

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WILMSLOW RUGBY CLUB, KINGS ROAD, WILMSLOW ON FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2017

Those present - Clubs represented and by whom: **Altrincham & District AC** – Alan Barlow**, Mike Jones & Mike Welford**; **Chorlton Runners** – Valerie Brennan, Helen Stevens, Alison Wainwright & Neal Wainwright; **Goyt Valley Striders** – James Hobson; **Hyde Village Striders** – Samantha Hartley & Dominc Sexton; **Knutsford Tri Club** – Andy Dines, John Goggins; **Macclesfield H & AC** – Rob Hasler; **Manchester H & AC** – Debbie Beresford, Arnold Bradshaw*/**, Brenda Bradshaw**, **Manchester Tri Club** – Sonia Harris; **Manchester YMCA Harriers** – Stephen Hindmarsh*, Stephen Symons; **Marple Runners** – John Bailey; **St Helens Tri Club** – Liz Spensley attending on behalf of Matt Shillabeer; **Sale Harriers Manchester AC** – Dave Marsh, Dave Rodgers; **Salford H & AC** – Kate Cammish, Julie Laverock*; **Swinton Running Club** – Steve Doxey; **Trafford AC** – Sue Exon; **Vale Royal AC** – Colin Rathbone & Carole Williams; **Wilmslow RC** – Nick Bishop*, Trevor Faulkner & Andy Watts*; **Wirral AC** – Norman Waterson. [33;18 Clubs]

Officials – Carol Brown & David Brown CBE. **Photographer** – Harry Shakeshaft.

Apologies for absence from Clubs not represented: **East Cheshire H & Tameside AC** – Gary Matthews; **Glossopdale Harriers** – Kirsty Johnson; **Liverpool H & AC** – Arwel Williams; **Middleton H AC** – Peter Gilligan; **St Helens Sutton AC** – Helena McGoldrick; **Salford Metropolitan AC** – Jennifer Crowther** & Debbie Hulme; **Stockport H & AC** – Pete Torrance. [7 Clubs]

Apologies for absence from individuals whose clubs were represented: Helen Armitage – **Sale H Manchester AC**; George Lawson – **Manchester H & AC**; Bob Lynch* – **Macclesfield H & AC**; Jeff Prest – **Trafford AC**; Matt Shillabeer – **St Helens Tri Club**; Helen Armitage, Mike Wharton – **Sale H Manchester**; Pete Budd – **Salford H & AC**; Jeff Prest – **Trafford**.

Apologies for absence from Officials: Dave Crosdale, Elaine Crosdale, Mike Wolfendale; **Announcer** – George Tivey.

Clubs not represented: **Belle Vue Racers**; **Bramhall Runners**; **Buxton AC**; **Dragons RC (Sale)**; **Halton & Frodsham H.**; **Horwich RMI H & AC**; **Manchester Frontrunners**; **Manchester Metropolitan University**; **Stockport Tri Club**; **University of Manchester AC**; **Warrington AC**; **Warrington Tri Club**; **West Cheshire AC**; **Winston Runners**. [14 Clubs]

[*denotes member of the Working Group; **denotes Official]

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks – Nick Bishop

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He spoke of the new format of holding the AGM and the Presentations on the same evening, of the new venue used for Match Four, of the Clubs who affiliated for the first time and the conclusion of a successful season. Of the latter he said that success presents challenges, that help is needed on match day particularly with course set up and marshalling. The new venue produced a great collaborative effort with several clubs giving their time. Many thanks to our Sponsors - Run North West, Athlete Matters and Colgate-Palmolive – and for assistance from Forever Manchester and City of Manchester Athletics. He thanked the Officials for their continued and much valued support. He again pointed out that they may not wish to carry on indefinitely and we need to get more officials on board. He also thanked his colleagues on the Working Group.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th March 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2016 had been posted on the website pre-season, were sent to Club contacts both pre-season and pre-meeting and copies were available at the meeting. Dave Rodgers of Sale Harriers Manchester proposed acceptance of them as a true record and Trevor Faulkner of Wilmslow RC seconded. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report – Stephen Hindmarsh

The Treasurer presented the Income & Expenditure figures together with explanatory notes. He advised that, as of today, we have a healthy balance. The aim is to break even, not to make a profit. We do have a slight loss of £80.34. He highlighted a few items – sponsorship at £2,461.00 against £3,225.00 last season

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so £764 less. We have £1000 from Run North West, £500 from Athlete Matters, £600 from Colgate-Palmolive and £361 from Forever Manchester. Without sponsors we couldn't run the League. Venue expenses shot up this season and it's expected that they will stay at this higher level. Whilst Note 4 gives trophies at £210.53, payment for medals won't be made until next month as we await final delivery of the initial order. This will be for £1600/£1700 but covers two seasons.

