

MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM

*Those present - Clubs represented and by whom: Altrincham & District AC – Alan Barlow**, Fiona Cosgrove, Carole Harrison, Graham Harrison; Belle Vue Racers – Annie Hirsch; Chorlton Runners – Val Brennan, Neal Wainwright^^; Didsbury Runners – Matt Gittins; Macclesfield H & AC – Rob Hasler, Bob Lynch^; Manchester H & AC – Debbie Beresford, Arnold Bradshaw*/**, Brenda Bradshaw*/**; Middleton Harriers AC - Peter Gilligan^; Oldham & Royton – Brian Schofield; Quays RC – Steve Symons; St Helens Sutton AC – Helena McGoldrick; Sale Harriers Manchester AC – Carol Brown**, David Brown**, Brian Goulden^^, Dave Rodgers^^, Mike Wharton; Salford H & AC – Ruth Bardsley*, Pete Budd*; Styal RC – Michael McLaughlin; Swinton RC – Steve Doxey, Rebecca Mills; Trafford AC – Sue Exon, Jeff Prest; West Cheshire AC – Dave Alexander; Wilmslow RC – Nick Bishop*, Rebecca Jackson, Andrew Whittingham. Non-club attendees: Results – Graham Fecitt, Mike Harris; Treasurer - Stephen Hindmarsh.*

*[*member of the Working Group; ^former Chairman; **Official; ^^course organiser]*

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks – Nick Bishop

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Very pleased to welcome two former Chairmen, Bob Lynch and Peter Gilligan. He thanked Debbie Beresford of Manchester Harriers for organising the zoom meeting.

Due to the nature of the meeting, we've only received emails from those wishing to attend so there are no apologies for absence.

Looking back to last year I was part of a working party trying to get something going but, as time went on, the season's cancellation was inevitable. I think, however, we can look forward to a strong 2021/2022 season. The working group manages the League on behalf of the clubs but we need help. We haven't had any matches this season but we knew we would have the support of "our" officials if we had been able to put on a match. We are very fortunate that they continue to offer their help and expertise.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 March 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2020 had been emailed to club contacts, been posted on the website and emailed again to Club contacts pre-AGM. *Carole Harrison (Altrincham & District) proposed acceptance and Pete Budd (Salford Harriers) seconded. All agreed.*

Treasurer's Report – Stephen Hindmarsh

The Treasurer shared the Income & Expenditure sheets on screen and went through the main figures as follows: **Income** - all race fees from 2019/20 have been received; income from the 2019/20 Presentation Evening was £1,183.50; no guest runner income as no matches; a cheque for £382.50 for medical cover was not cashed so the money appears as a credit. **Expenditure** - the £150 affiliation fee was paid to England Athletics in anticipation of the 2020/21 season; £1,274.00 was paid for the food at the presentation evening; a zoom licence was purchased for £143.88. **In summary** there was a fair amount of income and very little expenditure, the income and most of the expenditure being from the 2019/20 season. The balance stands at £15,308.31. *There being no questions, the Treasurer was thanked and it was proposed by Sue Exon (Trafford AC) that the Accounts be accepted, seconded by Debbie Beresford (Manchester Harriers & AC).*

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Election of Officers

Nick reminded attendees who is on the working group - himself Chair, Stephen Hindmarsh Treasurer, Brenda Bradshaw Secretary together with Ruth Bardsley, Arnold Bradshaw and Pete Budd. As everyone knows, Brenda and Arnold are stepping down whilst Nick, Stephen, Ruth and Pete are happy to continue. We do have some interest in the two vacancies but Nick said it wouldn't be fair to give any names at this stage. Discussions will continue but meanwhile, if there is anyone else who would like to discuss the roles they are asked to contact Nick.

In the absence of any other nominations, the following appointments were proposed and accepted:

- ✚ Chairman – Nick Bishop
- ✚ Treasurer – Stephen Hindmarsh
- ✚ Members – Ruth Bardsley, Pete Budd.

