

NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALEXANDER STADIUM, BIRMINGHAM ON SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT: Management Committee: Margaret Grayston (Chairman); Wendy Daniel (Secretary); Grace Hall (Treasurer); Stuart Hall (Northern Representative); Frank Gorman (Midland Representative); Barry Holmes (Midland Representative); Gerald Alterman (Southern Representative); Sharon Herbert (Southern Representative). (8)

Midland Region: David Billiard (Birchfield Harriers); A.McEvoy (Birchfield Harriers); Hilary Nash (Bristol & West A.C.); Shaun Ainge (Cannock & Staffs A.C.); Debbie Bull (Cardiff A.C.); Nigel Smith (Team CDAV); Marg Cherrington (Tipton Harriers); Marian Williams (West Wales). (8) 7 clubs

Northern Region: Robert Andrew (City of Sheffield A.C.); Janice Kaufman (Gateshead Harriers); Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletics); Doug Gunstone (Kingdom Athletics); Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers); D.Croft (Liverpool Harriers); Jack Frost (Sale Harriers); Jim Goldie (South Lanarkshire Athletics); Moira McGuire (Team Edinburgh); John Dawson (Team Forth Valley); Brian Roy (Team Forth Valley); Brian Donaldson (Team Glasgow); J.Melvin (Team Glasgow); Andy Ward (Tees Valley Tigers); Alan Johnson (Traford A.C.); Mary Johnson (Wigan & Horwich District Harriers); (16) 12 clubs

Southern Region: Glen Fowler (Enfield & Haringey A.C.); Stuart Broadhead (Herts Phoenix A.C.); Geoff Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers); Bryan Goodman (WSEH A.C.); Chris Foy (WG/EL); Graham Foy (WG/EL). (6) 5 clubs

Total – 32 24 clubs

The Chairman asked the meeting if there was any one present that did not want the meeting to be recorded by Dictaphone, permission was given.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Dr. Phil Thomas (St. Helens Sutton); Jackie Tobin (Basingstoke & Mid Hants A.C.); John Smith (Thames Valley Harriers); David Brown (Team Bedfordshire); Mike Oakley (The Saxons); Barbara Shepherd (Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers); Mike Harris (Trafford A.C.); Brendan McShane (Blackheath & Bromley Harriers A.C.); Charles Chadwick (Nuneaton Harriers); Claire Rolewicz (Team Cobra); Mike Duffin (Paddock Wood).

2. MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Alan Johnson and seconded by Arwel Williams.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2008.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

4.1. Consideration of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2008

The Treasurer told the meeting that the accounts had now been audited. No alterations had been made to the ones distributed with the AGM agenda and the League had been given a clean bill of health.

Geoff Morphitis asked about the £45,000 received in this financial year, Grace explained that a cheque for £25,000 which was applicable to the previous season had been received in November and a further cheque for £20,000, applicable for this season, had been received in June. She told the meeting that there was no set routine to these payments as they are sent as and when UKA see fit. The General Secretary had been told by Cherry Alexander that as the NJAL was one of the few competition providers/new initiatives that would not be receiving any of the McCain sponsorship money, the UKA board had been told that funding from them would be necessary and she would do everything she could to ensure that this happens.

4.2. Adoption of the Accounts. Proposed by Geoffrey Morphitis, seconded by Marian Williams. Unanimously agreed.

4.3. Subscriptions for 2008/2009. Copies of the year's budget were distributed. The Management Committee proposes that subscriptions be raised to £260 (£65 per match) and a rebate of £100 be paid to all clubs and composite teams who were members of the League in the 2007/2008 season.

The proposal was seconded by Hilary Nash and passed unanimously.

4.4. Travel expenses reimbursement for 2007 season The Committee proposes to reimburse travel expenses for the 2008 season retrospectively: - 1st 500 miles – no payment; next 500 miles @30p per mile; any mileage over 1000 miles @50p per mile.

It was proposed that there would be a minimum cheque value of £5.

This proposal was seconded by Alan Johnson and passed unanimously.

4.5. Host club re-imburement for 2008 The Committee proposes that, for the 2009 season, the host club re-imburement be increased to a maximum of up to £325.

This proposal was passed unanimously.

4.6. Grant for use of EDM at Premier Division matches. The Committee proposes to continue with Premier Division host clubs applying for a grant – maximum £200 – for the use of EDM / Photo finish in the 2009 season.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

Geoff Morphitis said that he thought that all Premier division matches should provide photo finish. This was discussed but it was felt that at the moment it was not something that the League, for various reasons, could insist on.

5. CHANGES TO LEAGUE RULES PROPOSED BY MEMBER CLUBS

Proposed by Gateshead Harriers

- (1) "The League is restructured to add a 4th Division for Scotland in order to reduce the amount of travel for clubs in the Northern Premier League and Tyne Division"
Seconded by Andy Ward.
After a very lengthy discussion, during which the Scottish clubs present confirmed that they had previously agreed that they would be happy to host only one match in Scotland as long as one was in Gateshead, a vote was taken: - For 6; Against 24; Abstentions 2
- (2) Remove the clause 2.2 "Any club competing in a Premier Division or having gained promotion to a Premier Division shall not be permitted to form or become a composite team" now that half the clubs in the Northern Premier are composite clubs.
Seconded by Andy Ward.
After a short discussion the proposal was withdrawn by Gateshead Harriers.
- (3) Amend clause 2.1 "The maximum number of 2nd claim athletes is restricted to 4 male and 4 female per club" to "the maximum number of 2nd claim athletes is restricted to 10 per club per match".
Janice Kaufmann said the proposal should have read as being 8 athletes and not 10. This was her mistake for which she apologised.
Seconded by Andy Ward.
After a discussion during which it was agreed that this would be almost allowing clubs to form an "unofficial" composite team a vote was taken: - For 3; Against 27; Abstentions 2

