August 24th/25th at Doncaster. Barry Parker asked if consideration, in future, could be given so that there was a greater difference in between the last match and the final. This will be discussed at the next management meeting early next year.

- b. Clubs: Rushcliffe AC have joined the league whilst the composite team of Darlington and Chester le Street has split into 2 separate teams. Houghton are forming a composite with Jarrow leaving 77 teams in the league. There had been queries also from Amber Valley & Erewash AC and Denby Dale AC but for 2019 they will not be joining the league but may do so in 2020.
- c. Structure and venues. This had been updated and clubs asked to confirm where they haven't done so yet.

10. Any other business

- a. NSP proposal from earlier. There is a big issue with level 2s turning out at matches. Some clubs have several at those grades and above whilst other clubs struggle to get one. Suggestions were to take points off if graded field officials weren't supplied of say the best scoring event for a team. TB It is the field referee's responsibility to allocate level 2's and above where he sees fit SJ That is how it works at most matches anyway RC Surely supplying officials is part of a clubs requirements when joining the league. AW On the odd occasion an official won't mind being used on numerous events to cover for lack of level 2's but eventually they get fed up with that becoming the norm.

BP From April 2019 coaches renewing their license will have to complete a Safeguarding and Protection of children module which will cost £10. This may well be introduced for officials as well

GA Again raised the possibility of DH's for some divisions.

- b. Track Mark. This scheme will have serious effects on our league in 2020. All stadium owners will have to apply for this Track Mark License to enable them to be used for meetings. It consists of 6 elements. With each module at £1,000 for track and £500 for the other 5 it becomes a significant amount. And this has to be repeated every three years.
- c. Only this week a document has gone out about the safety of hammer cages. Those UKA cages (as opposed to IAAF ones) will need inspecting prior to the start of the season. Those affected in 2019 are mainly those with the cage located at the 200m start of the track finish line. If adjustments need to be made these could be quite expensive with a figure of £7K quoted. Again, the inspection has to be done by one of the chosen third parties by UKA. AJ has found 4 of the tracks being used in 2019 will need checking. These are Boston, Derby, Rotherham and Trafford.

11. Meeting Closed at 14:45

- 12. There was then a demonstration by Simon Fennell of his proposed system for the Northern League. This will be in the same format as the YDL version used now. The team manager's portal will operate in exactly the same way as the YDL version and there will be a version of the results package for the league in excel. This may well eliminate the need for team change slips on the day with team managers updating their teams via the portal. There will be more details sent out about this early in the New Year. If anyone has any queries about it now, get in touch with the league secretary.

Signed _____

Date: _____