



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Track & Field Fixtures Meeting
of the Mid Lancs League
at the Lansil Sports Club, Lancaster,
on Wednesday 29th November 2017**

Member Clubs present: Barrow & Furness Striders, Blackpool Wyre & Fylde AC, Burnley AC, Chorley Athletic & Tri, Hyndburn AC, Lancaster & Morecambe AC, Lytham St Anne's RRC, Preston Harriers, Southport Waterloo AC. (9 clubs)
Nick Hume (Chairman), Norman Mitchell (T&F Secretary), Dawn Lock (Cross Country Secretary), Ron Scott (General Secretary).

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H & AC, Steve Armer (Treasurer)
- 2 **Minutes of the last AGM:** The accuracy of the circulated minutes of the 2016 AGM was agreed. Dave Needham (Blackpool Wyre & Fylde) proposed they be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Conor Bennett (Lancaster & Morecambe AC) and carried.
- 3 **Matters arising:** Ron Scott (General Secretary) reported that, in relation to para:

11. Composite team TNC did not in the event join the T&F League in 2017;

12. As Leigh also didn't rejoin the League for T&F in 2017, the 1st fixture moved to Blackpool. The committee expressed their thanks to Blackpool Wyre & Fylde for hosting two meetings. The Secretary also pointed out that, as there was doubt about Leigh's status in the League when the season started, they had remained included in Div'n 1 Female, albeit with no points. So only one team will be relegated for 2018, with two promoted.

16(a) The survey of the League's officials had been carried out in relation to the proposal to bring forward the start time of fixtures by one hour. There had been a 50% response rate with 96% in favour of the change; which was duly introduced for the 2017 season.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the General Secretary for all his work over the year.

- 4 **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Steve Armer, was unable to be present but the financial accounts and his report for Y/E 15 September 2017 were distributed at the meeting. The auditor, Mike Coppin, confirmed that these accounts had been signed off satisfactorily. The report highlighted a net surplus for the year of £2,142 but the auditor cautioned that there were a number of outstanding, as yet unclaimed, facility hire costs. An analysis of actual and estimated income and costs provided a more realistic picture. This showed Cross Country running at a healthy profit and Track & Field running at a smaller loss.

After a brief discussion on the level of guest fees, Dawn Lock (Lytham St Annes) proposed acceptance of the accounts and Treasurer's report. This was seconded by Les Middleton (Barrow & Furness) and carried. As the Treasurer could not be present, it was agreed that any further questions on the accounts should be forwarded to the General Secretary.

It was also reported that the Treasurer remained concerned at the escalating costs of venues. He therefore took the view that an increase in subscription level from 2018/19 was appropriate. His proposal for an increase of £5 for Cross Country and £10 for Track & Field was presented

to the meeting. This was seconded by Les Middleton (Barrow & Furness) and agreed by the meeting.

New subscriptions from 2018/19 will therefore be as follows.

Club size		Annual subs		Annual subs
Under 50	XC	£55	T&F	£60
50 – 100	XC	£80	T&F	£85
101 – 150	XC	£105	T&F	£110
151 - 200	XC	£120	T&F	£125
201 – 300	XC	£135	T&F	£140
301 – 400	XC	£155	T&F	£160
401 – 500	XC	£180	T&F	£185
More than 500	XC	£230	T&F	£235
Composites	XC	£200	T&F	£200

- 5 **Cross Country Secretary's Report:** Dawn Lock, Cross Country Secretary, distributed her report after completion of two of the six fixtures. 35 clubs are competing in 2017/18 and participation levels remain high.

Cuerden Valley attracted 731 runners, split roughly 50/50 juniors and seniors. A slightly redesigned course worked well but it was even more challenging than last year. There were fewer guests at Cuerden Valley and it may be that the change agreed to allow 2nd claim runners will impact on revenue from guests who now run for member clubs. The British Athletics Cross Challenge in Sefton Park, Liverpool, our second fixture, attracted a record entry with 1394 of the 3000 coming from the Mid Lancs League. Sefton Park was probably muddier than it has ever been but provided a great day's cross country running. After a period of paying increasingly large sums, the Cross Challenge was again free to the League. Member clubs pay £1 per head and have the option to pass this on to their members.

The remaining fixtures are at Leigh, Burnley, Lancaster and at a new venue in Ulverston.

The Awards Presentation in April 2017 posed a problem with tickets sold out in advance for the first time. Some clubs were unable to be present whilst others were there in large numbers. A bigger venue or a ticket rationing system is needed for 2018.

