

# NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALEXANDER STADIUM, BIRMINGHAM ON SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2007

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

**Midland Region:** David Billiard (Birchfield Harriers); Hilary Nash (Bristol & West A.C.); Shaun Ainge (Cannock & Staffs A.C.); Debbie Bull (Cardiff A.C.); P.Weston (City of Stoke A.C.); Bob Mills (Solihull & Small Heath A.C.); Marg Cherrington (Tipton Harriers); Marian Williams (West Wales). (8) 8 clubs

**Northern Region:** Doug Gunstone (Kingdom Athletics); Jack Frost (Sale Harriers); Moira McGuire (Team Edinburgh); Alan Johnson (Trafford A.C.). (4) 4 clubs

**Southern Region:** Alan Sutton (Enfield & Haringey A.C.); Stuart Broadhead (Herts Phoenix A.C); Tony Cheatham (Ipswich Harriers); Mike Oakley (Ipswich Harriers); Geoff Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers); Bryan Goodman (WSEH A.C); Jean Burgess (WG/EL); Jan Holst (WG/EL). (8) 6 clubs Total – 20 18 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.

The Chairman welcomed Zara Hyde-Peters from UK Athletics to the meeting, who gave a short talk on the competition review and age group changes. This was followed by a short question and answer session. As Zara had an appointment in Manchester later in the day, item 10 on the agenda was brought forward to the start of the meeting.

A vote was taken on the request from UKA for the officers of the NJAL to take part in a National League Forum to look into the idea of forming a National League structure. This was agreed to unanimously

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The General Secretary told the meeting that in the past 2 weeks she had, unfortunately, had major PC problems which consequently meant that all emails and all email addresses had been lost. This meant that the list of apologies may be incomplete.  
Sharon Herbert (Committee); Eddie Gore (Cheshire Tigers); Stan Roberts (Liverpool Harriers); Susan Sayer (North Wales); Dr. Phil Thomas (St. Helens Sutton); Diane Radcliffe (Dacorum & Tring A.C.); Jackie Tobin (Basingstoke & Mid Hants A.C.); Tony Benton (Havering Mayesbrook A.C.); John Smith (Thames Valley Harriers); Keith Perry (Halesowen); Graham Howell (Yate & District A.C.);

2. **MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Tony Cheatham and seconded by Marian Williams.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The Chairman duly signed the minutes

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2007.** COPY ATTACHED

Gerald Alterman (committee) pointed out that the League requested that the results programme as supplied by AW and Glen Reddington – downloadable from our website – is used.

4. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**4.1. Consideration of the accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

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.

The meeting was told that in the previous 2 weeks the League had received a further grant from UKA of £25,000. The League has spent the bulk of the previous £40,000 UKA funding within the remit given to us.

**4.2. Adoption of the Accounts.** Proposed by Hilary Nash, seconded by Tony Cheatham. Unanimously agreed.

**4.3. Subscriptions for 2007/2008.** Copies of the year's budget were distributed. As the funding from UKA had been reduced by 37.5% the Management Committee proposes that subscriptions be raised to £240 (£60 per match) and a rebate of £100 be paid to all clubs and composite teams who were members of the League in the 2006/2007 season. It was clarified by Gerald Alterman that the rebate would not apply to each individual club in a composite team but the team as a whole.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

**4.4. Travel expenses reimbursement for 2007 season** The Committee proposes to reimburse travel expenses for the 2007 season retrospectively: - 1<sup>st</sup> 500 miles – no payment; next 500 miles @30p per mile; any mileage over 1000 miles @50p per mile. Budget £3200 but total has come in at £3180.

It was proposed that there would be a minimum cheque value of £10

This proposal was passed unanimously.

**4.5. Host club re-imburement for 2008** The Committee proposes that, for the 2008 season, the host club re-imburement will stay at a maximum of up to £300. Mike Oakley pointed out that some clubs were not giving adequate lunches and refreshments for officials. Health and safety rules state that drinks have to be supplied. It was agreed that when the Host club packs are sent out prior to the season clubs would be reminded of their duty to officials.

This proposal was passed unanimously.

**4.6. Grant for use of EDM at Premier Division matches.** The Committee proposes to allow Premier Division host clubs to apply for a grant – maximum £200 – for the use of EDM / Photo finish in the 2008 season. There had not been a very big uptake on this in the 2007 season but there had been very good feedback from the fixtures that had used it. EDM seems to be quite easy to get hold of for 1 match per area as the regions have purchased the equipment and have been hiring it out at a reasonable cost. The regions have been trying to standardise the cost of hiring at around £75 which leaves £125 if any host clubs wishes to use Photo finish as well. The proposal was passed unanimously.

