

## NORTHERN TRACK & FIELD LEAGUE

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Longford Stadium, Trafford On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Attendance:** Terry Bailey (Chair & Doncaster AC), Jean Simpson MBE (Finance Officer), Barnsley AC (Malcolm Fletcher & Keith Binney), Bingley Harriers (Colin Daniel), Blackburn Harriers (George Davis), Bolton United Harriers (K South), Bury AC (Helen Vaughan), Derby AC (Paul Blakey), East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC (Steve Parsons), Holmfirth Harriers (Neil Dutton), Kingston upon Hull (John Brant & Tim Hood), Leeds City AC (Steve Linsell & Pat Schofield), Liverpool Harriers (Arwel Williams), Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton Harriers (Karen & Dave Brown), Pontefract AC (William Carter), Rotherham Harriers & AC (Steve Gaines, David & Barbara Allen), Sale Harriers Manchester (David Brown), Skyrac AC (Gordon Agar), Spenborough & Dist AC (Kevin Aspindle), Team Isle of Man (Brandon & Petra Atchison), Wigan & District Harriers & AC (Margaret Grayston), Wirral AC (Don Darroch).

*Clubs represented: 21*

**Apologies:** Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC (Stan Taylor), Border Harriers & AC/Seaton AC (Karrie Mundell), City of York AC (Dave Paver & Ruth Hirst), Macclesfield H & AC (Michael Thorley), Mansfield Harriers (Stefan Wilcockson), Salford Metropolitan AC (Jennifer Crowther), Wakefield District H & AC (Jean & Michael Jackson).

*Clubs apologised: 7*

**Non-Attendance:** Boston & District AC, Bradford Airedale AC, Burnley AC, Chesterfield & Dist AC, City of Sheffield & Dearne AC, Crewe & Nantwich AC, Deeside AAC, Grantham AC, Hallamshire Harriers Sheffield, Harrogate Harriers, Horwich RMI/Chorley, Leigh H & AC, Lincoln Wellington AC, Longwood H & AC, Manchester H & AC, Newark AC, Preston Harriers, Rushcliffe AC, Southport Waterloo AC, St. Helens Sutton AC, Trafford AC, West Cheshire AC, Worksop H & AC, Wrexham AAC.

*Clubs not represented: 24*

#### **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks.**

TB Welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM of the league.

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM in November 2023.**

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as a true record.

#### **3. Election of League Secretary**

There were two proposals for the position of League Secretary and CVs of Kevin Aspindle (Spunborough & Dist AC) and Tim Hood (Kingston upon Hull AC) were distributed to all clubs prior to the meeting. A secret ballot was held by those clubs in attendance and Kevin Aspindle received a majority of the votes. He was duly elected to the position at the meeting, to take up the position immediately.

#### **4. Reports**

##### **a) Secretary**

TB read out the secretary's report. He highlighted the continuing problem of lack of officials at meetings and the issues created by not checking the eligibility of athletes. Team Managers need to keep declarations up-to-date on the day, rather than waiting weeks after the events, which is just not acceptable.

The decision not to hold the divisional final saved some money and there are no plans at the moment to reinstate the divisional final. A new record was recorded in the Women's Steeplechase 2K (new this season) – Katie Gardner (Derby AC) – 6:59.42 and an improved record in the Women's Hammer – Jessica Mayho (KUH AC) – 67.58m

TB thanked JS for all her help this year and also thanked the Divisional Secretaries for their ongoing invaluable support.

**b) Finance Officer**

JS took questions on her report.

Barclay's Current Account: £7,302.00  
Cambridge & Counties: £35,623.56

The Assets of £42,925.56 is OK but the loss on the year is not desirable. The league is run on the principle that it would seek to break even on a year-by-year basis and retain a reserve capable of financing a full year in the even of some extreme circumstance causing a lack of income. So losses of this level could not be sustained.

The budget for 2025 was circulated and reviewed. Needs to change by £60 as now we only have 8 divisions (not 9 as stated). Also 52 clubs expected, but not all confirmed. The league fee of £400 per club generates a budgeted very small loss which would be acceptable, so no proposal to increase the fees this season. Discussion during the meeting concluded with a recommendation that fees will need to be reviewed in future seasons as hosting costs are still increasing, particularly with regard to first aid provision.

The budget (with the small amendment to costs) was approved.

**5. Nomination of Officers**

Chairman (Terry Bailey) and Finance Officer (Jean Simpson MBE).

All the above have been nominated by the clubs and, there being no other nominations, are thereby elected. Kevin Aspindle had already been elected to the position of Secretary earlier in the meeting (see minute 3).

It was commented that Terry Bailey is to resign from the position of Chairman before the 2025 AGM and David Brown (Sale Harriers Manchester) has volunteered to take on the role for the following season. Other nominations will also be accepted before the 2025 AGM.

**6. Proposals (Rule Changes)**

a) From the Management Committee

Proposal ONE

That Rule 4 a) be changed to "All competitors must be first claim members, first claim other members or registered for higher competition with the league and be eligible to compete for the club in Open Team competition on the day of the meeting". TB explained that this is a clarification to cover "first claim other" where athletes are registered with a club that does not compete in Track & Field and wants to register as "first claim other" with a club competing in our League. It does require a specific registration with England Athletics for eligibility purposes, which needs to be done before the competition day.

FOR 21  
AGAINST 0  
ABSTENTIONS 0

The proposal was carried.

Proposal TWO

Proposed change to Rule 4 a) to include "Competition categories are defined as sex at birth".

FOR 19  
AGAINST 0  
ABSTENTIONS 2

The proposal was carried.

b) Proposals from Clubs

There were no proposed rule changes from clubs

The rules will now be amended and circulated with all the changes agreed above.

**7. 2025 Season**

a) Dates for 2025

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025, apart from West Premier, that will not use 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and will finish on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

b) Venues

These are all still provisional. A discussion took place regarding hosting in East 1N, West 1N and East 2. Derby AC were concerned that they had been overlooked to host in East Premier. TB pointed out that hosting needs to be rotational to balance out the costs; Derby AC had hosted in the previous season so were not being overlooked. A new proposal for venues will be published shortly after the AGM.

**8. Any other Urgent Business (Discussion only)**

Steve Parsons (East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC) brought to the attention of the meeting that it is the responsibility of Starters to ensure the published lane draws are adhered to. The lane draws for each meeting can be found in the programme and are there to ensure there is a balance of lane draw advantage across all clubs over the course of the four meetings.

TB clarified that a Divisional Secretary is entitled to 10 points towards his/her clubs maximum permitted total of 55 officiating points, as stated in Rule 3 (c), whether they officiate or not.

There being no other matters of substance to be discussed. The meeting closed at 14:20.

Signed:- \_\_\_\_\_

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