

NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALEXANDER
STADIUM, BIRMINGHAM ON SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 2004

PRESENT: Management Committee. Margaret Grayston (Chairman), Wendy Daniel (Secretary), Grace Hall (Treasurer), Barry Holmes (Midland Representative), Gerald Alterman (Southern Representative), Ian Murdoch (Southern Representative), Stuart Hall (Northern Representative), Christopher Betts (Northern Representative). (8)

Northern Region. Andy Paul (Birchfield Harriers), Brian Holyfield (Birchfield Harriers), Eddie Gore (Cheshire Tigers), Jill Gore (Cheshire Tigers), Moira Maguire (Edinburgh Southern Harriers), John Lunn (Leeds City A.C.), Pat Schofield (Leeds City A.C.), Nicky Mottishaw (Notts A.C.), Justine Payne (Notts A.C.), David Hynd (Pitreevie A.C.) Paul (Pitreevie A.C.), Nick Reade (Rushcliffe A.C.) Nick Baker (Sale Harriers), Eric Hughes (Sale Harriers), Bob Mills (Solihull & Small Heath A.C.), Alan Cherrington (Tipton Harriers), Marg Cherrington (Tipton Harriers) Jim Harris (Trafford A.C.), Terry Ridsdale (Wakefield & Dist.) (19)

Southern Region Debbie Bull (Cardiff A.C.), Alan Sutton (Enfield & Haringey A.C.), Tony Bush (Harrow A.C), Tony Shaw (Herts Phoenix) A.C., Tony Cheatham (Ipswich Harriers), Mike Oakley (Ipswich Harriers), Mick Bromilow (Milton Keynes A.C) Geoff Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers), Marian Williams (Swansea Harriers), Dennis Daly (W.S.E & Hounslow A.C), Sharon Herbert (WG/EL). Jan Holst (WG/EL) (12) Total - 39

Non-voting Bryan Goodman (W.S.E.& Hounslow), Frank Starkie (Sale Harriers)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Malcolm Littler (Cannock & Staffs), Alan Domleo (Derby), Andy Ward (Middlesbrough) Paul Taylor (Nestle Rowntree), Norman Gardner (Pitreevie) Sue Darby (Solihull & Small Heath), Rob James (Tamworth), Alan Johnson (Trafford) Mary Johnson (Trafford) Jackie Tobin (Basingstoke & Mid Hants A.C.), Tim & Pauline Ash (City of Norwich), Tony Benton (Havering Mayesbrook A.C.), Stephanie North (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers), John Smith (Thames Valley Harriers),
2. **MINUTES OF THE 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** Proposed by Chris Betts and seconded by Terry Ridsdale. Unanimously agreed and duly signed by Chairman. Tony Bush (Harrow) suggested that a copy of the previous years AGM minutes be sent out with AGM agenda as well as being circulated after the AGM. It was also suggested that a copy be put on the website. This would be done although not everyone has internet access.
3. **CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2004.** COPY ATTACHED
4. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

4.1. Consideration of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2004

The treasurer reported that the League had spent slightly more than in previous years, costs are ever increasing and track hire becomes a burden for clubs but the League had adhered to the agreed amount to be given back to clubs. All clubs that had not made a claim were thanked. The omission of notes for the item of expenditure "Office equipment" was explained by the Treasurer. This amount was for the purchase of a new computer, photocopier and dictaphone for use by the General Secretary. The League is still waiting for money from Athletics Weekly, and it is hoped that the arrangement, by which they pay for all numbers and Grand Prix trophies, will carry on. The treasurer mentioned the poor interest rate that the League was receiving but because we are not a charitable organisation there is nothing that can be done. Geoffrey Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet) said that as clubs are classed as charitable organisations he felt that the League would qualify as we are a non-profitable organisation. The treasurer replied that although she had looked into it before, via accountancy practices, she would look into it again.

4.2. Adoption of the Accounts. Proposed by John Lunn, seconded by Geoff Morphitis. Unanimously agreed.

4.3. Subscriptions for 2004/2005. The Treasurer proposed that the annual subscription be raised to £80.00 per team. Tony Bush (Harrow) asked a question re the surplus for the year of £915.82. The treasurer replied that the reason for this was that some clubs had not claimed for hosting matches but we cannot assume that this will be the case next season.

Gerald Alterman (Committee.) also pointed out that we would have had a deficit of £4084.18 if it had not received the very generous donation of £5000. The proposal was then passed unanimously.

5. CHANGES TO LEAGUE RULES PROPOSED BY MEMBER CLUBS

Proposed by St.Helens Sutton A.C.

" Any club, invited to compete in Promotion matches, which fails to do so without adequate notice will be excluded from the following seasons promotion fixture".

As there was no representative from St.Helens Sutton at the meeting to propose this motion it was not discussed.

