

# UK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

## Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

held at the Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Present:** Norma Blaine MBE (Chairman); Margaret Grayston (Vice Chairman); Grace Hall (Vice Chairman); Lorraine Vidler (Finance Officer); Marian Williams (Administrator); plus the following members of the management committee: Gerald Alterman; Malcolm Charlish; Stuart Hall; Bob Harvey; Barry Holmes; Alan Johnson; Leslie Roy; Joyce Tomala; Roger Simons (UKA representative) plus David Jeacock in attendance to advise on constitutional matters.

The following clubs were represented:

### Northern region

**UAG:** Bolton United Harriers; Border Harriers; City of Sheffield AC; Doncaster AC; Gateshead Harriers; Kingdom Athletic; Leeds City AC; Liverpool Harriers; Middlesbrough (Mandale); North Wales; Preston Harriers; Rotherham Harriers; Sale Harriers; Spenborough & District AC; Team Edinburgh; Team Forth Valley; Team Glasgow; Trafford AC; Wirral AC

**LAG:** Bolton United Harriers; Border Harriers; City of Sheffield AC; Colwyn Bay AC; Doncaster AC; Gateshead Harriers; Leeds City AC; Liverpool Harriers; Middlesbrough (Mandale); Preston Harriers; Rotherham Harriers; Sale Harriers; Spenborough & District AC; Team Isle of Man Youth; Trafford AC; Wirral AC; Wrexham AC

### Midland region

**UAG:** Birchfield Harriers; Bromsgrove & Redditch AC; Cannock & Stafford AC; Cardiff AAC; Cheltenham & County Harriers; City of Stoke AC; Coventry Godiva Harriers; Cwmbran Harriers; Derby AC; Halesowen A & CC; Kidderminster & Stourport AC; Marshall Milton Keynes AC; Newport Harriers; Notts AC; Royal Sutton Coldfield AC; Rugby & Northampton AC; Solihull & Small Heath AC; Swansea Harriers; Team Avon; Team DC; Tipton Harriers; West Wales; Wolverhampton & Bilston AC

**LAG:** Birchfield Harriers; Bristol & West AC/Mendip; Bromsgrove & Redditch AC; Cannock & Stafford AC; Cardiff AAC; Cheltenham & County Harriers; City of Stoke AC; Corby AC; Coventry Godiva Harriers; Cwmbran Harriers; Derby AC; Halesowen A & CC; Kidderminster & Stourport AC; Marshall Milton Keynes AC; Neath Harriers; Newport Harriers; Notts AC; Royal Sutton Coldfield AC; Rugby & Northampton AC; Solihull & Small Heath AC; Swansea Harriers; Team Bath; Tipton Harriers; Wolverhampton & Bilston AC; Yate & District AC

### Scottish region

**LAG:** Ayrshire Harriers; Central AC; Dundee Hawkhill Harriers; Edinburgh AC; Fife AC; Lasswade; Pitreavie; Victoria Park Glasgow AC

### Southern region

**UAG:** Aldershot, Farnham & District AC; Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC; Bracknell AC; Croydon AC; Ealing, Southall & Middlesex AC; Enfield & Haringey AC; Guildford & Godalming AC; Harrow AC; Havering AC; Hillingdon; Reading AC; Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers; Team Dorset; Team Norfolk; Thames Valley Harriers; Vale of Aylesbury; Victoria Park & Tower Hamlets AC; Winchester AC; Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC

**LAG:** Aldershot, Farnham & District AC; Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC; Camberley & Woking; Croydon AC; Ealing, Southall & Middlesex AC; Enfield & Haringey AC; Guildford & Godalming AC; Harrow AC; Havering AC; Hillingdon; Reading AC; Team Dorset; Thames Valley Harriers; Vale of Aylesbury; Victoria Park & Tower Hamlets AC; Winchester AC; Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC; Woking

113 delegates representing 79 clubs or composite teams.

**Apologies:** Arbroath & District; Bedford & County AC; East Cheshire Harriers & Tamside AC; Hereford AC; Highgate Harriers; Holland Sports AC; Horsham Blue Star Harriers; Invicta East Kent/Paddock Wood;

Medway & Maidstone AC; M60 Nomads; North Somerset AC; Sutton AC; Sutton & Walton, Southampton AC; South of Humber; Team Bedfordshire; Walton AC; West Cheshire AC; Worcester AC.