Dawn thanked the organising clubs and all the officials.

Acceptance of the Cross Country Secretary's Report was proposed by Nick Hume (Blackpool Wyre & Fylde), seconded by Ron Scott (Southport Waterloo) and carried. The Chair thanked Dawn for her work in organizing the Cross Country League.

- 6 **Track & Field Secretary's Report:** Norman Mitchell circulated his report. Whilst 2017 had been another successful season, there had been continuing difficulty finding enough officials to cover the events, made worse when clashes with other leagues meant a club didn't provide their quota. Overall, however, all events had been covered at all meetings and we managed to complete fixtures on time.

This year, there had been an increase in guest event participation from 70 to 142. This puts extra strain on field officials with some Member Club representatives calling for no guests to be allowed or for a cap to be applied in what is essentially a Member Clubs competition. Guests do, of course, provide a useful income. The League agreed to keep the number of competing guests under review.

Norman congratulated the League winners and thanked all the host clubs, all officials, Steve Armer acting as League officials' secretary, Caroline Smithson and Margaret Crompton for their invaluable work in keying results and Ron Scott for getting the results on the web site on the evening of fixtures.

The Chair thanked Norman for his work in organizing the T&F League.

Acceptance of the Track & Field Secretary's Report was proposed by Dawn Lock (Lytham St Annes), seconded by Les Middleton (Barrow & Furness) and carried.

- 7 ***Election of Officers:*** The following were re-elected en bloc; proposed by Nick Hume (Blackpool Wyre & Fylde), seconded by Paul Burns (Barrow & Furness) and agreed by the meeting:

President: John Procter

Chairman: Nick Hume

Treasurer: Steve Armer

Cross Country Sec'y: Dawn Lock

Asst Cross Country Secretary: Vacant

Vice President: Les Middleton

General Secretary: Ron Scott

Track & Field Sec'y: Norman Mitchell

The Chairman again encouraged Members to see if a suitable person might be found from within clubs to take on the Asst Cross Country Secretary role.

The General Secretary reported that Steve Armer had indicated that he would not be standing for re-election as Treasurer in 2018. It was hoped to manage an orderly transition and clubs were urged to identify likely candidates to take over from him. Steve Armer has served the League for very many years as Treasurer, Medal Meeting organizer and Officials' Co-ordinator. The Chair and the meeting thanked Steve for his contribution to the success of the League.

- 8 ***Election of an Honorary Auditor:*** Mike Coppin was willing to continue as auditor. His appointment was proposed by Nick Hume (Blackpool Wyre & Fylde), seconded by Dawn Lock (Lytham St Annes), and agreed.

After the formal AGM part of the meeting and before the Track & Field Fixtures meeting, the opportunity was taken to present three of the T&F awards which had not been available to present at the Medal Meeting. These were replacement trophies presented by the Chair to Preston Harriers, winners Div'n 1 Women, Lancaster & Morecambe AC, Winners Div'n 2 Women, Hyndburn AC, winners Div'n 2 Men.

In discussion, it was also agreed that the League would, from 2018, additionally provide a small award for the winning clubs to keep.

- 9 ***Application for membership of the League:*** Ron Scott (General Secretary) reported that there were no applications for composite team status in T&F for 2018. However, he had received applications from Radcliffe AC and Carlisle Aspatria AC, previously a member of the Team North Cumbria composite team. Both clubs are likely to have fewer than 50 competing members and the Secretary recommended that they be accepted into the League. In response to a question, the General Secretary confirmed that all applicant clubs are advised of the obligation to provide officials.

Acceptance of Radcliffe and Carlisle Aspatria into the League was agreed by the meeting.

- 10 ***Track & Field dates and venues for 2018:*** Proposals were set out by Norman Mitchell (Track & Field Secretary) and agreed as follows, subject to venue availability.

League meetings -

Saturday 7th April @ Blackburn

Saturday 28th April @ Preston

Saturday 26th May @ Hyndburn

Saturday 30th June @ Ormskirk

Saturday 28th July @ Barrow

Medal meeting -

Saturday 25th August @ Blackpool

- 11 **Classification of clubs and allocation of Field Duties for 2018:** Ron Scott, General Secretary, reported that this was being dealt with by Steve Armer and as he was unable to be present we would need to publish the outcome on the web site when available.