Affiliation and Entry Fees for 2021/2022 – Stephen Hindmarsh/Treasurer

Stephen feels there is no need to change the fees and proposed they 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. Nick added that there will be challenges finding venues for the size of the League and that may lead to the need to raise the race fee to cover increases in venue hire but that won't happen for 2021/22 when any increase in venue hire will be taken on the chin. Stephen agreed that increases in venue hire are to be expected and asked clubs to consider how much they think their members would, in the future, be willing to pay to compete in the League. Nick added that costs would probably increase if the decision is made to use chip timing. **Bob Lynch** pointed out that the 2021/22 season will enable the Treasurer to see exactly how much a season costs as he won't have income or expenditure from the previous season to consider.

Sponsorship

Nick Bishop advised that sponsorship continues to play an important part in the running of the League. **Run North West** - he was very pleased to advise that Andrew Whittingham has confirmed Run North West will continue its sponsorship. **Colgate-Palmolive (C-P)** - he confirmed too that Colgate-Palmolive will continue their support. Brenda added that C-P have said they will give the £600 to cover 2020/21 as well as £600 for 2021/22. **Athlete Matters** – Nick said they were, sadly but not surprisingly, unable to offer sponsorship for 2020/21 but he will contact them in case they are in a position to offer sponsorship for 2021/22.

Dates & Venues for 2021/2022 (see dates update on p.3)

The designated league dates are not yet known so we've been working on the corresponding dates to those used in 2019/20, i.e. 2021: 9 October, 6 November, 4 December and 2022: 8 January, 5 February. However, Mike Harris said the XC Relays will probably be on the 6th November which will put the League on the 13th and Bob Lynch pointed out that the 8th January is likely to be the county championships which will probably put the leagues on the 15th. As always, the dates are subject to hosts and venues being available. The following comments were made:

- ✚ Heaton Park - Manchester Harriers – Brenda confirmed Manchester Harriers' willingness to host a match. They would like the opportunity to host a match that isn't in the middle of winter – perhaps Match One?

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- ✚ **Sherdley Park - St Helens Sutton** – Helena McGoldrick confirmed their willingness to host a match. They would prefer November but only if it doesn't clash with a Liverpool & District fixture. Alternatively January.
- ✚ **Tatton Park** – Brian Goulden, the mastermind behind the League's use of this venue, is willing to organise a match and he thinks he can get a better hire deal for 2021/22. It would have to be the January fixture.
- ✚ **University Playing Fields/Kenworthy Woods** – Nick had been told in April that the University Playing Fields were to be sold. Dave Rodgers advised the area being sold is small and that it wouldn't affect the League. Neal Wainwright said Chorlton Runners would be willing to host a match.
- ✚ **Wythenshawe Park** – Dave Rodgers thinks it is possible to put a match on.
- ✚ **Arrowe Park** and **Leverhulme Park** - two venues that may still be possible.

There's also an offer from Arwel Williams for a match to be part of the European XC Trials at Sefton Park on the 27th November.

The working group will follow up all offers and suggestions.

Any Other Business

There was no other business but the Chairman asked if anyone had anything they wanted to say.

- ***Dave Rodgers*** asked if the presentation evenings would continue to be held at Wilmslow Rugby Club and suggested that if Wythenshawe Park were used for the final match the awards presentation could be held in the renovated café. He thought Wilmslow wasn't attracting any more people. ***Nick Bishop*** – the initial reason the change was made from match day to a separate evening was because of the difficulty in producing the overall results on the day (Brenda agreed). Attendance at Wilmslow was good with around 200 last year. ***Debbie Beresford*** added that the junior runners, U13 and U15 were less likely to attend an event on match day if they had to wait around.
- ***Carole Harrison*** of Altrincham & District thanked Brenda and Arnold for the work they have put in for the League. Nick Bishop followed with his own thanks and on behalf of the League, as did many others. All of which were gratefully received. ***Stephen Hindmarsh*** said he has a voucher for them from the League for use at the Royal Exchange Theatre which he'll post to them.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:50 pm.

UPDATE - Dates & Venues for 2021/2022

The following dates are being considered by the Governing Body:

Proposed League dates are: 16 October (*rather than the 9th*), 13 November, 4 December, 15 January, 19 February (*rather than the 5th*) with a sixth date of 19 March.

The Working Group will now work with the above dates until otherwise advised but the dates will, as usual, depend on the availability of hosts and venues.