Julie Laverock (Salford + Working Group) queried total for Note 4 Awards. The Treasurer said it was a typing error (M&S Gift Cards should read £1,745.00 not £1,945.00). The Secretary added that the cost of the medals included a one-off set-up charge as we now have a bespoke medal.

Safeguarding Policy – Stephen Hindmarsh

This was prompted by conditions imposed by Forever Manchester who assisted us in the purchase of a bespoke medal. The Policy needs to be in place for next season. A draft policy had been circulated and Stephen asked that comments or amendments be sent to the Secretary within the next 14 days. *David Brown CBE, the League's Starter, advised his satisfaction with the Policy. (As a member of the Welfare Team of UKA, David's opinion is of great value.)*

Election of Officers

Peter Gilligan has reluctantly decided to step down from the Working Group due to family commitments. As the other incumbents are willing to stand again, and in the absence of any other nominations for the posts, there is no change to the Officers who are:

- ✚ Chairman – Nick Bishop
- ✚ Secretary & Entries – Brenda Bradshaw
- ✚ Treasurer – Stephen Hindmarsh
- ✚ Affiliations – Julie Laverock

The Officers are aided by Arnold Bradshaw and Bob Lynch who complete the Working Group. *Dave Rodgers proposed the acceptance of the Working Group and the proposal was seconded by Sue Exon and accepted by all present.* Nick Bishop paid tribute to Peter Gilligan for his help in creating the League and his commitment over the last ten years.

Sponsorship for 2017/18 – Nick Bishop

The continuance of current sponsorship and seeking new sponsorship are important aspects of the League. Support usually comes as a result of personal recommendation. If anyone present thinks they know someone who could be interested in sponsoring the League please let us know. Nick and Stephen will gladly follow up any such recommendations.

Affiliation and Entry Fees for 2017/2018

The proposal to increase the fee per runner per race from 75p to £1 was discussed. The Treasurer had pointed out the pressures in his report as a result of increased expenses and falling income and advised that the proposed increase would help plug the gap. A vote carried the proposal unanimously. Other fees will remain the same. Thus: the affiliation fee per club is £40 (*except Host Clubs for whom the affiliation fee is waived*); fee per runner per race £1; unused entry fee per unused entry for Clubs not achieving a 75% or greater return on entries 50p. Re-issued numbers on match day £1.

No Entries on the Day? – Julie Laverock

The case was put that we cease accepting entries on the day. Dave Rodgers and David Marsh of Sale spoke against the idea saying that it isn't always possible to know before match day that members are ready to compete whilst Debbie Beresford of Manchester thinks the facility for adding to the list mid-week prior to match day is fine. Following discussion, Debbie Beresford proposed that we put the suggestion to the vote. The majority voted to try it so there will be no match day entries next season. Every opportunity will be taken to ensure that everyone is aware of this including guests. Concern was expressed that the 5:30 pm cut off on the Wednesday prior to match day effectively meant Tuesday cut off. Brenda said she would extend the cut off to 5:30 pm on the Thursday.

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Dates & Venues for 2017/2018

It was agreed that, subject to hosts and venues being available, the recommended dates for league matches will be used. Manchester, Sale, Salford and Stockport are again willing to host a Match. Manchester would prefer Match One as they have been asked to host the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships at Heaton Park on the 6th January 2018. Salford would like either Match One or Match Two. Sale would prefer Match One as it is usually a drier time of year and it appeases the other park users as the course damage is generally less. Stockport said they will fit in although an attendee thought that they wouldn't want the December fixture as it falls on the same weekend as their 10 Mile Road Race. It was thought that the new venue at the University Playing Fields/Kenworthy Woods should be used again although some course changes will be needed and thought needs to be given to parking. Following discussion and subject to venues being available, the following was agreed:

Match 1 – Heaton Park – Saturday 14 October – Manchester H & AC

Match 2 – Boggart Hole Clough - Saturday 11 November – Salford H & AC

Match 3 – Univ/Kenworthy - Saturday 2 December – *to be advised*

Match 4 – Woodbank Park – Saturday 13 January – Stockport H & AC

Match 5 – Wythenshawe Park – Saturday 10 February – Sale H Manchester AC

Steve Symons (Manchester YMCA) kindly said he would again book, deliver and collect portaloos for the venues needing them.

Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:30 pm.