

NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALEXANDER
STADIUM, BIRMINGHAM ON SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2005

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

Northern Region David Billiard (Birchfield Harriers), Ann McEvoy (Birchfield Harriers), Frank Gorman (Chesterfield & District A.C.), Dave McQueen (Kingdom Athletics), James Taylor (Kingdom Athletics), Andy Ward (Middlesbrough A.C.) Mark Griffiths (North Wales), Dave Edwards (North Wales), Nicky Mottishaw (Notts A.C.), Nick Reade (Rushcliffe A.C.) Frank Starkie (Sale Harriers), Bob Mills (Solihull & Small Heath A.C.), Trevor Marsh (Tamworth A.C.), Carol – Ann Smith (Tipton Harriers), Marg Cherrington (Tipton Harriers) Alan Johnson (Trafford A.C.), Mary Johnson (Trafford A.C.), Terry Ridsdale (Wakefield & Dist.) (18)

Southern Region Debbie Bull (Cardiff A.C.), Sue Cozens (Cardiff A.C.), Diana Ratcliffe (Dacorum & Tring A.C.), Cathie Woolfrey (Dacorum & Tring A.C.), Alan Sutton (Enfield & Haringey A.C.), Sam Harrison (Havering Mayesbrook A.C), Tony Shaw (Herts Phoenix) A.C., Tony Cheatham (Ipswich Harriers), Mike Oakley (Ipswich Harriers), Geoff Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers), Marian Williams (Swansea Harriers), Bryan Goodman (WSEH A.C), Jan Holst (WG/EL) (13) Total - 39

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Eddie & Jill Gore (Cheshire Tigers), Dick Taylor (Coventry Godiva Harriers), Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletics), Stan Roberts (Liverpool Harriers) Les Williams (Liverpool, Pembroke, Sefton A.C.), Justine Payne (Notts A.C.) Brian Smith (Nuneaton Harriers), Eric Hughes (Sale Harriers) Rob James (Tamworth A.C.), Jim Harris (Trafford A.C.)
Jackie Tobin (Basingstoke & Mid Hants A.C.), Brendan McShane (Blackheath & Bromley Harriers A.C.) Rick Wallis (Bristol & West A.C.), Hilary Nash (Bristol & West A.C.), Craig Dungar (City of Norwich A.C), Marilyn Connelly (City of Norwich A.C.) Gary Capon (Dartford Harriers), Ray Gibbins (Enfield & Haringey A.C.) Tony Benton (Havering Mayesbrook A.C.), Stephanie North (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers), John Smith (Thames Valley Harriers), Graham Howell (Yate & District A.C.)

2. **MINUTES OF THE 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** Proposed by Terry Ridsdale and seconded by Ian Murdoch. Unanimously agreed and duly signed by Chairman.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2005.** COPY ATTACHED

4. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

4.1. Consideration of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2005

Geoffrey Morphitis asked if the Treasurer had been able to sort out anything with reference to the League qualifying as a Community Amateur Sports Club and therefore being eligible for a higher rate of interest. The treasurer replied that she had looked into it in some depth but, unfortunately, we do not come into the criteria. It was suggested that maybe the League could obtain a better rate of interest through the Alliance and Leicester, the treasurer agreed to look into it.

4.2. Adoption of the Accounts. Proposed by Mike Oakley, seconded by Alan Johnson. Unanimously agreed.

4.3. Subscriptions for 2005/2006. The Treasurer threw it open to the meeting for proposals re subscriptions. Frank Gorman proposed no change (£160 per club). He thought that as the League has a surplus of £20000 it would be nice gesture to the member clubs not to raise subscriptions. Stuart Hall pointed out that if we had not had the very generous donation each year the League would be £20000 in the red. It was pointed out that year on year the League is spending more than it is receiving from subscriptions and maybe the surplus should be kept in case it was needed.

Geoff Morphitis proposed an increase to £200 per club. This would enable the League to increase the amount paid to host clubs. The treasurer pointed out that there had been a 53% increase in track reimbursements in the 2005 season.

The first proposal – no increase – Proposed by Frank Gorman and seconded by Andy Ward was then voted on – The proposal was not carried with 4 votes for, 33 against and 1 abstention.

A vote was then taken on the proposal “Subscriptions be raised to £200 per club and the host club reimbursement ceiling be raised to £250.” – Proposed by Geoff Morphitis and seconded by Alan Sutton.

The proposal was carried with 32 votes for, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

5. **CHANGES TO LEAGUE RULES PROPOSED BY MEMBER CLUBS**

There were none.

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

Constitution

- Rule 4.1. Remove words in brackets "doubled for clubs having both male and female teams"
Rule 9.1. Change the word team to club
Rule 9.3. Change the word teams to clubs.
Rule 10.1 (1) Change the word team to club.
Rule 11.1 Remove sentence in brackets. Rule will read, "Each member club shall be entitled to one vote"

Rules of Competition

- Rule 5.6. Change the word team to club
Rule 5.3.1. Remove
Rule 5.5. Becomes 5.4
Rule 5.6. Becomes 5.5.
Rule 11.3 Change the word team to club
Rule 15.6 Remove the words "with the opposite male/female team, and"

The above rule changes all relate to the League becoming joint –scoring and were voted on en-bloc Proposed by Marian Williams and seconded by Alan Johnson. This was carried unanimously.

New Rule 6.2 – Constitution "All claims made to the League for the reimbursement of track hire etc. must be made to the treasurer by 30th September in the year of competition. This does not apply to the National Final or Promotion matches. Copies of receipts must be attached to the claim form."

Follows on that existing rule 6.2. becomes 6.3.

