

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

MEETING NOTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT SPORTCITY REGIONAL ARENA, MANCHESTER ON WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2013

Those present: Clubs represented and by whom: ABC Runners – Tony Morgan; Altrincham & District AC – Mike Jones; East Cheshire H & Tameside AC – Gary Matthews; Macclesfield H & AC – Bob Lynch; Manchester H & AC – Arnold Bradshaw*, Brenda Bradshaw*; Manchester YMCA – Stephen Hindmarsh*, Jon Paramor, Steve Symons; Middleton H AC – Peter Gilligan*, Roy Lee; Moston & District AC – Lorraine Barlow & Y. Hill; Salford H & AC – Ruth Bardsley*, Julie Laverock*; Salford Metropolitan AC – Jennifer Crowther**; Stockport H & AC – Pete Torrance; Trafford AC – Richard Byers; Wilmslow RC – Nick Bishop*; Officials - George Brockbank; Joan Royle** Judge Recorder. * denotes member of the cross country working group; **denotes official.*

Apologies for absence - Clubs not represented at the meeting: Handforth Wilmslow Alderley – Patrick Grannan; Liverpool Harriers & AC – Arwel Williams; MMU Harriers – Craig Birch; Manchester Frontrunners – Jono Guildford; St Helens Sutton – Christine Dempsey; Sale Harriers Manchester AC – Dave Rodgers; Swinton Running Club – Steve Doxey; West Cheshire – Mike Lamb; Wirral AC – Norman Waterson, Graham Patterson; Officials – Tony Riley/** Referee; Results Service – Graham Fecitt.*

Apologies for absence - Clubs represented at the meeting by others: Manchester H & AC – Debbie Beresford & Ed Fazakerley; Salford Metropolitan AC – Debbie Hulme; Trafford AC – Sue Exon & Jeff Prest; Wilmslow RC – Kate Sutton.

Before the meeting got under way, Trafford AC was presented with the medals for its Third Team placing in Div. One, Veteran Men. Richard Byers accepted the medals on behalf of his fellow winning veterans. *This award had been wrongly presented due to an error in the results which wasn't found until after match day. The error prompted the item on "Scoring" (page 3).*

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks – Bob Lynch

Thanks once again for supporting the League this season. This year, with the increased number of clubs and runners competing, the League has grown even stronger, both in terms of quality of competition and financially. Whilst some of the bigger clubs continue to dominate the team awards, it is still pleasing to see the spread of individual winners and the keenness of competition. We enjoyed good turnouts in all the rounds, which is indicative that runners continue to value the series. However, it must be remembered that, whilst the League remains financially strong, we benefit strongly from the sponsorship by Manchester City Council and Colgate-Palmolive, and of course the small but dedicated army of volunteers who make it happen. Thanks in particular to our secretary, Brenda Bradshaw, the working group, the host clubs, race day officials, announcers, photographers and to Graham Fecitt for the provision of a prompt and efficient results service. This year we have been proactive in providing separate medical support and coordinating this with host clubs. We have also adjusted the awards for the younger age groups to provide a blend of medals and vouchers; whilst for each veteran age group they have been scored separately. Both these initiatives were as a result of requests from last year's AGM. Please feel free to comment and to make suggestions to further improve the League. Offers to help spread the load are always welcome.

As you know I am retiring as your Chair, but will continue to be part of the ongoing League organisation. Hopefully, you will continue to lend your support to competition for the 2013/14 season in roughly the same format and using the same venues.

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 March 2012

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th March 2012 had been posted on the website pre-season and were sent to Club contacts. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Stephen Hindmarsh

The Treasurer presented the Income & Expenditure figures together with explanatory notes. He addressed each item advising that the main accounts show that income equalled outgoings. Bank balance stands at £8,058.38. Income equalled outgoing. Income from affiliation fees was up as was the fee per runner income. Income from guest runners also increased. Income from re-issued numbers was slightly less and the cost of awards was slightly less. Venue hire costs were down whilst first aid costs were up.

