

North of England Track and Field League

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

on Saturday November 14th 2020 starting at 13:00
Via an online ZOOM Meeting

Attendance: Terry Bailey(Chairman & Doncaster AC), Alan Johnson(Secretary & Trafford AC), Mike Welford(Finance Officer & Altrincham), Malcolm Fletcher & Keith Binney(Barnsley AC), Colin Daniel(Bingley Harriers), Tony Wood & George Davies(Blackburn Harriers), Stan Taylor(Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde), Ken Taylor(Border Harriers), Beryl Clay(Boston & District), Helen Goodwill(Burnley AC), Jean Simpson(Bury AC), Roger Everton & Paul Baxter(City of York AC), Neil Fowler(Crewe & Nantwich AC), Mark Tallon(Darlington AC), Gordon Bell(Gateshead Harriers) Jon Ireland(Harrogate AC), Margaret Belke(Kendal AC), Arwel Williams(Liverpool Harriers), David Owen(Longwood Harriers), Andy Ward(Middlesbrough AC), Hemant Desai(Morpeth Harriers), Graham Hall(New Marske Harriers), James Mole(North Shields Poly), Cyril Jones(Pontefract AC), Kevin Thomas & Steve Gaines(Rotherham Harriers), Jack Frost(Sale Harriers Manchester), Ged McDermott(Salford Metropolitan AC), Frank Reddington (Spenborough & District), Jean Jackson(Wakefield Harriers), Dave McKay & Dennis Wall(West Cheshire AC), Margaret Grayston(Wigan Harriers) and John Heap & Sarah Kearney (Wirral AC).

32 Clubs Attended

Apologies: John Murphy (East Cheshire), Denise Timmins (Lincoln Wellington), Gordon Agar (Skyrac), Mike Harris (Trafford) and Norman Waterson (Wirral)

1. The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. The minutes of the 2019 AGM were signed by the secretary, on behalf of the chairman, as a true record of the meeting
3. There were no matters arising from those minutes.
4. Secretary's Report. There was nothing to report as there was no season. Once we get onto the proposal for the new league other comments will be raised. AJ informed the meeting of a ZOOM meeting he had with the National Athletics League, UK YDL, Southern League, Midlands League and Northern League. The meeting was called by Grace Hall of UK YDL over concerns she felt leagues were having with regards to the fixture's allocation amongst other things. The meeting sent suggested dates to Donna Fraser of UKA and to be honest the senior leagues have this year been given a fair deal although the fixtures are still currently just draft. Another meeting was called by Nichola Skedgel of England Athletics with the above-mentioned leagues. The only thing to come from that meeting, to my delight, was that UKA would no longer, in 2021, expect the host clubs to have to apply for the licence to hold the match. As in previous years, I will simply send in the structure and venues and separate licence's will be issued for each match venue.
5. Finance Officer: As the 2020 season did not take place all, fees paid by clubs for 2020 will be rolled forward to 2021. If new clubs enter in 2021, they will pay the full fee. Entry fees income means there was a hefty balance as there was no expenditure. Due to no season the officers took no payments in 2021.

Total Income was £29263.87 (77 clubs @ £375 plus interest received)

There was only expenditure of £120, which was travel expenses for the January management meeting in 2020. The officers made the decision not to take any payments for 2020.

The balance sheet shows Current assets of £62,292.92 split between the HSBC current account (£10,335,90,) and Cambridge & Counties (£52,063.02)

Budget 2021. Allowing for 74 clubs @ £375 and slight increase in management costs we are budgeting for a slight deficit of £275.40. Obviously if more clubs drop out each club will add £375 to the deficit figure.

The subs will stay at £375 and host reimbursement at £500.

AJ informed the meeting that Mike Welford had told him his intention to stand down from the role at the 2021 AGM. TB thanked Mike for all the work he had done in his time as finance officer. We now need to try and find a successor.

6. Nominations for Officers of the league. As there were just the three nominations, the three officers are re-elected en-bloc. The officers for 2020 are: -

Chairman	Terry Bailey
Secretary	Alan Johnson
Finance Officer	Mike Welford.

7. Management Proposals

i) New Regionalised Structure

AJ explained the reasons behind the new proposed regional structure. This structure was first presented at the 2109 AGM as an idea and mandated to bring it back to the table for the 2020 AGM as a proposal.

- Comments had been made by the clubs, especially in certain areas, about the level of travel to matches
- This structure means reduced travel
- Promotion and relegation were explained. This will be an appendix to the rules (if passed).
- With COVID-19 this structure will also act as Plan B with some fine tuning over the larger divisions of 8 teams and events.

DW Having asked the athletes and committee at West Cheshire , they opposed the change of structure. They preferred the old structure.

JJ Wakefield have in the past had to travel over the Pennines for the top division competition. Although the new structure makes for a lot less travel it will devalue some of the competition.

Vote was taken FOR 30 AGAINST 2 The motion was passed.

ii) Change to the Constitution

Clause 3. Membership

Add "The lead club in a composite team will be responsible for paying the full league subscription fee and claiming reimbursement of the appropriate contribution from the other club(s) comprising the composite team" into the clause 3 after the words "(as determined at the time of joining) with the other club(s) being allowed to enrol in the lowest division."

