

North of England Track and Field League

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting

**on Saturday November 11th starting at 13:40
at Longford Stadium, Trafford**

Attendance: Terry Bailey (Chairman & Doncaster), Alan Johnson (Secretary & Trafford), Malcolm Fletcher (Barnsley), George Davies and Tony Wood (Blackburn), Beryl Clay (Boston), Helen Goodwill (Burnley), Ken Smith and Jean Simpson MBE (Bury), Linda Rushworth (C of Sheffield), Roger Everton (C of York), J Bullock (Derby), John Murphy (ECH), Tim Cook (Holmfirth), Steve Linsell and Pat Schofield (Leeds), Steve Jamson (Leigh), Arewl Williams (Liverpool Harriers), Wally Bridon and Dave Brown (LPS), David Owen (Longwood), Andy Ward (Middlesbrough), Paula Booth (Oldham), Bob Welfare (Preston), Steve Gaines (Rotherham), Jack Frost (Sale), Lee Coupland and Liam Harris (Southport), Mike Harris and Bill Murphy (Trafford), Jeremy Frain (Wakefield), Margaret Grayston (Wigan), Norman Waterson (Wirral), Dave Edwards (Wrexham), Rachel Cooper and Scott Cooper.

27 Clubs Attended

Apologies: Mike Welford (Altrincham and Finance Officer), Steve Heslop (Scunthorpe), Peter Acland (Kendal), Jason Newell (Spenborough), Dennis Wall (West Cheshire), Denise and Bernie Harris (Deeside) and Chris Bettas (Gateshead)

1. The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. The minutes of the 2016 AGM were signed as a true record of the meeting
3. There were no matters arising from those minutes.
4. Secretary's Report. AJ presented his report to the meeting. The season just finished had been another competitive season without too many issues. AJ thanked Terry Bailey and Mike Welford for all their help over the past year. One main issue had been with officials. One match took from match 1 to match 4 to rectify the officials' points and why one team in particular had not been awarded its full points. To counteract this issue in the future, new officials' signing in sheets have been re-designed and will be used next season. These sheets require the chief officials to countersign the sheets to indicate that they agree with all the signed in officials having been present for the duration of their duties. Hopefully this will remove any issues that occurred this season.

The promotion match had to be moved to Trafford at short notice with Doncaster being unavailable after the football fixtures. The obtaining of officials proved rather awkward at first, due to the Northern Age Group Championships at Leigh and a BAL fixture at Sports City. Fortunately, eventually enough chiefs were obtained and the meeting, albeit with just 5 teams, went ahead successfully.

At this point, there is no decision as to whether Sweatshop will provide the numbers for next season. Sweatshop, which was owned by Sports Direct, has recently been sold to JD sports. Several stores have closed and as has some management. AJ will keep in touch with them to see if anything can be done. In the event of the league finding its own numbers, we will look at Tyvek type numbers which don't destroy in the wet. In that case fewer numbers may be required.

5. Treasurer. In the absence of Mike Welford, TB read his report and answered any possible questions. The accounts show that £18,000 was paid across to Northern Athletics prior to the 31st March which was the compromise agreement reached between the league and Northern Athletics. Northern Athletics have since confirmed that the debt with the league has been settled in full and the league is now a fully independent body. The aim of building up funds is to enable a year's operating costs to be in the bank to cover for any unforeseen circumstances. That figure has been attained now.

The 2016 AGM agreed to increase the league fee to £375 immediately and the Hosting Fee fee to £450 for 2018. There will be no further changes for 2018 season.

JF queried the interest being achieved as it seemed very good considering the current interest rates. TB explained that Frank Gorman had put us in touch with this account with Cambridge BS. The account is purely a business account and is not available to the public (worse luck!).

The total in the bank over the two accounts is £30,308.45

For 2018, the budget shows a surplus of @2,789.80. In the budget £1,135.20 has been allocated against league numbers. If we decide to use Tyvek numbers this could slightly more expensive albeit less numbers required.

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.

- i) Rule 3 currently starts with
“All clubs shall host a fixture once every two years”.

The proposal is to change this to
All clubs shall host a fixture at least once every 2 year

The change is simply to replace ‘once every’ with ‘at least once’

The meeting unanimously agreed to this.

- ii) Rule 3b will now read

All participating clubs, including the host club (in addition to providing the chief officials listed under 3 a) above), shall provide **AT LEAST** the following officials (and where possible graded) who **must** remain present for the full duration of their duties: -

- * One Track Judge
- * One Timekeeper
- * Four Field Judges of whom 2 must be qualified (with one of them being at Level 2 (Field) as a minimum)
- * Each club should be allocated field event(s) in advance. It shall be the responsibility of the Field Referee, in co-ordination with the divisional secretary, to ensure that competent qualified officials shall be in charge.