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

Proposed by Enfield & Haringey A.C.

“There should be a complaints procedure in place at the NJAL Final which is fair to athlete and official alike. A neutral body/panel should be appointed which removes the onus from officials of having to pass judgement on their own actions. It must be remembered that the NJAL is a development league and it should be incumbent upon officials to apply the rules with commonsense, fairness and understanding rather than a severe and unwavering adherence to the letter of the law.”

Alan Sutton explained the reasons for this proposal. As there was not a seconder no vote was taken.

Geoffrey Morphtis felt it would be a good idea for the committee to discuss the idea of an independent jury of appeal as in due course this could come in if the sport moves to use 1 rule book – the IAAF rule book.

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

Constitution

3.1. Change “UK Athletics” to “the appropriate National governing body.”

This was passed unanimously.

The General Secretary told the meeting that she had already checked English member clubs affiliation with John Temperton of England Athletics and found out that all but 1 was okay.

3.6. Add “and a useable email address” at end of 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

This was passed unanimously.

4.2. Add “and if these fees shall remain unpaid on March 1<sup>st</sup> the club will be excluded from the League for that season.”

The reason for this proposal was that the League Secretary has to waste so much time chasing clubs for their subscriptions - even up to the day of the first fixture of the season.

This was passed unanimously.

4.3. Remove

As this follows on from 4.2. it was passed unanimously.

5.5. Add “and will be expected to attend a minimum of 2 committee meetings a year, the AGM, their regional promotion match and the National Final.”

The reason for this proposal was to enable anyone, who wished to be nominated for a position on the Management Committee, to be aware of their obligations.

This proposal was passed with 24 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Rules of Competition

New 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”

It was explained that the reason for this was to stop clubs or composite teams strengthening themselves once competing in a Premier division. If a Premier division club wished to form a composite team then they would have to reapply to the League under their new name and, if accepted, start again in a regional division.

After a short discussion a vote was taken and the proposal was passed with 23 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

2.2. becomes 2.3. Change “clubs to teams” Add after promotion “but having gained promotion cannot alter its composition”

After a short discussion the proposal was amended to read:-

“but having gained promotion cannot add additional new clubs to its composition”

The amended proposal was passed with 23 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

2.3. becomes 2.4.

2.4. becomes 2.5.

2.5. becomes 2.6.

These were taken en bloc and passed unanimously.

8.2. add “At the National Final and in all Premier Divisions the TJ take of boards shall be set at no less than 9m for women and 11m for men.”

Gerald Alterman explained that the proposal had been put forward to encourage clubs not to put athletes into this technical event just “for a point” and also to encourage improvement. It takes a lot of time to keep changing boards and this would help to keep the meeting moving.

Allan Sutton said that the League could not keep penalising field event athletes. The proposal was not passed with 8 votes for, 17 against and 1 abstention.

8.4. add 1500S/C to events that can be run with "A" & "B" strings together. This was just a "tidying up" proposal. The proposal was passed unanimously.

9.1. Amend to "The minimum starting height, with or without extensions, shall be 2.50m for men and 2.20m for women". The same principal applied to this proposal as to the proposal in 8.2 although this would apply to all divisions. The proposal was not passed with 7 votes for, 18 against and 1 abstention.

10.1. Amend to "The minimum starting height shall be 1.50m for men and 1.30m for women." This would be for all divisions. Geoffrey Morphitis asked if the committee had any statistics to help the meeting make an informed decision. The proposal was passed with 22 votes for, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

## 7. LEAGUE DATES FOR 2008

The General Secretary told the meeting that she had attended a fixture meeting at UKA offices on October 27<sup>th</sup> at which the SoEAA had decided to move the Inter Area match forward by 1 week so as to avoid the NJAL Promotion matches. The second match of the season would once again clash with u15/17 area championships but there was simply no other date available. The Final would be later than normal due to the UK School Games being held on the last weekend of August. As there were no suggestions for any other dates, the following League dates were agreed:- April 27<sup>th</sup>; May 25<sup>th</sup>; June 29<sup>th</sup>; July 27<sup>th</sup>  
Promotion matches 7<sup>th</sup> September and National Final 14<sup>th</sup> September

Mike Oakley asked what the Leagues view was on Field Referees cancelling events due to lack of officials. The Chairman replied that all Field Referees would have the full support of the League.

## 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007/2008

Frank Gorman was seconded by David Billiard. All other nominations had a proposer and seconder.

The following officers and Committee members were elected unanimously.