6. **VARIATIONS TO LEAGUE RULES AS PROPOSED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Rules of Competition

2.2. Add "Composite clubs, as registered with UKA, are entitled to promotion".

Jon Lunn (Leeds City A.C.) pointed out that composite clubs are only registered for one year and therefore could gain promotion and then not register the following year. Tony Bush (Harrow A.C.) said that he was concerned that 2 large clubs could compete together to enable them to win the National Final and then go on to represent GB in the European Junior cup. Andy Paul (Birchfield Harriers and UKA) reassured him that this would not happen as 2 large clubs would not meet the necessary criteria.

The proposal was carried 30 votes for with 2 against.

3.2 (new rule) "Composite clubs must compete in the club colours that are registered with UKA. All relay teams must compete in the same vests"

The General Secretary pointed out that this was making official an unwritten rule, just as rule 2.2 was. It was pointed out that UKA rules state that relay teams must compete in the same style of vest.

The proposal was carried with 32 votes for and 1 abstention.

6.4. Add "Non scoring athletes may not progress for 3 further trials. Rule 8.2 does not apply".

The General Secretary explained that this had always been an unwritten rule, but as there had been some confusion over it at one fixture this year the Management Committee would like this rule to be added.

After discussion it was decided to amend the proposal to "Non scoring athletes may not progress for 3 further trials should that lead to the exclusion of scoring athletes"

Proposed by John Lunn. Seconded by Geoff Morphitis.

The amendment was carried with 31 votes for, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

11.1 Match points "All divisions to have the same match point scoring irrespective of the no. of teams competing".

Concerns were voiced regarding small divisions gaining more match points than larger ones. This would be important if the League should go joint scoring. John Lunn (Leeds City A.C) asked the meeting to think beyond the short term. Any anomalies would probably sort themselves out after the first season. The Chairman pointed out that the League structure for 2005 was fairly well balanced and the General Secretary reminded the meeting that this was the system of point scoring up to 3 seasons ago and also administration would be much simpler.

The proposal was carried by 36 votes for, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

11.2 League points "All divisions to have the same League point scoring irrespective of the no. of teams competing."

As this proposal was a logical follow on from the previous proposal no discussion took place.

The proposal was carried with 37 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

16.1 Add "This does not apply to vaulting poles. For health and safety reasons athletes must supply their own".

After a short discussion the proposal was amended to " This does not apply to vaulting poles".

The proposal was carried unanimously.

"The National Junior Athletic League becomes a joint scoring league in the 2006 season".

The Chairman told the meeting that this proposal had been put forward by the Committee as a result of a request at the end of last years AGM when the same proposal, put forward by several clubs, was very narrowly defeated.

Alan Sutton (Enfield & Haringey A.C.) – sees no reason why change is necessary, feels that it would be doing an injustice in not allowing the best men's and best women's team to win and would create difficulties in choosing the teams to represent GB in the European Junior Cup. Asked what the valid reasons were for believing that having joint scoring would make the NJAL any better.

John Lunn (Leeds City A.C.) – in his experience the athletes enjoyed meetings more if they were competing as a "club" rather than 2 separate teams.

Dennis Daly (W.S.E & Hounslow) – the League was first started to help u20s develop as athletes and does not see how going joint scoring will achieve anything. Most clubs do not have men and women's teams of equal status and some clubs will withdraw from the League as they will no chance of promotion.

Tony Bush (Harrow A.C.) – agreed with Alan Sutton. Asked for this proposal to be voted on in parts as clubs may agree on some points and not others. Agreed

Gerald Alterman (Committee) – feels that having joint scoring can raise standards. He felt that UKA would be able to isolate the best men's team and the best women's team - from the National Final – to compete in the European Cup.

Mick Bromilow (Milton Keynes A.C.) – although he represented one of the 12 clubs that had only one team entered in the League, he felt that it was about "Clubs" and not "teams".

Chris Betts (Committee) – felt that it might take a couple of years to settle down. The experience of the UKAYAL was that although clubs may have left the League initially, they are coming back and there has been no suggestion that the League revert back.

Voting then took place on the basic proposal of the League becoming joint scoring in 2006 season.

The proposal was carried with 24 votes for, 11 against and 3 abstentions.

The proposals for 2005 season re joint scoring in 2006 season were then discussed.

Items 1 –3 inclusive taken together.

1. No Division to have more than 8 teams in 2005 season.
2. All Divisions to have the same point scoring structure irrespective of the number of teams in that division.
3. National Final to be as normal in 2005 season – separate men and women teams, scored separately.

Carried unanimously.

4. At the end of the 2005 season both men's and women's scores for each club will be added together regardless of division.

The Chairman told the meeting that it was realised that it would be more difficult for Premier Division teams to gain League points than the Regional Division teams and hoped that we could come up with a proposal to balance it out.

John Lunn – asked if the Committee had taken advice on how the Northern League worked it out when they went through the process. He then explained how it was done.

Tony Bush – said that this part of the proposal was fundamentally flawed as a team winning a lower division is going to have more League points than virtually any team in the Premier division.

