

# NORTH OF ENGLAND TRACK AND FIELD LEAGUE

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 At Longford Park, Trafford

### Present:

Terry Bailey (Chairman & Doncaster), Ln Johnson (Secretary & Trafford), Mike Welford (Altrincham & Finance Officer), Malcolm Fletcher (Barnsley), George Davies and Tony Wood (Blackburn), Margaret Crompton and Stan Taylor (Blackpool), Ken Taylor (Border), Helen Goodwill (Burnley), Jack Frost (Sale), Denise Harris and Bernard Harris (Deeside), Terry Winmill (Doncaster), John Murphy (East Cheshire), Chris Betts (Gateshead) Steve Linsell (Leeds), Arwel Williams (Liverpool H), Wally Bridson (Liverpool PS), Andy Ward (Middlesbrough AC), Mrs Markendale (Pendle), Bob Welfare (Preston), Steve Gains (Rotherham), Bill Murphy and Mike Harris (Trafford), Margaret Grayston (Wigan), Norman Waterson and Leo Carroll (Wirral), Janette Tomlins (Wombwell), Dave Edwards (Wrexham) and Malcolm Rodgers (Northern Athletics)

25 teams present

### Apologies:

Holmfirth Harriers, Peter Acland (Kendal), David Brown (Liverpool PS), Andy Parker (Preston) and Brian Schofield (Oldham & Royton).

1. A minute's silence was held in memory of Stuart Pailor who died recently.  
Stuart had been a divisional secretary for many years, including the men's League when the leagues were separate.
2. The minutes of the 2014 AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.
3. Secretary's Report. The report had been circulated well in advance of the AGM.  
It was accepted and there were no questions raised of the secretary.
4. Finance Officer's Report. After all track hire expenses (£400 per match) had been paid out there was a surplus for the year of £2,003.40. Subs had come in from all 79 clubs @ £325. AGM costs are shared with Northern Athletics. Any club who didn't claim for the track hire was deemed as a donation to the league.

MW thanked Frank Gorman who had sent him details of a better deposit account, which paid out more interest. MW had moved the money across from Scottish Widows.

Current balances are Current Account £17,906.04 and deposit account £20,108.91 giving a total of £38,014.95

Budgeting for 2016 MW had used the same number of clubs that would give a small surplus of £369.

KT asked the finance officer about the statement made at the previous Northern Athletics Annual Meeting about monies owed to them which in the Northern Athletics accounts were quoted as £25,000.

TB answered on behalf of the league. The officers of the league had a meeting earlier this year to discuss this matter. NA then went away and were going to provide further details. This detail was received from Nigel Orr on Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, which just happened to be the day our secretary went on holiday. Hence we have had no time to discuss this further. Once we know any further details we will let member clubs know of the situation. When pressed further by KT, Terry Bailey stated there was no further comment to be made at this time.

MG Proposed and KT seconded that the accounts be accepted. The meeting accepted unanimously.

5. Management Proposal to change the age groups allowed to compete in the league. Specifically to change U17 to U18.

TB explained that as the new rulebook was to be the IAAF rulebook with UKA amendments below each rule, the age groups would change. They would be Senior, U20, U18, U17, U15 and U13. It was adding the current U17's and below as the addendum to the IAAF rule but the U18 would still be present from the IAAF part of the rule. In doing this we would be taking out of the league any athletes who may be 14 years on the day of competition. This is a senior league and for 14 years to compete against seniors didn't seem right.

A lot of the representatives at the meeting had difficulty seeing this idea as statements had been released by UKA that "There would be no changes to age groups in the 2016 rule book". AW was concerned that if this went through it could lead to the U16, U14, U12 age groups coming into force, something he disagreed with.

The proposal was put to the vote with the outcome being that the proposal was defeated.  
(For 3, Against 10, Abstentions 6)

6. Proposal from Rotherham Harriers to give points to competitors in the steeplechase even if there was no water jump.  
SG explained that in the season just gone, there was a problem at one meeting where the water jump couldn't be used. The athletes still ran the race but subsequently no points were allocated for that event as per league rules. One athlete had written to SG and said that this was unfair to the athletes who had travelled to the meeting for this event.

MG (Wigan) seconded the proposal.

BW This happened twice to Preston over the last 2 years. He was concerned that it would become a hurdle race. Once clubs knew it was to become that they would add athletes to the event simply for the points.

TB We provides meaningful competition outside championships. How often is the steeplechase won at the water jump? Without the water jump the race is not a steeplechase and should not have points allocated.

For 12, Against 11, Abstentions 2

7. 2016 season

- a) Dates for 2016 are: -  
Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016  
Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

The promotion match will be on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 at either Doncaster or Trafford  
(Subsequently informed Trafford is hosting BMC events on that day so we need an alternative venue)

- b) Structure and venues. The secretary apologised for not having printed copies available at the meeting. He then went through the structure.

Rossendale have withdrawn from the league. As they were in 3WC Stockport had been moved back up to 3WC.  
Pontefract AC had requested to join the league so would fit into 4EC. In the same division Wombwell and Grimsby would operate as a joint team. This means overall 1 less team in the league.

- c) It was agreed to keep the league entry fee at £325 and the hosting fee at £400. At the 2016 AGM we may need to review what is paid to hosts with a subsequent rise in entry fees to cover this.

8. Any Other urgent business.

MG was concerned that England Athletics still had issues over accuracy of eligibility. She had a problem with an athlete who was supposedly registered with another club but in time proved to be incorrect as she was a Wigan athlete.

TB Having done all the eligibility checks last year I can say that the EA records were 99.99% accurate. We should all take responsibility for this eligibility issue. After all, all athletes can check themselves on line using their unique log on details. We are simply sweeping up the inactivity of other people.

SG This checking has been done now for 2 years with cross-country. In the first year out of 900 athletes there were issues with 56. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the problem athletes had dropped to 9. In the leagues second year of checking the same drop in issues will occur.

The meeting closed at 14:45

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_