The Accounts were accepted and the Treasurer was thanked for his work.

The Chairman asked that the meeting bear in mind that the League's running expenses stand at £5,000+ a year and sponsorship is, therefore, needed.

The Secretary confirmed that the £600 Colgate/B.Bradshaw sponsorship is secure for next season but we await confirmation of the Council's sponsorship.

See AOB for discussion re the medical cover provided this season.

See Affiliation and Entry Fees for discussion re increasing the fees.

Stats for the 2012/2013 Season – Brenda Bradshaw

Competing Numbers and Fees Due sheets had been sent to each Club prior to the meeting. Total race fees due = £1,698.50 (2011/12 £1,553) plus £119.50 (2011/12 £72.50) due from Clubs whose entries did not reach the 75% target of competing against entered. This latter figure showed a slight increase overall at 75.5% of those entered competing (2011/12 75.8%; 2010/11 72.8%, 2009/10 60%). An encouraging point is that the average number of competitors taking part in each race has increased from 445 in the first season to 621 in 2012/13. Last season also saw a big increase in the U11 Girls thanks to Liverpool Harriers joining the League. The following statistics were submitted to the meeting: (1) Number of runners per category per match; (2) Veteran runners split into category; (3) Number of races; Number of runners; Number entered; % competing against entered; Fees due; (4) Number of individuals completing 4 or 5 races.

Election of Officers

Bob Lynch stood down from the post of Chairman but will continue as a member of the Working Group. Nick Bishop expressed his interest in taking on the role of Chairman but wished to leave his decision for one week. As there were no other volunteers for the post, and due to the fact that the Working Group is in place, it was agreed that the League awaits Nick's decision.* The three following appointments were proposed and accepted by the meeting:

-  Treasurer – Stephen Hindmarsh
-  Secretary – Brenda Bradshaw
-  Entries & Affiliations Co-ordinator – Julie Laverock

The Working Group consists of the Officers (as above), Ruth Bardsley, Nick Bishop, Arnold Bradshaw, Peter Gilligan (former Chairman M&D & MACCL), Bob Lynch (former Chairman Cheshire & MACCL) & Tony Riley (former Chairman NWW & MACCL).

**Subsequent to the meeting, Nick Bishop accepted the role of Chairman.*

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Affiliation and Entry Fees for 2013/2014

A discussion took place on increasing the affiliation fee and/or increasing the fee per race. It was felt, however, that, given the surplus income the League has, an increase in either fee is not needed. That decision, of course, is tempered by the fact that we need the same level of sponsorship to break even. It was further agreed, therefore, that the working group will decide whether or not to increase the fee per race if the Council are not able to provide sponsorship. Until the level of sponsorship is known, the fees will remain unchanged*, i.e. £40 per club (*except Host Clubs for whom the affiliation fee is waived*) and 50p per competing runner per race (*see Addendum p.5*). The unused entry fee will also apply, i.e. a fee of 50p per unused entry for any Club not achieving a 75% or greater return on entries. The charge for re-issued numbers will continue, i.e. runners to pay 50p on race day for re-issued numbers.

*It was subsequently found that the provision of race numbers would not be included in the sponsorship from MCC. The Working Group has therefore taken the decision to increase the fee per race from 50p to 75p effective for the 2013/2014 season.

Scoring

The League was asked to ensure that the criteria used for determining the winning team in the event of a tie should be published pre-season and published again with the results of Match Four. This will be done. *This item was prompted following a tie for one of the third team places. It was subsequently shown that there wasn't a tie but it acted as a reminder to ensure the criteria is known.*

Richard Byers (Trafford AC) suggested changing the individual scoring criteria. Rather than an individual being given the position in the race (as we do now), the highest placed individual be given, say, 600 points, next highest placed gets 599, and so on. A possible problem with this method would be applying it to lots of different categories. This will be discussed further by the Working Group.