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
	MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE	Frank Gorman
	SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE	Gerald Alterman
	SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE	Sharon Herbert

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Geoff Morphitis brought up the subject of venues and facilities for Premier Division matches. Although the Leagues rules state that all clubs will be expected to host at least once every two seasons he felt that all Premier Division matches should only be held at venues which had adequate cover for athletes and spectators. It was asked if the venues could be put on the League structure, the General Secretary replied that once she had confirmation from every nominated host club it would be possible. At the present time only 8 confirmation forms had been received.

Clubs were reminded that as from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 all hammer cages must have 7 metre panels and 9 metre gates. Any facility that does not have the correct cage will not be allowed to have a hammer event.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.36p.m.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2006-2007

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to our AGM

*Before I give my report and go through the agenda I should like to welcome Zara Hyde Peters from UK Athletics who is going to explain some of the points from the Buckner report and will be willing to do a short question and answer session*

*Thanks to Zara*

I should like to express our thanks and gratitude to our anonymous benefactor who has made, once more, the extremely generous donation of £5000. This donation allows us to maintain and continue the high standards of our league.

We were given a grant of £40,000 from UKA for our 2006-2007 season. We are really grateful for this grant. Thank you, Grace for all your hard work in keeping our finances in order.

I should also like to convey our thanks to Athletics Weekly for the continued support for which we are very grateful.

This year we had an excellent final and excellent promotion matches. Unfortunately due to the U20s Inter counties being held on the same weekend as our promotion matches some teams were weakened. This should not happen next season

Congratulations to Blackheath and Bromley who won the Final. Their women's team with Enfield and Haringey's men will be representing the UK in the European Clubs Cup next September

Congratulations again to Blackheath and Bromley women who were fifth and Enfield and Haringey men who were fourth in the European Clubs Cup

Congratulations also to all the teams who have gained promotion to the Premier Divisions; - City of York AC, Trafford, Team CDAV, Cannock and Staffs AC, Team Cambridgeshire and Basildon. Well Done!

This season we have had several league records broken which shows how our juniors are progressing and how this league provides the excellent stepping stone for senior competition.

Laura Parker, Enfield and Haringey, twice broke the women's steeplechase record only to lose it to Elish McColgan from Kingdom Athletics.

James Bedford, Kingston upon Hull, the hammer record which was then broken by Alex Smith, Sale Hayley Jones, Wigan Harriers the 200m

Perris Shakes-Drayton wind assisted the 100m and 200m

Jade Ive, Shaftesbury Barnet the Pole Vault

Eden Francis, Birchfield the Discus

Enfield and Haringey broke the Men's and Women's 4 x 100m relay records

You can find more information on our website with which Stuart does such a brilliant job. Thank You Stuart

Congratulations must also go to the Athletics Weekly Grand Prix Winners Amanda Ranger and Chris Scott both from Shaftesbury Barnet. All through the season this event was well supported and contested with a close run final. Once again Wendy worked extremely hard beforehand and on the day for the Grand Prix

We must also congratulate Hayley Jones and Alex Nelson in winning their individual events in the European Juniors Championships in Holland. We are proud that they have taken part in our league, and showing such outstanding promise.

We continue to have new clubs, especially composite ones, entering the league. Once more we are widening the opportunities for the Junior Age Group.

Wendy has done a splendid job of slotting all the teams into divisions and organising venues. No mean feat! Thank you Wendy for your hard work.

At this point I shall ask that hosting clubs check that they have the up to date relevant facilities and if there are any problems to let the travelling teams know in time

Could I also ask that clubs make sure they have their necessary officials as this can lead to chaos on the day and a nightmare for referees and hosting clubs?

If possible it would be so helpful if every club could use our computerised results programme. I do realise that in some cases this may not be possible. It is imperative that all match paperwork must be sent to Wendy. Manual results should also be sent to Wendy who will then convert those results onto our computerised programme to enable all results to be published on our website as soon as possible. All the paper work is checked and the athletes are also checked for the promotion matches and the final as a certain club in the final found out to their cost causing the committee members more work and hassle on the day.

Running our league is never an easy task and we cannot please everyone. We are always open to suggestions to make the league more up to date

On your behalf we have attended meetings with UKA and fought against clashing dates. We like to think we have been successful!

Attendances at meetings to discuss the Buckner Report and new age groups have been and still are on going.

Our league is proud of its achievements in looking forward and giving athletes and the league itself the opportunities to make excellent contributions to our sport.

On behalf of the Committee thank you for all your help, co-operation and support throughout the season which has allowed our league to reach the high standards to which we all aspire.

Margaret Grayston

League Chairman