1. **Norma Blaine MBE, the chairman** welcomed everyone to the first AGM of the UKYDL. She referred everyone to the Chairman's report, hard copies of which were available at the meeting, and would be posted on the UKYDL website. She explained that as time was likely to be a limiting factor that there would be a protocol for conducting the business at the meeting.

## 2. **Annual Report.**

**Marian Williams, the administrator**, delivered the annual report for the league, highlighting the number of clubs and fixtures held during the 2014 season, and commented on some of the difficulties encountered.

She then presented the meeting with some statistical information about the performances achieved in 2014, and then compared the league's best performances against those achieved in 2012 in the 2 preceding leagues, using data produced by Grace Hall, with reference to the TOPS in athletics website.

In addition to this Mick Bromilow had produced some encouraging statistics regarding participation in the Upper age group of the YDL, which Marian referred to in the report.

She reported on meetings held with a number of interested parties during the summer, and the consultations held with member clubs regarding a possible restructure and the problem of the long timetable in the UAG premier divisions.

Finally she thanked all those instrumental in administering the league, and the team managers, officials and athletes for the parts they had played in the delivery of the programme.

## 3. **Financial Report.**

3.1 **Lorraine Vidler, the finance officer** reported that costs were down this year, in particular she pointed out the cost of hosting the finals had been reduced.

She thanked the vast majority of clubs who had paid their membership subscription on time, but pointed out that there are some clubs who needed to be chased.

Claims have increased in 2014, and there are 70 clubs who still haven't submitted their claims for a variety of reasons.

**Geoff Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet)** asked if the accounts straddled 2 years or whether they were for 2014 only.

**Hilary Nash (Bristol & West/Mendip)** queried the difference between the amount showing on the balance sheet for monies to be returned to clubs, and that showing on the Income & Expenditure sheet, where there appeared to be almost £9 000 difference.

Lorraine confirmed that she had worked on the assumed figures for claims not yet received.

She also confirmed that she does not deduct membership renewals from the refunds to clubs.

3.2 **Peter Walton (Neath)** proposed the accounts were adopted, **Joyce Tomala (Cwmbran)** seconded. The meeting voted in favour to adopt the accounts.

The **management group** proposed the following:

3.3 that subscriptions remain at £200 per team.

3.4 repayments to host clubs are: 90% of track hire, 50% of First Aid costs; up to £100 for use of Photofinish and £50 for EDM.

3.5 mileage in excess of 500 miles to be refunded at 50p/mile.

these were seconded by **Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers)**

In response to a question from **Andy Parker (Preston Harriers)** regarding submitting expenses, Lorraine confirmed that clubs should submit claims for the full amount and that she would calculate the amount to be paid.

**Steve Norris (Harrow)** asked for the rationale behind the recommendation to increase the mileage allowance, Lorraine replied that some clubs travel very long distances and transport costs are increasing. **Sharon Pryke (Isle of Man Youth)** asked for confirmation that the 500 miles was a total amount for all matches, not per match, their main expense was incurred in ferry crossings, Lorraine asked if the team could put something in writing to the management committee who would look at it.

The proposals were unanimously accepted.

#### 4. Resolutions.

4.1 **Andy Parker (Preston Harriers)** spoke to the motion:

**Proposed by Preston Harriers** and supported by Blackburn Harriers & AC; City of Sheffield AC; City of York AC; Doncaster AC; East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC; Liverpool Harriers & AC; Rotherham Harriers & AC; Sale Harriers Manchester; Trafford AC; Wigan Harriers & AC; Wirral AC

**“We propose that a Scotland Premier League is formed from the 15 Clubs that form the 4 Scottish Composite teams (see below) and a North of England Premier League is formed by the 6 highest ranked North of England Clubs/Teams.”**