Awards for 2013/2014

Awards will remain unchanged with the two changes introduced last season remaining in place, i.e. each age group for the veteran age groups being scored separately and the U13s, U15s & U17s receiving a medal with a reduced monetary gift card.

Awards Presentation

This was the fifth year of holding a formal presentation for the Seniors and thanks are again due to Nick Bishop for organising it. Although fairly well attended it was noted that many individual winners did not attend. Nick had produced a montage of some of the photos taken during the season and had also displayed the Roll of Honour.

Bob Lynch said we still need to find ways of making the junior presentations more of an occasion.

A discussion followed about the merits of a presentation and whether we should consider having a presentation evening on a different day. Having the latter would eliminate errors.

It was decided that the working group should give further thought to the presentation of awards.

The Roll of Honour will be updated and posted on the website.

Dates & Venues for 2013/2014

First priority is to use the recommended league weekends. Offers received from Manchester Harriers to host Match One at Heaton Park on Saturday 19th October and St Helens Sutton to host Match Two at Sherdley Park on Saturday 9th November. However, Stockport Harriers

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would also like to host Match Two at Woodbank Park but would host Match Five if necessary. Julie Laverock and Ruth Bardsley will enquire if Salford Harriers are willing to host a Match at Boggart Hole Clough. Dave Rodgers will be asked if Sale Harriers are able to host again at Wythenshawe Park*. In summary:

Match 1 - Heaton Park - Saturday 19 October – Manchester H & AC

Match 2 - Sherdley Park - Saturday 9 November – St Helens Sutton AC *or*

Woodbank Park – Sunday 10 November – Stockport H & AC

Match 3 – Saturday 7 or Sunday 8 December

Match 4 – Saturday 11 or Sunday 12 January

Match 5 – Saturday 8 or Sunday 9 February

**Subsequent to the meeting Dave Rodgers advised that Sale could stage either Match 3 or Match 5.*

Chris Dempsey (St Helens Sutton) in an email sent prior to the meeting said they appreciated the provision, by the League, of portaloos for their fixture last season and would welcome them again in 2013/14. Steve Symons (Manchester YMCA) who kindly dealt with the bookings for Matches Two and Three last year, said he would be willing to book them again for any of the matches requiring them. The League thanked Steve and will advise him as soon as possible dates and venues where portaloos are needed for next season.

Any Other Business

Medical Cover was provided by Manchester Medical Services. As shown in the Accounts, it wasn't cheap and we have to decide whether or not to book them next season. Issues for consideration: (1) the League needs to do more to ensure all competitors know that medical cover is available and that medical emergencies must be reported to the League as soon as possible; (2) host clubs need to provide a map showing where marshals are on the course; (3) the medical team need to advise the League of medical emergencies. Lorraine Barlow (Moston & District) advised that one of their juniors suffered a broken shoulder prior to his race and MMS sent him to hospital. The League was not told of the incident. The working group to discuss further.

Parking Marshal A member of Wilmslow RC asked that a parking marshal be on duty at certain of the venues where parking can be a problem. It was agreed it is a good idea but, as we all appreciate, host clubs priority is to marshal the course. It brings us back to the request made every season that every club, other than host clubs, put one person forward each match to help the host club marshal the course. With the exception of Wilmslow RC who provided two marshals for each match, there were no other volunteers. It was decided that the working group should further discuss this matter.

Boggart Hole Clough – Junior Start – Salford Harriers were asked to make the direction of the start for the Junior races more obvious.

Woodbank Park – Entry Gate – Stockport Harriers are aware of the problems encountered with the entry gate used to access the track area. This is particularly problematic as it could affect access and egress for medical emergency vehicles. The ideal solution is to have the gate manned. This problem will need a resolution.

Woodbank Park – Course – Bob Lynch feels the course has a dangerous part which needs addressing.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.