Proposed by Sale Harriers

- (1) "The Northern Premier Division to be split into two divisions, with clubs from Scotland forming Division "A" and the English Northern clubs forming Division "B" with the Scottish league winners being allocated a place in the final, effectively reducing the paper match exercise to one team. Automatic placing in the final would then be South 2 places, Midlands two places, English North two places, Scotland one place and a "Paper Match" one place." For implementation in the 2009 season and beyond.
Seconded by Andy Ward.
After a discussion where it was generally felt that the league was a National league and as such travelling would have to be expected a vote was taken:- For 6; Against 24; Abstentions 2
- (2) "The currently proposed Northern Premier League to be split between Scotland and North East clubs which would form Division "A" and the remaining clubs forming Division "B"., both divisions having one automatic entry into the Final, leaving two "Paper Matches" to be decided. For implementation in the 2009 season and beyond. Due to the results of the previous voting this proposal was withdrawn.

6. VARIATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION / RULES OF COMPETITION AS PROPOSED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Rules of Competition

2.1. Change first sentence to "Competitors can either be first claim members of their club or secondary first claim (2nd claim) members whose first claim club is not a member of the league.

It was explained that this was simply a tidying up exercise. Voted for unanimously.

6.2. Delete

6.3. becomes 6.2

6.4. becomes 6.3

6.5. becomes 6.4

The reason for the deletion is that it is a duplication of rule 7.2. Voted for unanimously.

7.2. Change to "Team declarations should be made 30 minutes before the commencement of the match. Changes due to injury should be notified at once and in any case prior to the start of the event. At the National Final, no changes will be accepted less than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of an event."

After a long discussion an amendment to the proposal was made by Geoffrey Morphis and a vote was taken on the proposal for deletion of the third sentence. Seconded by Glen Fowler. This was passed with voting: - For 19; Against 1; Abstentions 12.

A vote was then taken on the amended proposal which was passed with voting: - For 30 and against 1; Abstention 1.

The Management Committee proposes to discontinue the Grand Prix due to a decreasing number of athletes entering. The General Secretary told the meeting that although this was not an AGM issue but a management committee decision she wanted to get the views of the meeting prior to a final decision being made. She explained that over the past 3 years the quantity and quality of the entrants had declined drastically and unless anyone could come up with any ideas to revitalise the competition then it would be dropped. Stuart Hall suggested that maybe it could be run as a league and the top 3 athletes be invited to the Final just to be presented with their trophies. Wendy asked that if anyone had any ideas please contact her prior to the spring committee meeting in January/February where the final decision will be made.

The Management Committee proposes to cease awarding medals to “B” competitors at the National Final. Frank Gorman explained that this had been suggested because often the 4th and 5th “A” competitors have better performances than 1st and 2nd “B” competitors. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to make no change.

The Management Committee proposes to increase the standards for progression in the Premier and Regional Divisions. A copy of the proposed revised standards will be available prior to the commencement of the meeting. This proposal was withdrawn because the General Secretary had done an exercise to see what impact this would have and the Management committee realised that athlete’s performances were not as good as first thought. This would be looked again next year.

7. LEAGUE DATES FOR 2009

The General Secretary told the meeting that she had attended a fixture meeting at UKA offices in January at which suitable dates had been agreed. Since then the London Marathon had changed from April 19th to April 26th, the McCain Jumps and throws fest had been moved from June 27/28th to June 13/14th and the UK school games have been moved from August 29/30th to September 6/7th. These changes will obviously have an impact on the League.
April 26th – for North and Midlands but the Southern divisions would use alternative date(s).
May 24th - This would once again clash with u15/17 area championships but there was simply no other date available.
June 14th – These is 2 weeks earlier than normal but both the territorial and national u20 championships have been moved forward a week. i.e. Territories on June 20/21st and Nationals June 27/28th.
July 26th – at the moment no other national meeting is planned for this date.
Promotion matches 30th August or 6th September – it was decided that we would wait until the McCain YAL had decided which weekend they would use and then the NJAL would use the other.
National Final – September 13th.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008/2009

Frank Gorman and Chris Betts have both decided not to stand for re election.

The following officers and Committee members were elected unanimously.

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| 8.1. | CHAIRMAN | Margaret Grayston. |
| 8.2 | GENERAL SECRETARY | Wendy Daniel. |
| 8.3 | TREASURER | Grace Hall. |
| 8.4 | NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE | Stuart Hall. |
| | NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE | Paul Allan. |
| | MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE | Barry Holmes was nominated from the floor. |
| | MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE | Marian Williams was nominated from the floor. |
| | SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE | Gerald Alterman. |
| | SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE | Sharon Herbert was nominated from the floor. |

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The treasurer had received suggestions for a new system for team declarations. This would involve “dream teams” being declared before the start of the season and being sent into “cyber space”. Changes could be made prior to each meeting and then the declarations could be downloaded on the day by the results team. This was all at the development stage. A short discussion took place and then Grace asked that if anybody had any thoughts on this please email her.

Geoffrey Morphis requested that biscuits were made available with the tea and coffee prior to all further AGMs. This was agreed to.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.55p.m.