**Kingdom Athletic** – Dundee Hawkhill Harriers; Fife AC; Pitreavie AAC

**Team Edinburgh** – City of Edinburgh AC; Costorphine AAC; Lasswade AAC

**Team Forth Valley** – Central AC; Falkirk Victoria Harriers; Livingstone AC; Lothian RC

**Team Glasgow** – Giffnock North AAC; Glasgow City AAC; Kilbarchan AC; Shettleston Harriers; Victoria Park City of Glasgow

Andy spoke of his club’s history in the league, and explained the difficulties encountered in the Northern Premier 1 division. The 3 Scottish teams are very large as they are all composite teams. The travelling distance to get to matches in Scotland was in excess of 200 miles each way, and very costly; it had cost over £3 000 to go to one match in 2014, with only 4 teams in attendance, and the day lasting over 11 hours. Athletes are getting more reluctant to give up the time, as the whole experience means that some are away from home from Saturday lunchtime to midnight on Sunday. In addition to this, in 2014 the 2 teams who qualified for the national final were 2 Scottish teams so no Northern team was represented at the finals. Preston felt that at a time when athletes were sitting exams it was not conducive to spending so much time in travelling to, and competing in matches. His club proposed that a Scottish division should be formed from the 15 Scottish teams that compete in the YDL at the moment and a Northern Premier division be formed consisting of just English teams.

The motion was seconded by **Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers)**, who stated that the point had been adequately pointed out.

In response to this, **Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletic)** explained that the Scottish teams wish to remain as part of the current league structure to give their athletes opportunity to compete against different athletes and stronger opposition. He refuted that the distances for some clubs were greater to travel to Scotland than to other parts of the region. He pointed out that in the recent referendum campaign the UK government opposed an independent Scotland using the slogan ‘Better Together’, and this was just as applicable to athletics.

**Janice Kauffman (Gateshead Harriers)** pointed out that it is not just the distances travelled but that road networks are not as good on the Eastern side of the region, which means that it

takes as long to travel to Edinburgh as Manchester, and because of the combined age groups the travel costs are greater and accommodation costs have doubled since the NJAL days.

**Moira Macguire (Edinburgh)** responded that Edinburgh and Glasgow have been in the league for a number of years; and Edinburgh's composite consists of themselves and 2 very small clubs who would not otherwise have the opportunity to compete without transferring to other bigger clubs.

**Kevin Lincoln (Doncaster)** commented that the fixture in Pitreavie in 2014 had cost £3 500 and had taken 5 hours to get there.

Both **Irene Speller (WSEH)** and **Clive Poyner (Team Norfolk)** felt that if teams wished to compete in Premier divisions, then the travel issues are part of that package.

**Leslie Roy (management group)** stated that this is not a Scottish issue but it's about the league structure in general, she pointed out that next year it could be Wales in the firing line. Scottish teams do understand the problem of costs, as they have to travel three times a year to fixtures not just the once. She then pointed out some that the teams that make up the composites are very small and cannot even sustain a team in the LAG where numbers tend to be greater.

**Andy Parker** in his summing up felt that a lot of emphasis was put on the need for stronger opposition, but with many athletes not travelling to matches in Scotland, then the opposition was going to be weaker. He felt that as Scotland already have their own league in the LAG, then it could be duplicated in the UAG

The resulting votes were cast as follows:

For – 22

Against – 76

Abstentions: - 18

The motion was defeated.

4.2 **Andy Parker** spoke to the motion:

**Proposed by Preston Harriers** and supported by Blackburn Harriers & AC; City of Sheffield AC; City of York AC; Doncaster AC; East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC; Liverpool Harriers & AC; Rotherham Harriers & AC; Sale Harriers Manchester; St Helen's Sutton AC; Trafford AC; Wigan Harriers & AC; Wirral AC

**"We propose that Composite teams comprise no more than two Clubs with provision for a limited number (say 4) second claim athletes".**

The club felt that composite clubs do not represent a level playing field. Preston had themselves applied to be part of a composite team in the NJAL, but had had the application rejected as they would become too strong a team. Since then they had had to grow and develop in order to be able to compete in the higher divisions.

The motion was seconded by **Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers)**.