In the past composite teams have always had to have a lead club. The league has agreed that in the case of a composite team splitting, the lead club will retain the place in the league structure. With that in mind, the change proposed is that the lead club pays the membership fee to the league. It is then the responsibility of the lead club to get reimbursement from the other parts of the composite.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

iii) Changes to Rules

- a) The change to Rule 3a is withdrawn in light of the comments from the secretary over the process of granting licences. It will not now be a requirement for clubs to obtain a match licence.
- b) Rule 4c. (to reflect the fact that paper team declarations are no longer required). "Athletes cannot compete in a match until their TEAM MANAGER has included them in a team declaration on the Team Portal. Alterations may be made on the day of competition prior to the commencement of each event."

TB In view of the changes to the way the match day system operates with online declarations these changes reflect that process. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

c) Rule 5

"Team declarations must be made on the team portal at least 24 hours before the competition. Alterations to the team must be completed before each event, preferably on the team portal or otherwise in writing."

Again, same reason as above. With the portal which all clubs use this change is essential. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- d) Rule 16b Results. "The original track slips and field cards must be given to the Divisional Secretary immediately after the match or sent by the first post following a meeting. The results shall be provided for the Divisional Secretary on a memory stick or emailed to him/her on the same day. Visiting clubs should also be given the opportunity to obtain the results on the day on a memory stick or otherwise have the results emailed to them on the day following the meeting."

This change again reflects the use of technology PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- e) Rule 16c Results. "The Divisional Secretary shall email the scrutinised results to the League Secretary as soon as possible after the meeting"

Again, a simple tidying up of the rule PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- f) Rule 4e. To compete in the league championship match, all athletes must have competed for their club in the league during that current season.

This reflects the new structure. Instead of a promotion match we will have a League Championship match PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

g) Rule 14 covering Promotion / Relegation.

The League shall consist of 3 competition areas, each subdivided into sufficient divisions to accommodate the clubs located within that competition area. Promotion / Relegation between divisions within each competition area will be as shown in Appendix A.

The winner of each division will be presented with a trophy at the conclusion of the final match.

Composite teams will only be eligible for promotion to Division 1 provided they are registered with UK Athletics in accordance with UKA rule 21 S 4 (4). REMOVE THIS SENTENCE.

League Points will be awarded as follows:-

8 Club Division=8 / 7 / 6 / 5 / 4 / 3 / 2 / 1 7 Club Division=7 / 6 / 5 / 4 / 3 / 2 / 1

6 Club Division=6 / 5 / 4 / 3 / 2 / 1 5 Club Division=5 / 4 / 3 / 2 / 1

At the end of the season, match positions will be determined by the total number of League Points and, if equal, by the total number of match points.

If a tie remains, the number of 'A' string winners will determine the positions, then B string winners, then 2nd places etc.

In the event of there being insufficient teams automatically promoted / relegated, then the League Secretary may conduct a paper match to determine the outcome.

The teams finishing in 1st and 2nd place in each of the 3 premier divisions shall be eligible to compete in the League Championship match.

"In the event of the league championship match being abandoned before the requisite number of events has been completed, the match shall be decided on a paper match. The paper match will take the best two individual performances by the athletes entered in each of the championship's events. These performances shall be taken from the four league matches of the current season."

When a team is relegated from a National League, it shall take its place, where possible, at the level at which it currently has a team in the league. REMOVE THIS SENTENCE

The whole rule above will be amended to reflect the new structure

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8. 2021 Season

a) Dates

Saturday	22 nd May 2021
Saturday	19 th June 2021
Sunday	11 th July 2021
Sunday	1 st August 2021
Saturday	14 th August for the League Championship Final

AJ These are the dates as agreed with UKA but have yet to be finalised. The May date only has the Loughborough Games to contend with, the June date is a clash with the inter County Schools, the July date is the day after English Schools which has been used before and the 1st August date is the start of the Olympics and at this point there is no other clash. The date of the final is an alternative date for the area leagues. None of these dates clash with NAL or YDL.

9. Any Other Urgent Business

- KT asked for thanks to AJ for his hard work on the new structure.
- SG asked about the size of composite teams and how will it affect the league. Looking here at the size of 2 Scottish composites in YDL. AJ whilst we don't envisage any proposed composite of that size for the league, the league has the right to say NO to a composite.
- HG Does the league have a plan B in view of COVID-19. TB the management committee will be looking at this in its pre-season meeting in 2021. HG concerned about a lack of officials at her club if they were still self-isolating. AJ assistance can be asked for from the Northern Officials' association.
- HG Burnley are still awaiting a new cage to be installed. This has been delayed by COVID-19. What will Burnley have to do if that is delayed. TB As hosts Burnley would be expected to find an alternative facility.
- MB In view of the COVID issues the league should look at other sports and see what they do. If some teams can't travel can look to other clubs and see if they can get some form of competition. TB As Alan has said, we are quite open to suggestions. We will look at the situation at our pre-season meeting. AJ It is vital that we get some form of league going next year.

10. Meeting closed at 13:50

Signed _____

Date: _____