

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT SPORTCITY REGIONAL ARENA, MANCHESTER ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2016

*Those present - Clubs represented and by whom: Altrincham & District AC – Mike Jones, Mike Welford**; Belle Vue Racers – Christine Barber; Chorlton Runners – Helen Stevens, Neal Wainwright; East Cheshire H & Tameside AC – Gary Matthews; Glossopdale Harriers – Kirsty Johnson; Macclesfield H & AC – Bob Lynch*; Manchester H & AC – Debbie Beresford, Arnold Bradshaw*/**, Brenda Bradshaw*/**, George Lawson**; Manchester YMCA Harriers – David Ashton, Stephen Hindmarsh*, Stephen Symons; Middleton H AC – Peter Gilligan*, Craig Sutherland; Sale Harriers Manchester AC – Dave Rodgers, Katie White; Salford H & AC – Julie Laverock*, Jackie Mason; Salford Metropolitan AC – Jennifer Crowther**, Debbie Hulme; Stockport H & AC – Pete Torrance; Swinton Running Club – Steve Doxey; Trafford AC – Jeff Prest; Wilmslow RC – Nick Bishop*, Trevor Faulkner; University of Manchester CCC – Dowan Kwon; Official – Joan Royle. [30;17 Clubs]*

Apologies for absence from Clubs not represented: MMU – Samantha Bell; Manchester Frontrunners - Jono Guildford; Liverpool H & AC - Arwel Williams; Vale Royal – Colin Rathbone; Wirral AC – Norman Waterson; Officials – Dave Crosdale, Elaine Crosdale.

Apologies for absence from individuals whose clubs were represented: Val Brennan – Chorlton Runners; Mike Wharton – Sale H Manchester; Pete Budd – Salford; Sue Exon – Trafford.

Clubs not represented: Bramhall Runners, Dragons RC (Sale), Halton & Frodsham H., Horwich RMI H & AC, Hyde Village Striders, Knutsford Tri Club, Manchester Triathlon Club, Ribble Valley AC, St Helens Sutton AC, St Helens Tri, Warrington AC, Warrington Tri Club, West Cheshire AC.

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

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks – Nick Bishop

Good evening everyone, a very warm welcome, and thank you for attending the League's AGM. I do hope that you find attending useful, if no more than you leave a little wiser about the running of the League and with an awareness of help needed. With a number of actions needed come race day, my ability to spectate is limited. That said, the atmosphere always appeared excellent and the competition strong. Race days were busy affairs and Brenda will tell you more about the exact numbers in just a few moments. Suffice to say that nothing happens by magic and new blood in the form of helpers is always needed to ensure the continued success of the League... at worst to even have a League! What you see, and enjoy come race day, is the result of the hard work of an excellent committee (Brenda, Arnold, Bob, Stephen, Julie & Peter) to whom I am, as always, very appreciative.

We are also very grateful to host clubs and to the volunteer marshals. Similarly to all of our officials who, match on match and in all elements, carry out their roles both professionally and diligently. For me this is an area that we need to focus on. Without officials we cannot stage an event. This is covered within the Agenda.

Stephen will take you through the accounts which, on face value, appear in a healthy state. We do just about break even, or operate at a small loss. The League could not exist without the support received from sponsors - lead sponsor Apteco (Rob Downs), City of Manchester Athletics, The Waters Wilmslow Half Marathon, Colgate Palmolive's Dental Health Unit and, delighted to add, Athlete Matters (Duncan & Jackie Mason of Salford H & AC). Sponsorship is not large, and we are always keen to talk to organisations who may have an interest in being associated with the League.

For the eighth successive year we staged a Senior Presentation, held in the Courtyard Café, as soon as practical after the final race. In addition to the athlete awards, two other prizes were given. The League Special Merit Award was given to Debbie Beresford of Manchester H & AC. Four other nominations were received from clubs. A raffle also took place for two pairs of Ground Control fell shoes, donated by Running Bear of Alderley Edge.

A new League website was introduced (maccl.co.uk). This was run in tandem with the existing website but, as of the new season, it will become the sole site. To keep up with modern media, a Twitter account

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

was introduced and managed by Julie Laverock - a fast way of getting information to the public. Some 20% of those that run in the League are now following the League on Twitter.