A number of clubs spoke against the motion – **Joyce Tomala (Cwmbran)**, **Peter Walton (Neath Harriers)**, **David Pryke (Isle of Man)**, **Clive Poyner (Team Norfolk)**, **Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletic)**, **Julie Brown (Enfield & Haringey)**, **Guy Ferguson (Notts)**, **David Little (Team Dorset)**, **Tony Benton (Havering)**, citing many reasons why it was important to retain the flexibility that currently exists, these include: most clubs do not have the resources in terms of athletes, officials and finances to compete in their own right; composite teams improve the level of competition and provide opportunities for many athletes who would not normally be able to compete without having to transfer to bigger clubs, so ultimately it is the athletes who would lose out; composite clubs have already registered with, and been approved by, UKA for 2015.

**Marion O'Donnell (Bolton United Harriers)** and **Kevin Thomas (Rotherham)** reported that their clubs had concerns about some of the composites, although they had no problem with smaller clubs banding together to form one viable team, they didn't feel it was appropriate for big clubs to form a composite just to boost their numbers.

**Andy Parker** then summed up on behalf of Preston Harriers, he stated that their initial proposal was aimed at the Upper Age Group and not the Lower Age Group, and that his team had made the national final with much smaller numbers than some of the composite teams, which suggested that some athletes in the larger composite teams weren't getting the opportunity to compete because of the numbers involved. He pointed out although UKA are responsible for approving the composite teams, the YDL management committee also have to approve the teams who apply to join the league. He acknowledged that it was easier for composite teams to find officials. He finished by pointing out that for his team to become a composite team, they would have to be relegated twice in order to do so.

The resulting votes were cast as follows:

For – 18

Against – as there was a substantial number of votes against the motion, and it was deemed unnecessary to count the votes

Abstentions - 5

The motion was defeated.

## **5 Proposals involving constitutional amendments.**

5.1 **Geoff Morphitis** spoke to the motion:

**Proposed by Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers** and supported by Edinburgh AC; Enfield & Haringey AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC; Herne Hill Harriers; London Heathside AC; Sale Harriers Manchester; Team Edinburgh; Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC; Yate & District AC

**"With effect from the 2015 track and field season, the YDL be reorganised into two competitions.**

**The YDL UAG divisions to be a two per event 6 team competition covering all events as provided presently for the under 20 age group. Each team must have at least one u20 athlete in each event.**

**The YDL LAG divisions to be a two per event 6 team competition covering all events as provided presently for the under 17 age group in the YDL UAG and all events as provided presently for the under 15 age group in the YDL LAG.**

**Under 13s who have reached an appropriate standard may compete in the YDL LAG as "under 15s".**

**The YDL management to redraft the rules to put the above into effect and to have the flexibility to increase the number of clubs in non-premier divisions for geographic and competition purposes".**

Geoff referred to the objectives of the league – to cater for athletes in the U20, U17, U15 and U13 age groups, as being in stark contrast to the Whole Sport Plan drawn up in 2012 whereby UKA should be providing a competition pathway for U14 upwards, with U11 and U13 athletes being catered for in local team based competitions.

He then went on to looking at the detail for Premier clubs in the UAG, where competition opportunities for U17s had effectively been reduced by half, he pointed out that to fill all places in a team could require up to 120 athletes. With a timetable starting at 10:15, and lasting until 17:55, allowing for reasonable warm up and warm down times the day was effectively over 9 hours, and with the exam period extending from April to the end of June, fixtures in this period presented a problem for athletes.

Travel costs have become expensive with at least 70 athletes plus officials, making a total of 90 which needed 2 buses, each requiring 2 drivers.

The proposal to use the UAG for U20s and better U17s would reduce the team size and make the length of the day more acceptable, furthermore it should be possible to move fixtures outside the exam period. U17s would then be able to field 2 competitors in each event, U13s can compete in local leagues which are run successfully throughout the UK. The principal concern should be developing athletes for the future.

The motion was seconded by **Janice Kaufman (Gateshead Harriers)**.