Both proposals carried unanimously

The following are all changes/amendments to the Rules of Competition

New Rule 1.4. "All formal correspondence to the League must be on club headed note paper with the signatures of two Officers of the club"

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed that instead of a separate new rule this could be included in rule 21.1 A vote was taken on this amended proposal and the motion was carried with 32 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

Frank Starkie then asked – as the League would be joint- scoring - whether each club would be having 1 or 2 contacts in the future. The treasurer replied that there would be only 1 nominated contact to receive League information by post but if clubs wished to give the League further email addresses then extra contacts could receive information by this method.

Amendment to rule 2.1. Amend to read, "The number of 2nd claim athletes is restricted to a maximum of 4 male and 4 female per club per match.

There was a certain amount of feeling that the decision should be left up to the clubs themselves to decide and it was proposed by Andy Ward and seconded by Mike Oakley that: -

"The number of 2nd claim athletes is restricted to a maximum of 8 per club per match"
This was not carried with 16 for, and 23 against.

The original proposal was then voted on with the motion being carried with 30 votes for, 2 against and 4 abstentions

New rule 6.5 (5) "Any other age groups are not allowed to compete as either scoring or non-scoring".

It was explained that in the past the League had been asked by clubs to allow u15s and seniors to guest at our fixtures. Some clubs had also used u15s in the matches and then told the Committee that "they did not realise that they were not allowed" The meeting felt that a new rule was not necessary but left it to the Committee to clarify the rules that already exist.

Amendment to rule 10.2 "The bar will be raised at intervals of 5cm until 3 competitors remain. After this, height intervals will be at the discretion of the Field Referee. "

This was passed unanimously.

Addition to rule 12.3 "Add the word email after telephone and before or fax.

This was passed unanimously

The Management Committee wishes to develop the women's steeplechase and as such proposes that: -

"The women's 1500m steeplechase be introduced to the timetable of the Premier Divisions in the 2006 season. One scoring athlete per club. Non-scoring athletes will be allowed."
(This will, hopefully, be extended to other divisions when venues become available.)

It was explained that the Committee could not introduce it to all divisions, as there was still many venues that did not have adjustable barriers. It was asked if clubs in the regional divisions who had the necessary equipment could hold a women's S/C as a demonstration event. This was agreed.

It was queried whether the Moorways stadium (Final venue) had adjustable barriers. Nobody was quite sure but if they were not available another venue would have to be found.

This proposal was voted on and carried with 36 votes for and 3 abstentions with the meeting agreeing to leave the timetabling to the Management Committee.

National Final – The Management Committee proposes that; -

"Qualifiers for the National Final will be the top 3 clubs from Northern & Southern Premier Divisions, the winner of the Midland Premier Division and the final place will be offered to the region that provided the previous years winner

The following amendments were then put forward: -

Proposed by Trevor Marsh (Tamworth) and seconded by Margaret Cherrington ((Tipton) – "Qualifiers for the Final will be 3 top clubs from the North, 3 top clubs from the South and 3 top clubs from the Midlands with the club achieving the least number of points not receiving an invitation"

Proposed by Sam Harrison (Havering Mayesbrook) and seconded by Alan Johnson (Trafford A.C.) "Qualifiers for the Final will be the top 2 clubs from each region plus the next best 2 clubs irrespective of region."

Proposed by Frank Gorman (Chesterfield) and seconded by Terry Ridsdale (Wakefield) "Qualifiers for the Final will be the top 3 clubs from the Northern and Southern areas and the top 2 clubs from the Midland area."

Before voting on the amendments Trevor March withdrew his proposal.

The second amendment was then voted on and carried with 33 votes for, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

Geoff Morphitis pointed out that it would be fairer for a paper match to be done rather than to just go on match points. It was agreed that the 3rd and 4th placed clubs in the 3 Area Premier divisions will, after the 4th fixture, submit the best performances (in 2006 NJAL) of each member of their team to the Secretary who will perform a paper match.

7. LEAGUE DATES FOR 2006

The dates for next season were agreed: -

April 23rd - North and Midland

May 7th - All regions

June 11th – All regions

July 16th – All regions

August 13th - South

Promotion matches August 27th - North and South

Promotion match September 9th - Midland

National Final September 10th

Geoff Morphitis said that he felt that it was time that the League had more parity with other National leagues over dates etc. It was agreed that a successful and growing League should have a choice of fixture dates and not have to accept dates left by other Leagues.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005/2006

The following officers and Committee members were elected.

8.1.	CHAIRMAN	Margaret Grayston
8.2	GENERAL SECRETARY	Wendy Daniel
8.3	TREASURER	Grace Hall
8.4	NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE	Stuart Hall
	NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE	Christopher Betts

MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE Barry Holmes

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE Ian Murdoch

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE Gerald Alterman

The Chairman pointed out that the Midlands had been without a second rep for many years but it was felt that if the Midlands wanted parity in all decisions then a 2nd representative was necessary. Frank Gorman (Chesterfield) offered to stand. He was proposed by Andy Ward, seconded by Nick Reade and was duly elected. It was agreed that the Management Committee would make the decision to co-opt any other person, whom it deemed necessary, to the Committee. It was not an AGM matter.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

It was asked if it was possible not to have 2 long throws timetabled together. It was requested that the question be emailed to the Committee, who would then discuss it at their next meeting.

Alan Sutton asked if there had been any alterations to the League structure since it had been sent to clubs. He also asked how many Composite teams were entered in the League. The General Secretary answered these questions.

Alan Johnson questioned the timing of the sprint hurdles and the 3000m. This would also be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Geoff Morphis thanked the Management Committee for another fantastic season.

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