

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT SPORTCITY REGIONAL ARENA, MANCHESTER ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019

Those present - Clubs represented and by whom: **Altrincham & District AC** – Carole Harrison, Graham Harrison; **Chorlton Runners** – Chris Rayner, Neal Wainwright; **East Cheshire H & Tameside AC** – Gary Matthews; **Manchester H & AC** – Arnold Bradshaw*/**, Brenda Bradshaw*/**; **Manchester YMCA Harriers** – Stephen Hindmarsh*, Jon Paramor; **Middleton H AC** – Peter Gilligan; **Quays RC** – Neil Atherton, Stephen Symons; **Sale Harriers Manchester AC** – Dave Rodgers, Mike Wharton; **Salford H & AC** – Ruth Bardsley, Pete Budd, Julie Laverock*; **Salford Metropolitan AC** – Debbie Hulme; **Stockport H & AC** – Kevan Garner, Jen Hulley, Iain Murdoch; **West Cheshire AC** – Dave Alexander; **Wilmslow RC** – Nick Bishop*, Andrew Whittingham; **Winston Runners** – Edyta Burgess, Peter Walters.

Apologies for Absence (a) from Clubs not represented: **Macclesfield H & AC** – Bob Lynch; **Liverpool H & AC** – Arwel Williams; **Manchester Tri Club** – Sonia Harris; **Swinton RC** – Steve Doxey, Rebecca Mills. **Trafford AC** – Sue Exon, Jeff Prest; **Wirral AC** – Anne Rosbottom; *(b) from individuals whose Clubs were represented:* **Sale Harriers Manchester** – Sinead Ferguson.

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

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks – Nick Bishop

Welcome everyone and thank you for giving of your time to be with us this evening.

May I firstly remind everyone of the sad loss of Tony Riley this Season, an ex Chair of The League.

Thank you to all of our sponsors... Run North West, Athlete Matters, Colgate-Palmolive & City of Manchester Athletics. The support that we receive is much appreciated.

Thank you also to our Treasurer Stephen Hindmarsh.

The League is in a healthy position both financially and in terms of growth. This season we had an average race day turnout of 1141, compared with 1072 and 892 in each of the previous two seasons.

We will talk about venues later but it is highly likely that we will be unable to use Boggart Hole Clough or Woodbank Park next season. Sherdley Park may be an option and we will try to source a further venue. Similarly, clubs with ideas for venues or who can host, we would ask you to contact us.

I am always very appreciative of the work that our Match Day Officials undertake. It is a long day, and no one gets any younger. Please do have a think about who may be able to help in your clubs.

Similarly, I am blessed with a great team around me and who form the working party. My thanks to each of them...Brenda, Arnold, Julie & Stephen. We do need to think to the future and succession plan to ensure that the League is secure in the future. Anyone who would like to get more involved should contact us.

We are very keen that you go back to the clubs and find out how we develop The Presentation Evening. A successful event and better supported by the Juniors as opposed to Seniors.

Finally, thank you to all that have helped to make this League the success that it is... Clubs, Runners, Spectators, Marshals and Race Day Officials.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 April 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on the 13 April 2018 had been posted on the website pre-season, they had been emailed to Club contacts pre-season and emailed again pre-AGM. Copies were

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also available at the AGM. Dave Rodgers (Sale Harriers Manchester) proposed acceptance of them as a true record and Jon Paramor (Manchester YMCA Harriers) seconded. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report – Stephen Hindmarsh

The Treasurer presented the Income & Expenditure figures and highlighted various **Income** items such as: the affiliation fee was increased from £40 to £50 (18/19); the fee per runner (17/18) was increased from 75p to £1; guest runners income was up; income from sponsorship - £1,000 from Run North West, £500 from Athlete Matters, £600 from Colgate-Palmolive – was enhanced with a discount on awards vouchers from Run North West of 25%; the figures shown for the Presentation Evening are for the 17/18 season – the reported loss is due to the fact that tickets are subsidised; the income from re-issued numbers was down on the previous season showing, perhaps, that runners are being more diligent about keeping their numbers safe. As for **Expenditure** (18/19 and 17/18 shown for comparison): the 25% discount already mentioned earlier resulted in a decrease in money spent on awards and the figure shown in 18/19 includes the purchase of medals for next season; the main equipment expenditure was on amplifying equipment used by the announcer; venue hire for four of the five matches is shown with Match One hire still to be charged; additional toilets were only used at Match One; the new medical cover provider cost slightly less as did the results service; publicity, which includes photography, coverage in AW, a pictorial display at the Presentation Evening, and website expenses was up; more money was spent on race numbers. **Overall** financially a good season. *The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and added that due diligence on costs would continue through the summer.*