The debate was then opened to the floor

**Chris Betts (Gateshead Harriers)** - in favour of the motion, pointed out the timings involved in the long throws – allowing 30 seconds for each throw meant that for one age group of 8 teams, the throws would last for 4½ hours, with 2 age groups this increased to over 9 hours, which made 2 age groups unviable. He also pointed out that the league had been imposed upon clubs and not voted on by the clubs, and stated that the league was unworkable as many events had been deleted in the UAG (It was later pointed out by **Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers)** that the recommended time per throw was 1 minute, Chris then amended his timeframe to 27 hours each meeting).

**David Little (Team Dorset)** - the league offers a valuable competition opportunity for athletes of all ages and that it would be a huge backward step to remove the U13s from the league. He felt that if U17s needed more competition then London clubs could put on additional matches for this age group. He suggested that one long day four times a year was not a huge commitment and also pointed out that although this would shorten the timetable for the UAG it would increase the length of the day for the LAG. Finally he felt that 2015 was too early given that many fixtures are already in place for next year.

**Guy Ferguson (Notts)** - there is a noticeable dropout at U20, but the YDL UAG allowed athletes to develop over a four year period.

**Irene Speller (WSEH)** - questioned whether this exact proposal was the answer, but something did need to be done; at the moment the league does not provide parity for U17s in field events with only one opportunity to compete, and she asked whether this is development.

**Julie Brown (Enfield & Haringey)** - the UAG had been introduced to prevent U17s over competing, but many competed as U20s now, and the current set up had 14 year olds competing alongside 19 year olds. U15s combined with U17s was a much better mix.

**Julian Starkey (Bracknell AC)** asked whether this would result in removing U13s from all competition – not just Track & Field.

**Mark Brown (Winchester)** - the LAG is creating a development path, there are other leagues but UKYDL offers the opportunity to compete in a national league. Athletics is in competition with other sports and we are in danger of losing athletes to those sports if the opportunities aren't there for the U13s. He also felt that U17s need to compete with U20s to see the progression.

**Andy Ward (Middlesbrough)** – U13s travelling for 3 – 4 hours is not good for them, it is better to have local competition.

**Phil Woodyatt (Bromsgrove & Redditch)** – disagreed with the motion and felt not having U13s competing in the league would damage the future of our sport. YDL provided better quality of opposition than local leagues.

**Steve Norris (Harrow)** – 80% of his club are at the younger end of the scale. He felt that YDL is fit for purpose for their athletes and there is no better alternative. The timing of this motion is wrong and would generate more work. He felt that the journey times were not excessive, but it was important to make events fun for the athletes.

**Pat Childs (Leeds)** – felt that there was no problem with the LAG except for a lull in the middle of the timetable. There are no problems with travel, U13s tend to bring parents with them (which U17s don't), and this offers an opportunity to develop them as officials. They would like more competition for this age group. They have local leagues, but there is fierce competition to get into the YDL team.

**Mick Bromilow (Milton Keynes)** – corrected the point made about exams starting in April, the majority run from mid May to the end of June, which YDL have managed to avoid. He then pointed out that from the 2011 figures (NJAL) U20M was made up of 50% U17 competitors and in the U20W that was 40% U17. An U20 league on its own was unsustainable.

**Lorraine Vidler (management group)** – reiterated the points made in the AGM notes regarding the constitutional change, and also pointed out that in this proposal every team would have to field an U20 athlete in each event to allow any U17s to compete in any case.

**Tony Benton (Havering)** – his club opposed the motion, although accepting that it had been put forward with good intentions, he stated that the YDL in the lower divisions works better than its predecessors but felt that more events could be introduced into the LAG programme. This motion cannot be introduced in 2015, and as the age groups may be changing for 2016, it would need further thought.

**Lesley Nunn (Yate)** – only 1 competition opportunity for U17s field eventers is detrimental, there would be insufficient competition for the current U13s in 3 years' time.