Geoffrey Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet) – no decision was absolutely necessary today, let the Committee go away and come back with a new proposal to clubs by January or February. If there then were no agreement an EGM would have to be called for.

John Lunn – Proposal “The Committee shall be mandated to prepare proposals for progression to League Divisions in 2006 and place those proposals before clubs by 1st March 2005”.

The General Secretary told the meeting that there was still time for any club to enter a men or women's team for the 2005 season should they wish to do so.

Chris Betts (Committee) – asked the clubs to send in their suggestions to the General Secretary.

Tony Bush – suggested that all Premier Division teams be given a points total between 16 and 9 according to their placings and teams in Regional Divisions be given points between 8 & 1.

The proposal from John Lunn was then voted on

The proposal was carried with 35 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

5. The Country will be divided into 3 regions for the 2006 season – North, Midland and South – each having its own Premier Division comprising 6 teams.

The Chairman explained that 6 teams in each division was proposed for 2 reasons a) Lack of 8 lane tracks and b) to cut down the length of meetings. The proposal for 3 regions had been put forward to cut down on travelling time for the clubs in the most Northern and Southern parts of the Northern region.

Moir Maguire (Edinburgh Southern Harriers) – Most teams aspired to compete in the Premier Division and it was unfair to the athletes to be given less chance to do so.

John Lunn – It would be more equitable to have 8 teams. The only way to cut down on length of meetings was to cut down on long throws and the only way to do that was by ever-tighter standards of progression especially in the Premier Divisions.

Geoffrey Morphitis – sees no reason to shorten meetings.

Stuart Hall (Committee) – pointed out that there would be 33 clubs in the North, 30 in the Midlands and 38 in the South. If we stayed with 2 regions it would mean that there would be 63 clubs in the North and 38 in the South. The Committee would then have to look at moving the North – South divide.

Andy Paul – although the standard in the Midland Premier would be lower than in the North and South to start with he felt that, in time, it would improve with new clubs entering the League knowing that there would not be as much travelling.

The Committee would have to look closely at how clubs for the National Final were chosen as the Final was intended for the top 8 clubs in the Country.

The proposal was split into 2 parts.

“The Country will be divided into 3 regions for the 2006 season.” The proposal was carried with 27 for, 6 against and 4 abstentions.

An amended proposal was then voted on “Each Premier Division will comprise of 8 clubs” The proposal was carried with 32 votes for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

6 & 7 Were not voted on as this was to be discussed again by the Committee together with item 4.

Alan Sutton – thought that no club who was invited to the National Final should also have to compete in a Promotion match as this was asking too much of athletes.

Mick Bromilow – suggested that there were no promotion matches in the 2005 season and that it is all done as a paper exercise.

John Lunn – said that we should be prepared for an EGM as no matter what proposals the Management Committee come up with they would need to be discussed as they would be very important and likely to be contentious.

The Chairman assured the meeting that the Committee would take on board everything that had been said but also reminded clubs to send in their written suggestions.

7. LEAGUE DATES FOR 2005

The Chairman told the meeting that the dates for next season would be: -

1. April 24th
2. May 22nd
3. June 19th
4. July 24th

Promotion Matches August 28th

National Final September 11th

The 3rd fixture date was very difficult for Scottish and Welsh clubs as their u20 championships had been arranged for the same day. The Committee did know about this and were looking for an alternative date for the Tyne and Severn divisions.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2004/2005

The following officers were re-elected unanimously.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 8.1. | CHAIRMAN | Margaret Grayston |
| 8.2 | GENERAL SECRETARY | Wendy Daniel |
| 8.3 | TREASURER | Grace Hall |
| 8.5 | NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE | Stuart Hall |
| | NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE | Christopher Betts |
| | MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE | Barry Holmes |
| 8.6 | GRAND PRIX SECRETARY | Wendy Daniel. |

There were 3 nominations for 2 Southern Representatives

GERALD ALTERMAN	Shaftesbury Barnet
IAN MURDOCH	Basingstoke and Mid Hants
SHARON HERBERT	Woodford Green with Essex Ladies

Each nominee gave a short presentation and then a secret ballot took place
The 2 elected were Ian Murdoch and Sharon Herbert

The Chairman thanked Gerald for all his work in the past seasons.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The General Secretary asked all clubs to return any forms (filled in) that are sent to them as it makes the administration of the League so much easier.

The League was hoping to put on some women's non-scoring 1500m S/C events. At the present time venues with adjustable barriers were trying to be identified. These events may well also be "open" with the General Secretary notifying clubs in the region of all suitable venues.

Alan Sutton (Enfield & Haringey) – was disappointed that the Chairman had made no mention in her report of the success of the teams who represented GB in the European Junior Cup. The General Secretary answered that the League had no input into this Competition apart from supplying UKA with the names of the winning teams of the National Final.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.50p.m.