

# CHESHIRE TRACK AND FIELD LEAGUE

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013 AT FRODSHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Attendance: George Bunner (President & Halton & Frodsham), Bill Smith (Chairman & Halton & Frodsham), Alan Johnson (Secretary & Trafford), Jean Simpson (Treasurer & Bury), Scott & Rachel Cooper (Salford), Kevin Ranshaw & Alan Webster (Macclesfield), Mike Harris (Trafford), Denise & Bernard Harris (Deeside), Heather Hirst (East Cheshire), Peter & Marian Allen (Halton & Frodsham), Helen Vaughan (Bury), Dennis Wall & Tim Durant (West Cheshire), Christine Dempsey (St. Helens) and Wendy Valentine (Crewe & Nantwich) 10 out of 18 teams

Apologises: George Lawson (Manchester Harriers).

1. Presidents Opening Remarks. GB welcomed clubs to the meeting. He then asked for a few moments of reflection for the sad loss of Vera Duerdin. Along with her late husband Lawson, Vera was instrumental in starting this league way back in around 1974. Since then she has been an influential figure in the formatting of the league over the years. Her loss will be missed by all those who knew her.
2. Chairman. BS re-iterated GB's comments. He felt the season had been successful with just a few issues, which are subject of the questionnaire being discussed later. In last year's meeting it was noted the Peter Allen was ill and couldn't attend. It's good to see him back this year.
3. The minutes of the 2012 AGM were accepted as a true record. The matters which arose will be subject to discussion later.
4. Secretary. AJ read out his report for the season congratulating both Crewe and West Cheshire who won the trophies between them. West Cheshire receiving the U11's trophy and Crewe the rest. In 2013 some results took a while to be sent to the secretary. In fact he pulled one or two of the Cheshire AA website.

There were several complaints during the season, mainly to do with the number of athletes, over running timetable, number of non-scoring athletes and the relays. All these points along with other ideas were the reason behind the questionnaire.

Age groups have raised their head again. The NoE T&F League has introduced a rule which stops U17 Men competing in the throws. This doesn't mean we have to do the same but it will form part of the discussion later as the U17 women's weights are being changed in the rule book.

Thanks to Bill and Jean for their assistance through the season, and also more importantly thanks to you the clubs for making the league what it is today.

5. Treasurer. JS presented the accounts, we made a slight loss last year but funds are that no increase is needed in league fees. If the league provides the numbers, an additional cost will be added to the fees. More on this later.
6. Election of Officers.

Chairman (Bill Smith), Secretary (Alan Johnson) and Treasurer (Jean Simpson) were all re-elected en-bloc.

7. Discussion Document. AJ went through a brief introduction to the responses he had had back. In total 11 of the 18 clubs responded, which is over 50%. From the results, the main issues seemed to revolve around age groups, officials, non-scorers, numbers and field duties. The majority were quite happy with the league structure, travel and scoring system, although all felt the results program needed simplifying.

Age Groups. There was mixed reaction here. Some wanted U11 to U15, some wanted U11 – U15 plus seniors, and some wanted status quo. The timetable seemed to be the main issue along with the number of non-scoring U11 athletes. People felt that to loose U17 men would be a negative step since YDL came into existence.

Club s varied over where their main numbers came from. (U11's or seniors).

Issue was time table. It was agreed that if U17 men's events were combined with the senior men's events, but still scored separately, it would relieve pressure on the time table.

It was unanimously agreed to adopt this idea but also to bring the sexes into line, to have a separate U17 women's event as well. Everyone felt that given the numbers it wouldn't cause issues with the timetable. A revised time table will need to be issued.

Numbers of non-scoring athletes and non-scoring relays. This has been a big issue resulting in matches over running. The survey has shown that clubs would like individual numbers for the athletes rather than a single letter. This will assist in the accuracy of the results. Along with the athletes being declared it was also agreed to ask clubs to declare at the start of the meeting how many relay teams, scoring & non-scoring they proposed to enter. This would mean that, if for instance you had 2 senior men and 3 senior women's relays, they could go into one race, Also spare lanes could be utilised for non-scoring relays.

Officials. Some clubs are simply not providing enough officials and it then falls on one or two clubs to fill the gaps. Along with this, there was an issue at the match at Salford, where due to the lateness of the meeting non scoring relays weren't going to be allowed. This resulted in verbal abuse towards officials, not only from parents, but team managers and other officials. This sort of action cannot be tolerated. The teams present tonight can take this back to their clubs and warn them of the consequences, which could be the threat to remove a team from the league.

On the back of all this BS & AJ will create a letter highlighting the terms of conduct at matches for all teams. This will be available early next year.

Numbers. All clubs were happy to pay extra for the numbers. It was agreed that the unique numbers for each team should be the club letter followed by sequential numbers, for example A01, A02, thru A99, then A100 thru A150. AJ would let the clubs know of a printer so that all clubs could get the same style of numbers. He will contact the printers and see if he can get a standard price for all.

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Field Events. Again it was obvious from the questionnaire that all clubs preferred pre-defined field events for each club.

#### 8. 2014 Season.

a) Dates. The agreed dates are (all Sundays) 11<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> September.

b) Clubs. There is a possibility of a merger between Stockport Harriers & Dash AC. If that goes ahead, the new combined club for structural purposes will fit in to where Stockport is now. There have been requests to enter from Wrexham and Oswestry. Also Wirral turned out at several meetings as guests in 2013. If the merger goes ahead AJ will ask Wirral if they want to take the spare place and the others will go in as guests at venues to suite their geographical position.

c) The draw for 2014 was made and copies printed out for people to see. Venues where then allocated to the matches.

#### 9. AOB Salford Met asked for clubs to ensure that they are paying across the correct amount of money for the athletes entered as in their home match they were quite a bit out of pocket.