Ron did indicate, however, that without any changes to the club sizes, it would appear that:

‘A’ level clubs would be Blackburn, Blackpool, LPS and Preston

‘B’ level clubs would be Lancaster & Morecambe, Pendle and Southport Waterloo

‘C’ level clubs would be Barrow, Burnley, Chorley, Hyndburn and Kirkby Milers

‘D’ level clubs would be Lytham St Annes

‘E’ level clubs would be Carlisle Aspatria, Kendal, Leven Valley and Radcliffe

- 12 **Duty of host clubs to provide a Clerk of Course:** Ron Scott, General Secretary, reported that, subject to any concerns raised, he would amend the Guidance to Host Clubs currently published on the web site to require host clubs to provide a Clerk of Course (Field). Currently, this task has been undertaken by the Field Referee appointed by the League, detracting from refereeing duties. The local official will be better placed to set up facilities for field events.

The meeting noted the change.

- 13 **Review of Junior hurdles trial in 2016:** Norman Mitchell, T&F Secretary, reported that the trial of sprint hurdles for juniors had worked well and attracted worthwhile numbers with 19 competing at Blackburn and 22 at Preston. A suggestion was voiced that the inclusion of hurdles events was encouraging some juniors to take up the event. After discussion on a way forward, it was proposed to continue with hurdles at two league fixtures a year, in place of relays, and to include the event in the medal meeting, in addition to relays. The meeting agreed.

- 14 **Proposal to allow 2nd claim athletes to compete in Track & Field:** A change to Rule 8 to allow 2nd claim athletes was put by Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton. There was no seconder, however, so the proposal was not put to the meeting.

- 15 **Proposal to clarify the Rule on guests:** Ron Scott, General Secretary, proposed that Rule 21 be amended to read:

*21. Guests can compete in Mid Lancs track & field fixtures, including the Medal Meeting, on payment of an entry fee per event. Guests are taken to be members of clubs affiliated to England Athletics who are not members of the Mid Lancs Track & Field League. Guests will not qualify for a medal at the Medal Meeting. Competition Rules apply to guests as they apply generally. (**change underlined**)*

He explained there was no change here; just clarifying in the Rule what is clear from the medal meeting Entry Form but which had led to uncertainty by some guests.

The proposal was seconded by Dave Needham (Blackpool Wyre & Fylde) and agreed by the meeting.

- 16 **Proposal to provide for a ‘No Jump-Off’ Rule in high jump:** Again, Ron Scott, General Secretary, reported that the high jump was operated on the basis of shared points for a tie for 1st place. But Rule 20 didn’t specify ‘no Jump-Off’. He proposed Rule 20 should be changed accordingly. The proposal was seconded by Steve Boreham (Southport Waterloo) and carried.

- 17 **Review of Rule 14 relating to the provision of officials:** Ron Scott, General Secretary, reported that Steve Armer had been looking at this difficult Rule with a view to making recommendations for change. Ron explained that there were at least three elements that Steve had discussed within Committee and which could be put forward to improve the situation with regard to officials. All changes proposed by Steve Armer (Treasurer) and seconded by Ron

Scott (General Secretary).

- (a) The current Rule requires some officials should be graded. To ensure the proper and safe conduct of Field events in particular, 'graded' should mean 'graded at Level 2'. This is essential for field team leaders. The proposal was agreed by the meeting.
- (b) The largest 'A' size clubs are currently required to provide 5 officials, 2 of whom must be graded. To ensure sufficient graded officials, it is proposed to increase this from 2 to 3 from the largest clubs. The proposal was agreed by the meeting.
- (c) Currently, the small 'E' size clubs are not required to provide any officials. It was felt that this could no longer be justified and all clubs needed to provide people to help run the meeting. The proposal was that 'E' size clubs should provide 1 official. The proposal was agreed by the meeting.

18 **Review of the Field Event programme based on 2017 experience:** Again, this was something Steve Armer was looking at. The League would publish a proposed revised programme on the web site when available.

19 **Future of the Mid Lancs Medal Meeting:** Steve Armer was standing down as organizer of the Medal Meeting. Ron Scott had taken on the role temporarily for 2017 but a new permanent organizer was required. Dave Needham offered to take this on and his offer was gratefully accepted.

Ron also expressed concern at the relatively chaotic presentation of medals at the 2017 meeting and asked, as a grass roots league, whether we really needed formal presentations at all, particularly as it wasn't a championship meeting and the need to pre-qualify meant the gold medallist may well not be the event winner.

The meeting agreed to discontinue presentations with medallists simply collecting their medals after completion of the event.

Ron Scott
General Secretary