The change is that instead of 4 field officials of which one must be graded level 2 or above is to now say ‘Four Field Judges of whom 2 must be qualified (with one of them being at Level 2 (Field) as a minimum)’

The reason for the need to change is that UKA are looking at possibly changing their permitting rules. Currently there are 5 levels and we fit into level 2. The proposed change means that there will be just 3 levels and we would be level 1. In this case, the new guidance from UKA is that we must have at least 2 graded officials for a field event with one being level 2 or above. The league is just pre-empting the change.

Several clubs were concerned that this was putting more strain on clubs who struggle to obtain officials. When asked what would happen if the AGM voted No and then this rule came in. TB the league would have to call an EGM at a later date.

FOR	24
AGAINST	2
ABSTENTIONS	2

8. Proposals from Clubs

- i) Burnley. In divisions 3 and 4, female and male competitors should be allowed to jump off a 5m or a 6m board in the triple jump, provided that the competition organisers are informed before the day of the event. All other divisions will jump off a 7m board as a minimum.

The motion was seconded by Southport Waterloo,

HG of Burnley explained the reasoning being the proposal. She was concerned that for the lower divisions the athletes taking part were not of the caliber maybe expected in higher divisions and thus they needed maybe a 5m or 6m board. In not allowing a 5m or 6m take off we are stopping some athletes trying the event.

MG Not all tracks actually have 5m boards (in fact some only have 11 and 13m boards). To add tape to 7m and then 5m or 6m marks with tape makes it a danger for athletes who may step onto the tape and slip

JF Do we want to encourage athletes to do the event before they can reach 7m?

AW Athletes who require 5m boards are simply doing the event for points. Several people pointed out that this is a Senior League.

TB This is a senior league and I am against it. Where will it go next if we allow this? Vets weights or hurdle heights?

HG IAAF rules state no minimum board. If the athlete isn't capable of doing a technical event the field judge should stop them.

TB Chief officials can already stop athletes doing an event if they are not capable.

FOR	5
AGAINST	20
ABSTENTIONS	4

- ii) JF of Wakefield explained his proposal. This was to bring in over a 6 year period a new regime for the officials. This would lead to increasing the level of all officials so that after the 6th year all clubs would provide grade 2 judges for track and field. On top of this included in the proposal is the rule that if a team gets relegated and in doing so this was due to losing officials points they would be fined 50% of the league fee rising to 100% after year 4.

As there was no club prepared to second this proposal, the proposal FAILED

9. 2018 Season.

- i. The dates are confirmed as Saturday May 5th, Sunday June 3rd, Sunday July 8th and Saturday August 4th. The promotion match will take place on either Saturday or Sunday August 18th or 19th at Doncaster or Trafford depending upon the football fixtures which are released in mid-June.
- ii. The only new club is Scarborough AC who are quite happy to go into 4E.
- iii. Venues were discussed and changes made or suggested. AW suggested that Richmond & Zetland could host at Middlesbrough. AJ explained that the clubs themselves will decide where they host.
- iv. Divisional Secretaries. Dave Brown of LPS offered to act as div sec for 2W and David Owen of Longwood for 4EC. This just leaves 3E without a div sec.
- v. Results. It is hoped that there will be a new team managers' online portal available for the 2018 season which will allow teams to make their declarations online. All being well there will also be a new results package which will allow declarations to be automatically downloaded. It will also download any lane draws required, league records and latest league positions. This can be done prior to the match (normally the evening before). If a host club has access to the internet via a Wi-Fi connection at the venue, a mobile Wi-Fi box or a hotspot from a mobile phone, then the need to have change slips is removed. Team managers would then make the changes via mobile phone, tablet or is possible a 2nd laptop at the venue. Further details will be released as they become available.

10. In Any other business after several comments it was agreed that the management committee would look at some form of guidance document to cover times that officials should report for duties (including warm up time) and also some possible H&S guidance.

DB (LPS) Looking forward he will try and put something together so that maybe matches could involve 9, 10 or more teams relieving some of the pressure on getting lots of officials.

AW DH's have been used before in the league involving 2 divisions. This cuts down on officials and costs.

TB There is currently a software solution being trialled in some areas which may make it simpler for officials in a locality to be made aware of upcoming matches and be able to advise of their availability on line. This might help clubs to obtain officials who might not otherwise be aware of the competitions taking place in their area. If this looks like being of benefit to the league then TB will provide feedback.

The meeting closed at 14:50

Signed _____

Date: _____