Thank you again for your continued support. It's both a pleasure and also an honour to be able to offer my support as League Chairman.

The League is in good shape and October will be upon us more quickly than you know it! Thank you.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th March 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th March 2015 had been posted on the website pre-season and were sent to Club contacts both pre-season and pre-meeting. They were accepted as a true record.

Treasurer's Report – Stephen Hindmarsh

The Treasurer presented the Income & Expenditure figures together with explanatory notes and went through all the items. He concluded that the balance is good with an excess income over expenditure of £101.57. He drew attention to: Note 5 - invoices for venue hire for Heaton Park, Boggart Hole Clough and Wythenshawe Park have not been received. If we do receive invoices they will have to be shown in next season's accounts. Portable toilets were used at four venues and he thanked Steve Symons for his part in booking the toilets and for transporting and setting them up. Note 7 - there's a one-off charge for the purchase of base maps which Julie used to produce the course maps; a new tent was purchased for registration – again a one-off payment.

Mike Welford (Altrincham) queried payments to a photographer who could be making money from his photography business. The Chairman felt that the fee paid was not excessive, the benefit to the League was great and the photographer made very little, if any, money from sales.

Stats for the 2015/2016 Season – Brenda Bradshaw

A list of award winners and the roll of honour for 2015/2016 together with the roll of honour for the League from its start in 2006 to the present had been sent to club contacts and posted on both websites (23 Feb.16).

The following statistics were not available for the meeting and will be emailed to club contacts in due course: competing numbers and fees due; number of runners per category per match; veteran runners split into category; number of races; number of runners; number entered; % competing against entered; fees due; number of individuals completing 4 or 5 races. [Subsequently emailed to club contacts and posted on the websites 27/3/16 a breakdown shows the following: Total race fees due £2,902.50 (2014/15 £2,869.50; 2013/14 £2,877.00; 2012/13 £1,698.50; 2011/12 £1,553) plus £256.00 (2014/15 £220.00; 2013/14 £114.00; 2012/13 £119.50; 2011/12 £72.50) due from Clubs whose entries did not reach the 75% target of competing against entered – overall 71% of those entered actually competed (2014/15 70.3%; 2013/14 76.9%; 2012/13 75.5%; 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 continues to rise with 780 in 2015/16 (765 2014/15; 695 2013/14; 621 2012/13; 583 2011/12; 512 2010/11; 466 2009/10; 445 2008/09). [See attachment for full stats.]

Election of Officers

As the incumbents were willing to stand again, and in the absence of any other nominations for the posts, there is no change to the following:

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

The Officers are aided by Arnold Bradshaw, Peter Gilligan and Bob Lynch who complete the Working Group. *Proposed by Jennifer Crowther, seconded by Mike Jones.* Nick spoke of the importance of succession planning both for the working group and for the officials.

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Officials .. and Helpers .. and Marshals

As mentioned in the Chairman's opening remarks, we can't put a match on without officials. We're fortunate in the officials we have but we recognise the need to have more. Clubs are therefore asked to see if they have any officials who may be interested in officiating or members who would be interested in assisting the officials. We would also like an extra pair of hands on registration.

Non-host clubs provide a volunteer to assist hosts with marshalling duties and this initiative has proved invaluable. Hosting falls on just five clubs and, whilst additional marshals are a big help, assistance with course marking and taking up the course would also be a great help. Perhaps clubs could, therefore, consider helping or perhaps co-hosting a match?

Jennifer Crowther put Salford Met's timekeeper, Alan Dawson, forward. Action: Brenda to follow up.

Bob Lynch raised the role of Safety Officer, a position he currently holds but wishes to relinquish. Paul Sanders of Wilmslow has been accompanying Bob and may be persuaded to take on the role. **Action:** Nick to follow up.

Medical Cover

Julie Laverock reported that Jigsaw had relatively little to do over the season. There had been a problem with their timekeeping at Match 3 as they arrived late but Julie's qualification to provide medical cover meant the match could start without them. New guidelines meant Jigsaw were not allowed to provide the League with details of those seeking medical help which meant we weren't able to follow up incidents with the relevant clubs. This was partly resolved by asking them to report the runner's number and colour code but, of course, that's only possible if the runner is wearing their number and doesn't help if it's a spectator. Julie also had to transcribe one of the reports which was written in typical medical handwriting! Julie will liaise with Jigsaw to ensure we get the service we require.