**Geoff Morphitis** then summed up. On a point of order, he argued that the constitution had not been approved by the clubs. He further argued the point that the second speaker from Gateshead should have been able to speak as seconder to the motion. (NB The opportunity to do this was when she seconded the motion, but she had declined the opportunity at that time). He stated that the proposal had been put forward by clubs with a passion for the sport, who cared about its future, and the development of the sport in general. He commented that many of the speakers against the motion today were not from clubs in the UAG Premier divisions, and this highlighted the fact that one size does not fit all. He felt that the management committee hadn't contributed enough to the process, and maybe some of the funding should be diverted to support alternative competition for the U13 athletes. He also felt that whilst the solution wasn't easy, something had to be done to protect the future development of the sport, he accepted that if this motion was successful, it would lengthen the day for the U17 & U15's but as with many solutions there are winners and losers, and that would be an unfortunate by-product.

He argued that after the meeting in London, no solutions had come from the management committee; it was possibly over ambitious to aim for 2015, but he had raised his thoughts in the meeting with representatives of the YDL in June.

The vote was then taken:

The votes were cast as follows:

For – 15

Against - there was an overwhelming number of votes against the motion, and it was again deemed unnecessary to count the actual number of votes.

Abstentions - 6

The motion was defeated.

5.2 **Lesley Nunn** spoke to the motion:

**Proposed by Yate & District AC** and supported by Blackheath & Bromley Harriers; Bristol & West AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC; Havering AC; Sale Harriers Manchester; Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers; Team Bath; Team DC; Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC.

**“Item 11.2 of the constitution be amended to read:**

**Every motion including nominations for Officers or the Management Group to be placed on the agenda shall be sent in writing to the Administrator at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. All motions (other than those brought forward by the Management Group) must be supported by at least six Clubs or Composite teams. Any nominations for the Management Group or motions must be on club headed notepaper signed by the YDL representative or another Officer of the club. Composite teams are considered to be one club and any resolution from a Composite team must be signed by its YDL representative or by a representative of that Composite team.**

**The YDL representative is a duly authorised “officer” of the Club / Composite.”**

Lesley stated that her club felt that the AGM should be an opportunity for clubs to vote on matters affecting the future of the league, so bringing the proposal to the AGM should be as simple a process as possible. When most divisions consist of 6 clubs, they felt that to find 10 clubs to support a motion was excessive, so put forward the proposal that 6 clubs should be sufficient, as smaller clubs in particular have difficulty in finding the requisite number.

**Mo Pearson (Team DC)** seconded the motion.

5.2.1 **Marian Williams (the league administrator)** put forward the management’s amendment:

**To delete the words “signed by the YDL representative or another Officer of the Club” and replace them with “any two Officers of the Club or the YDL representative and one other Officer of the Club and must have the agreement of the Club’s Management Committee”, to delete the words “its YDL representative or by a representative of that Composite team” and replace them with “any two representatives of that Composite team one of whom may be its YDL representative, but must have the agreement of the majority of the members of that composite”**

Marian pointed out that although ten clubs represents less than 4% of the overall membership, the management group recognised the difficulties some clubs may have in finding this number of like-minded clubs to support proposals, and therefore were supportive of the motion to reduce the number to six, however they felt that it had shortcomings in terms of accountability, and that motions should have two signatories, at least one of whom should be an officer of the club, and should have the support of all shareholders in that club or composite.

The amendment was seconded by **Joyce Tomala (Cwmbran)**

**Andy Parker (Preston)** pointed out that the officer need not be the Chairman.



**Rob Davies (Solihull & Small Heath)** suggested that a pro-forma on the website would be very useful to clubs wishing to put forward a proposal.

The amendment to the motion was then put to the vote

For – as there was a significant number of votes in favour of the amendment, it was agreed by the meeting that it wasn't necessary to actually count the votes in favour.

Against – 5

Abstentions – 0

Marian Williams then put forward amendment:

**5.2.1 To delete the words “the YDL representative is a duly authorised “officer” of the Club/Composite”**

She pointed out that the YDL representative in this context cannot be deemed to be an officer of a club or composite team.

The meeting then voted in favour of amendment 5.2.2

The amendment then became the substantive motion:

**Every motion including nominations for Officers or the Management Group to be placed on the agenda shall be sent in writing to the Administrator at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. All motions (other than those brought forward by the Management Group) must be signed by at least six Clubs or Composite teams. Any nominations for the Management Group or motions must be on club headed notepaper signed by any two Officers of the Club or the YDL representative and one other Officer of the Club and must have the agreement of the Club's Management Committee. Composite teams are considered to be one club and any resolution from a Composite team must be signed by any two representatives of that Composite team one of whom may be its YDL representative, but must have the agreement of the majority of the members of that composite**

This was supported by an overwhelming majority, and therefore approved.

