

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

MEETING NOTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT SPORTCITY REGIONAL ARENA, MANCHESTER ON WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2012

Those present: Clubs represented and by whom: Macclesfield H & AC – Bob Lynch; Manchester H & AC – Arnold Bradshaw*, Brenda Bradshaw*, Debbie Beresford; Manchester YMCA – Stephen Hindmarsh*, Jon Paramor, Steve Symons; Middleton H AC – Peter Gilligan* with apologies from Roy Lee; Moston & District AC – Lorraine Barlow; Sale Harriers Manchester – Dave Rodgers, Joanne Street, Mike Wharton; Salford H & AC – Ruth Bardsley*, Julie Laverock* with apologies from Roy Standring, Pete Budd; Salford Metropolitan AC – Jennifer Crowther**, Debbie Hulme; Stockport H & AC – Pete Torrance; Swinton Running Club – Steve Doxey; Trafford AC – Steve Green with apologies from Sue Exon; Wilmslow RC – Nick Bishop with apologies from Kate Sutton; Officials – Tony Riley*/** Referee; Joan Royle** Judge Recorder.*

** denotes member of the cross country working group; **denotes official.*

Apologies for absence

Sponsor MCC – Ceri Richardson; Altrincham & District AC – Mike Jones; Belle Vue Racers – Christine Barber, Lynda Cheetham; East Cheshire H & Tameside AC – Gary Matthews; Manchester Frontrunners – Jono Guildford; St Helens Sutton – Christine Dempsey - they would be willing to host the second fixture on the proposed weekend but would prefer the Saturday; Officials – David Brown Starter; Elaine Crosdale Judge Recorder; George Tivey Announcer.

Chairman's report for the 2011-2012 Season

The Chairman welcomed everyone and apologised for his absence from the final match at Clayton Vale. He went on: The report this year is somewhat similar to last year. The League again enjoyed a high level of competition from the 27 affiliated clubs, across the five rounds, using the same venues as before.

Fields for the first four rounds were extremely high, with only the icy conditions at the final round curtailing participation. It was great to see over 300 senior men and approaching 200 ladies battling it out in the early rounds, with a sprinkling of guests adding to the competition.

Awards were again spread around the clubs but, as before, team awards were dominated by the most committed clubs.

This year the U11s had the choice of competing in four rounds, with the best three to count. This format worked well and maintained interest to the last day. We will give consideration to how we can provide quicker presentations and better cover for them in the event of poor weather in future.

Thanks to all the host clubs, the working group of officers, race day officials, announcers and photographer and, of course, to the sponsors of the League - Manchester City Council and Colgate Palmolive.

I know athletes just want to turn up and run - but I am pleasantly surprised by the number of individuals who comment positively, and appreciate the hard work that goes into running the League.

The League remains financially sound - but remember the very generous awards, medals and race day prizes totalling £1500 can only be funded by the sponsorship from MCC, CP and the very heavy voluntary commitment from Brenda Bradshaw. None of these must be taken for granted.

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In order to further improve the service we can offer, I have drafted some guidelines of roles and responsibilities when putting on a match, which I would urge you to discuss and adopt. They are designed to improve communication and actions in the event of incidents and accidents. Currently all our fixtures are in parks controlled by councils and open to the public, so it is doubly important that we have procedures in place to deal with any issues. The guidelines are intended to help host clubs and not to put them off volunteering to host matches.

Also on the agenda, is how we score individual awards for vets. My suggestion is treat each age group separately.

Then an old chestnut - awards for the younger age groups should they be vouchers, medals, or a mixture of both?

Finally, we must continue to avoid clashes with other leagues, schools competitions, and championships - so the proposed dates try to achieve just that. Please let us know if there is anything that we need to avoid.

Equally, I would commend you to consider volunteering for a role yourself - the more we spread the load the better and to provide continuity for the future.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 March 2011

Notes of the meeting held on the 30 March 2011 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 one outstanding affiliation fee had now been received and all race fees for the 2010/11 Season have been paid. The bank balance at the last AGM was £6,774.33 whilst the balance this year is £7,702.47. He advised that the League, assuming venue charges are received, costs just under £5,000 per Season. He invited questions. *Steve Symons/Manchester YMCA Harriers* volunteered to source portals should they be needed in future – this offer was gratefully received. *Nick Bishop/Wilmslow RC* asked if we have a contingency plan should the sponsorship cease. *The Chairman* advised no, but pointed out that we do have sufficient funds to keep the League going whilst new sponsorship was sought. He asked if Nick had a source in mind. *Nick* has but preferred not to discuss it until the need arises.

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

Arnold Bradshaw/Manchester H & AC proposed we accept the accounts and give our thanks to the Treasurer. *All agreed.*

Stats for the 2011/2012 Season – Brenda Bradshaw

Competing Numbers and Fees Due sheets were available for each Club. Total race fees = £1,553 + £72.50 due from Clubs whose entries did not reach the 75% target of competing against entered. This latter figure again showed an improvement with 75.8% of those entered competing (last season 72.8%, previous season 60%).

