

NORTH OF ENGLAND TRACK AND FIELD LEAGUE

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2017

Yet another year passes by and yet another successful season. Once again relegation and promotion in some divisions went down to the wire. Congratulations to Wigan who won the division one title from City of York. Congratulations also to those clubs who successfully gained promotion to a higher division.

This year's promotion match was moved to Trafford due to track at Doncaster becoming unavailable due to Doncaster FC playing at home. The added complication to this was the match had to be a Sunday (Trafford had a BMC meeting on Saturday) and the Norther Age Group Championships at Leigh and a BAL match at Sports City. After a lot of emails and telephone calls the meeting went ahead with its full quota of chief officials. The match was highly competitive with the lead changing hands several times. The top three fought out the two promotion places with the two current division one clubs, Preston and Wakefield retaining their places in the league. Even though a team decided not to attend it was still an exciting match with the 4th and 5th places decided by the relays. My thanks go to the 5 clubs who attended for their help and assistance not only on the day but beforehand. It was also nice to get so many compliments from some of the clubs which were really appreciated.

In 2017, we had far fewer issues with ineligible athletes than in previous years. Hopefully in 2018 we will have a new results package which will also allow for on line team declarations which will check for eligibility. Several of you will have already experienced this type of program with the UK YDL in the season just gone. I know the online portal was well liked by team managers and made the job of results entry so much easier. There should be time after the AGM for Simon Fennell to demonstrate the workings of the system. On the day results are also made easier if there is some form of Wi-Fi capability, either via Wi-Fi at the stadium or even a mobile phone hotspot. If this is utilised, any on the day changes can be made by team managers via phones, tablets or a 2nd laptop if one is available. This reduces all the necessary paperwork. The results will also highlight any ineligible athletes used who need checking after the match.

Officials. Several clubs still fail to provide their full quota of officials. Whilst I appreciate there are other events taking place, failure to provide the correct number puts pressure on the other clubs at the meeting to step in and fill the gaps. It is also worth reminding all host clubs of their commitments to hosting a match. They firstly must provide all the chief officials for the meeting. On top of that they also need to provide the normal club quota on top of these. In several cases last year this failed to happen resulting in some hosts not receiving the full points for officials. If an official from another club agrees to be a chief official, the host club then have to provide someone to replace that person.

Finally, can I take this report to thank all those people who make this league work, divisional secretaries, host clubs and team managers themselves.

I would also like to thank both the chairman and treasure, Terry Bailey and Mike Welford, respectively for their assistance over the last 12 months.

I should at this point also thank Sweatshop for providing the league numbers for 2017. As Mike Welford will no doubt point out in his report, this saved the league in excess of £1,000. The numbers were also far superior to anything we have had in the past. I will contact Sweatshop to see if they can still provide them for next year as well. The league is extremely grateful for this little bit of sponsorship in these difficult times for getting any sort of sponsorship.

Alan Johnson
Secretary
Tuesday, 3 October 2017