**Grace Hall (management group)** spoke to the motions regarding constitutional changes:

**5.3 To amend clause 10 of the constitution by inserting a new sub clause 10.2 as follows:**

**“10.2 The President” and renumbering the present clauses 10.2 onwards as 10.3 onwards**

**To amend clause 11.1 of the constitution by inserting a new clause 11.1.6 as follows:**

**“11.1.6 To confirm the Management Group's nomination of the President  
And renumbering the present clauses 11.1.6 onwards as 11.1.7 onwards**

**To amend clause 14.5 of the constitution by the insertion before the words “The Chairman” the words “The President” and to add in that clause after the words “14.1 to 14.3” the words (if any)**

She explained that this change was to allow the creation of the role of President of the league.

**5.4 To amend clause 14.2 of the Constitution to read**

**The Vice Chairman elected at the 2014 Annual General Meeting shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in 2017.**

**To amend clause 14.5 of the constitution by substituting for “Vice Chairmen” the words “Vice-Chairman”**

**To amend clauses 15.1 and 16.1 of the constitution by the substitution for the words “a Vice- Chairman” the words “the Vice-Chairman”**

**To amend clause 15.2.1 of the constitution by the substitution for the words “Two Vice-Chairmen” the words “the Vice-Chairman”**

The objective of these amendments were to correct the anomaly of having two Vice Chairmen, which had proved to be unnecessary, and were in all likelihood created initially to accommodate personnel from the previous leagues.

**5.5 To amend clause 14.5 of the constitution by the deletion of the word “Administrator”**

**To add a new clause 14.7 of the constitution as follows:**

**14.7 Subject to paragraph 14.12 the Administrator holds office at the discretion of the Management Group**

**And renumber the existing clause 14.7 onwards as 14.8 onwards**

This amendment was to clarify the position of the Administrator, who is an appointee not an elected officer.

The proposals 5.3 – 5.5 were taken en bloc and passed unopposed with just 1 abstention.

**6 The nominations for election to the committee were taken en bloc:**

Chairman **Grace Hall** – nominated by Swansea Harriers

Vice Chairman **Margaret Grayston** – nominated by Wigan & District Harriers

Finance Officer **Lorraine Vidler** – nominated by Enfield & Haringey AC; Havering AC

General Committee

**Malcolm Charlish** – nominated by Bracknell AC

**Guy Ferguson** – nominated by Nottingham AC

**Stuart Hall** – nominated by Spenborough & District AC

**Robert Harvey** – nominated by Croydon AC

**Barry Holmes** – nominated by Wigan & District Harriers

**Alan Johnson** – nominated by Wigan & District Harriers

**Leslie Roy** – nominated by Arbroath & District; Clydesdale Harriers; Edinburgh AC; Kilbarchan AAC; Perth Strathtay Harriers; Shettleston Harriers; Victoria Park Glasgow AC

**Joyce Tomala** – nominated by Cwmbran Harriers, West Wales Athletics, Wigan & District Harriers

For – a substantial majority voted in favour of the officers nominated, and it was agreed that a formal count was unnecessary

Against – 4

Abstentions – 2

- 7 The management group's proposal to appoint Norma Blaine MBE as the league's new President was seconded by **Alan Johnson (Trafford)**. Voting was unopposed with 1 abstention.

The meeting closed at 3:50.

DRAFT



## Youth Development League AGM 2014.

### Chairman's Report.

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the first UK YDL AGM, and what will be my last as I have decided to take a step back and allow someone else to continue taking the league forward.

We have come a long way in the last two years, indeed I have been involved with this for nearly four years, and I am pleased that we are moving in the right direction.