Sponsorship for 2015/16

As mentioned in the Chairman's opening remarks, we are always keen to talk to organisations who may have an interest in being associated with the League. The sponsorship from Manchester City Council has now come to an end.

Race Scheduling – Junior Race

It was generally felt that the changes to the junior race schedule were successful. However, the changes have resulted in a gap between the U17's and the Women's race and it was suggested that the Women's race could start ten minutes earlier, i.e. at 1:30 pm. *The meeting agreed and the time change will be implemented next season.* A brief discussion had been held on the merits of shortening the match programme by running the men's race earlier but it was generally agreed that a start time change for the men would probably be the cause of too many men missing the race.

Race Scheduling – Men

A discussion was held on whether to allow slower runners, **if they wish**, to run with the women, i.e. a shorter distance or, **if they wish**, to run a shortened Men's race, i.e. two laps of a three lap course. It was agreed that Club's should give this option to those of their members who they thought might be interested. In either event: they would not count for their team; they would not be eligible for any awards; they would have to state their intention prior to the race; having taken one of the options at one match, they could opt to return to the full Men's race at another match. **Action:** working group to devise workable system regarding entries.

Affiliation and Entry Fees for 2016/2017

Taking the advice of the Treasurer it was agreed there would be no change to the fees with the exception of re-issued numbers. Thus: affiliation fee per club £40 (*except Host Clubs for whom the affiliation fee is waived*); fee per runner per race 75p; unused entry fee per unused entry for Clubs not achieving a 75% or greater return on entries 50p. Re-issued numbers on match day to be increased from 50p to £1.

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Divisions – Senior & Veteran Teams

The changes to the divisional structure were deemed to have been successful. Dave Ashton of Manchester YMCA spoke highly of the initiative saying that it had encouraged their members to continue to turn out in the latter matches. It was agreed to keep the structure. However, it was felt that the first three teams competing in the top divisions only (Division One) should receive medals whether or not all ten teams in the Division qualify and not be based on the number of qualifying teams. The meeting agreed.

Awards for 2016/2017

Currently M&S gift cards are used whilst medals and trophies are sourced from Running Imp International. Brenda asked if there was any interest in having a bespoke medal. There is an interest so options/costs will be looked at. **Action: Brenda**

Dates & Venues for 2016/2017

It was agreed that, subject to hosts and venues being available, the recommended league dates will be used. Trevor Faulkner (Wilmslow) asked if matches could be held on Sundays. Discussion followed and opinions given. The majority preferred Saturday with Sundays being the preferred day for long runs.

Manchester, Sale, Salford and Stockport all expressed their willingness to host again but we haven't heard from St Helens Sutton. Stockport are not able to host an early match as work on a new clubhouse will be in hand. They volunteered to host Match Five. Salford hosted Match Three last season but requested an earlier match. As Boggart is thought to be too small to accommodate the numbers that compete in match one it was agreed that they host match two. Manchester would like to host match one. Sale said they could host match three. St Helens Sutton will be asked if they will host match four.

Taking the above into account and using the recommended League dates, the following was agreed, subject to St Helens Sutton's agreement and venues being available:

Match 1 – Heaton Park – Saturday 15 October – Manchester H & AC

Match 2 – Boggart Hole Clough - Saturday 12 November – Salford H & AC

Match 3 – Wythenshawe Park - Saturday 3 December – Sale Harriers Manchester AC

Match 4 - Sherdley Park – Saturday 14 January – St Helens Sutton AC

Match 5 - Woodbank Park – Saturday 11 February – Stockport H & AC

Host Clubs to let the League know as soon as the venues are booked and confirmed.

Update: whilst dates remain unchanged, there will be changes to the venues as St Helens Sutton AC are not able to host a match.

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

Any Other Business

Brenda showed the meeting a silver medal presented to the M&DCCL Runners Up in 1921. The owner, from Hove in East Sussex had received the medal years ago in a bundle of odd coins etc.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.