The following statistics will be submitted to clubs by email within the next few days: (1) *Number of runners per category per match*; (2) *Veteran runners split into categories*; (3) *Number of races*; *Number of runners*; *Number entered*; *% competing against entered*; *Fees due*.

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Election of Officers:

The following appointments were proposed and accepted by the meeting:

- 🏆 Chairman – Bob Lynch
- 🏆 Treasurer – Stephen Hindmarsh
- 🏆 Secretary – Brenda Bradshaw
- 🏆 Entries & Affiliations Co-ordinator – Julie Laverock

However, Bob said this would be his last year as Chairman.

The Working Group will continue to operate and consists of the Officers (as above), Ruth Bardsley, Arnold Bradshaw, Peter Gilligan & Tony Riley. The Secretary proposed that Nick Bishop join the Working Group. Agreed.

Affiliation and Entry Fees for 2012/2013

Jennifer Crowther/Salford Met thought the affiliation fee should be increased taking the view that it's better to increase a little at a time when it's not needed rather than have a big increase; *Nick Bishop/Wilmslow* felt that, given the surplus income the League has at present, an increase would not be justified. The Treasurer and the rest of the meeting were in agreement that the fees should remain unchanged, i.e. £40 per club (*except Host Clubs for whom the affiliation fee is waived*) and 50p per competing runner per race. 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.

Roles & Responsibilities of putting on a match

As mentioned by the Chairman in his opening remarks, in order to further improve the service the League can offer, he has drafted some guidelines of roles and responsibilities when putting on a match. They are designed to improve communication and actions in the event of incidents and accidents. Currently all our fixtures are in parks controlled by councils and open to the public, so it is doubly important that we have procedures in place to deal with any issues. The guidelines are intended to help host clubs and not to put them off volunteering to host matches. *Peter Gilligan/Middleton H AC* said there is a very good handbook that covers everything a race organiser needs to do. *Ruth Bardsley/Salford H&AC* suggested that the League book Manchester Medical Services and agreed to look into this. *Dave Rodgers/Sale H. Manchester* asked who has responsibility in the event of "incidents". *The Chairman* advised that it is the Referee's responsibility.

Scoring for Senior & Veteran Categories

Bob Lynch/Macclesfield asked that we look at how we score individual awards for vets and suggested that we treat each age group separately. *The Secretary* to contact *Graham Fecitt* to see if this is feasible.

Awards for 2012/2013

The question of medals versus prizes was discussed. It was agreed that it just isn't possible to please everyone. It was suggested we give a reduced prize plus a medal to the U13s to U17s with U11s remaining as medals only. A complaint from a Veteran athlete that he would prefer a medal to a prize was discussed but it was decided to stay with prizes (although it was

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decided that a few additional medals could be purchased). *BB* pointed out that it's a League competition predominantly for teams and that individual awards are a bonus.

Awards Presentation 2012/2013

Thanks are due to Nick Bishop for all his work in organising the Senior Presentation. This was the fourth year of holding a formal presentation and it was well attended, though not by all the winners. Harry Shakeshaft of HSphotos provided Nick with photographs taken during the season and Nick produced a great montage.

As mentioned in his opening remarks, Bob Lynch said we will give consideration to ways of providing quicker presentations and better cover for the U11 to U17 award winners in the event of poor weather in future.

Dates & Venues for 2012/2013

Going with the suggested dates: Manchester volunteered to stage Match One at Heaton Park on the Saturday; St Helens Sutton, though not at the meeting, had said they were happy to stage Match Two at Sherdley Park on the proposed weekend but would prefer the Saturday; Sale offered to stage Match Three on the Saturday at Wythenshawe Park; Stockport were happy to stage a match but don't want to do Match Four. As there was no word from East Cheshire on staging a match at Clayton Vale, Salford volunteered to step back in with a match at Boggart Hole Clough. As Stockport can't do Match Four it was agreed that Salford take Match Four and Stockport Match Five. This would also solve the problem of providing cover for the U11 to U17 award winners. However, it would mean finding a new venue for the Senior Presentation but Nick Bishop was confident this could be done. Thus the following dates and venues were agreed:

Match 1 - Heaton Park - Saturday 20 October – Manchester H & AC

Match 2 - Sherdley Park - Saturday 10 November – St Helens Sutton

Match 3 – Wythenshawe Park - Saturday 1 December – Sale H Manchester & AC

Match 4 – Boggart Hole Clough - Sunday 13 January – Salford H & AC

Match 5 - Woodbank Park - Sunday 10 February – Stockport H & AC

Host Clubs were asked to let the Secretary know when the venues were booked and the cost of hire as soon as possible.

Any Other Business

Representatives of clubs present were asked to collect awards that hadn't been collected on race day.

George Tivey sent his thanks to all concerned for their sympathy and kind wishes following the death of his son.

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