Election of Officers

As the incumbents were willing to stand again, and in the absence of any other nominations for the posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Affiliations co-ordinator, the following appointments were proposed and accepted:

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

The Officers are aided by Arnold Bradshaw who completes the Working Group. *Mike Wharton (Sale Harriers Manchester) proposed the acceptance of the Working Group and the proposal was seconded by Jon Paramor (Manchester YMCA Harriers) and accepted by all present.*

Affiliation and Entry Fees for 2019/2020

The Treasurer proposed all fees remain at the same level, i.e. affiliation fee per club £50 (*except Host Clubs for whom the affiliation fee is waived*); fee per runner per race £1; fee per unused entry for Clubs not achieving a 75% or greater return on entries 50p. Re-issued numbers on match day £1. *Proposal accepted.*

Sponsorship for 2019/2020

Nick Bishop – as advised in previous years, sponsorship continues to play an important part in the running of the League. It's important to bear in mind that, whilst it's not the intention to make a profit, it is important that we have a reserve to fall back on should the need arise. Andrew Whittingham of Run North West confirmed his Company's intention to continue supporting the League next season. The Secretary confirmed that Colgate-Palmolive will continue their support and that Manchester City Council will continue to allow us use of their parks at a set fee.

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Dates & Venues for 2019/2020

The recommended league dates will be used subject to hosts and venues being available. Pete Budd of [Salford Harriers](#) advised prior to the meeting that they felt it was no longer feasible to use Boggart Hole Clough for the League. This was confirmed at the meeting citing a combination of the growth in the number of competitors and the attitude of the Park management and “friends” of Boggart Hole Clough. Alan Dilkes of [Stockport Harriers](#) also advised prior to the meeting that they would not be able to host a match next season. This was confirmed at the meeting by Iain Murdoch, Jen Hulley and Kevan Garner. One of the reasons given was the increased problem of access to the Park and parking. Mike Wharton of [Sale Harriers Manchester](#) confirmed their willingness to host a match at Wythenshawe Park but specified Match One to avoid problems with water logged areas. Neal Wainwright of [Chorlton Runners](#) confirmed their willingness to host a match at the University Playing Fields / Kenworthy Woods and offered to host Match Two. Brenda Bradshaw of [Manchester Harriers](#) confirmed their willingness to host a match at Heaton Park but specifying Match Five. This leaves us with two matches without venues.

Match 1 – Saturday 12 October – Wythenshawe Park – Sale Harriers Manchester

Match 2 – Saturday 9 November – University Playing Fields/Kenworthy Woods – Chorlton Runners

Match 3 – Saturday 7 December – *venue and host club to be found*

Match 4 – Saturday 11 January – *venue and host club to be found*

Match 5 – Saturday 8 February – Heaton Park – Manchester Harriers & AC

The possibility of using Sherdley Park will be followed up as well as other suggested venues. The meeting was asked how they would feel if hiring a venue such as a private estate at a cost of £1,000 was the only option. Reaction was mixed with some saying they would back it whilst others thought it could create problems if other venues questioned why they should be paid less.

Obviously the lack of venues is a concern. Any suggestions and offers to host will be welcomed.

Any Other Business

Mike Welford (Official) raised the following: (1) U11's race - given the increased numbers, would it be worth considering splitting? I appreciate this means a timetable change, and this has become well established. The question arose because the U11's were all finishing together causing problems in the finish funnel. Following discussion it was agreed that, rather than split the girls and boys, we endeavour to use the maximum distance which would have the effect of spreading out the finishers. It's been noted that some U11 courses have been very short of the recommended distance. (2) *If there are to be 2 races at Kenworthy again, would it be worth reversing the route? Up to team managers and host club.* Nick advised that the decision to stick with the same direction last season was due to the rather late decision to hold two matches at the same venue.

Dave Rodgers (Sale Harriers) asked how we might encourage more attendees at the senior awards part of the Presentation evening. The following points emerged: although the junior awards were very well supported, many left before the senior awards started and many of the awards were collected by club contacts on behalf of the winners; it may help if the date for the evening was fixed much sooner although it's appreciated that many will only book when the winners are known; it was suggested that there are too many awards; the latter was rejected as the variety and number of awards encourages all the clubs and competitors to strive right through the season.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:06 pm.