The 2014 season culminated in a wonderful finals weekend, which saw Sale Harriers Manchester crowned lower age group champions, and Team Edinburgh upper age champions. The upper age group match also gave us Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers men and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers and AC women taking the gender split titles, and they have now been nominated to UKA as the 2015 representatives for the European Junior Clubs Cup competition. The 2014 European competition took place in September and Shaftesbury were 4<sup>th</sup> in the men's competition and Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the women's competition. Congratulations to all the teams for their successes this year.

As we have quite a number of items to get through on the agenda, I am not going to say much more. Firstly, thank you to all the officials who have made it possible for our matches to take place during another busy summer season, and a big thank you to all the management committee members who have worked so hard during my tenure as Chairman.

I am fortunate to have been the 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman of the YDL, and hope you will see fit to allow me to become the 1<sup>st</sup> President.

Norma Blaine MBE.



## Annual Report for 2014 AGM of the UKYDL

We started the year with 331 teams registered, a total of 282 clubs, although this became 330 teams as one club decided they couldn't sustain their team in the UAG.

During the course of the season, 198 league fixtures were held across both age groups, plus 2 national finals. We were unable to put on one match due to a clash with another league, and two further matches had to be cancelled due to a clash with a major event, which meant that neither the host clubs nor the area co-ordinator were able to find chief officials.

The sheer volume of mail, both electronic and land mail, to deal with the aftermath of the fixtures was quite an eye opener for me, and clearly my computer also felt the strain, as it decided in no uncertain terms to say 'No'.

That 'small' problem aside, the majority of fixtures went without a hitch, but for those who had problems, Grace was always on hand to operate the helpline for results recorders who got into difficulties, and I did my best to sort out everything else.

As ever with a league of this size, there are rumblings of discontent, but very few clubs or individuals have contacted us about their grievances; happily, on the flip side, I have received some very positive comments about the league which makes me think that not all is doom and gloom.

We are now at the end of a 2-year bedding in process and I would like to talk about some of the stats achieved this year in particular, starting with performances:

In the UAG both U20s and U17s compete across 19 events (including relays) and in 2014 there have been:

- ✚ 8 new records set in the U20M
- ✚ 9 new records in the U20W and
- ✚ 12 new records achieved in both U17M and the U17W.

- ✚ In the LAG, U15s contest 15 events and out of that number there were new records achieved in 11 events in the U15B group, and 9 events in the U15G group.

- ✚ Of the 10 events contested by U13B, new records were set in 7 of them, whilst in the U13G new records were set in 7 out of the 10 events and equalled in one further event. So a big well done to all the athletes, who have achieved so much.

Bearing in mind some of the negative comments about the shortcoming of the new league, it seemed appropriate to compare the above with performances achieved in 2012 in both NJAL and UKYAL, and thanks go to Grace who prepared a comparison spreadsheet and we have :

- ✚ U20M show an improved performance in 9 out of the 17 individual events and U20W show improvement in 10 out of the 17 events.

- ✚ U17M show an improved performances in 11 of 17 events + 1 of no discernible difference, the U17W show improvement in 13 out of the 16 events (there was no S/Ch in the UKYAL), plus one equal performance.
- ✚ In the U15B there was an improvement in 10 out of the 13 events, the U15G show improvement in 6 of the 11 events (no 300m or Hammer in the UKYAL).
- ✚ The U13B show improvement in 5 of the 8 events, and the U13G show an improvement in 6 of the 8 events (there was no Javelin in UKYAL).

The figures are based on individual events, and so don't include relays.

Another criticism levelled at the league is that of participation, and here I would like to thank Mick Bromilow who has produced some statistics for us on this:

Initially he compared U20 participation in four events – 100m, 1500m, Long Jump and Shot Put from figures taken in 2011 (pre-Olympic year) and 2014, all of which demonstrated a significant increase (average of 48% in U20M and average of 60% in U20W) in participation in YDL competitions. This was then extended to include both hurdles, steeplechase, Pole Vault and Hammer. Whilst the U20W continued to show an increase of an average of 42%, the U20M showed only a small increase of 4.1% with a reduction in the hurdles and Pole Vault.

Mick then extended his analysis to include participation levels for all age groups, and, to summarise his findings:

- ✚ U20s – YDL is up by 33% (men) and 53% (women) compared to national increases of 2% and 10%
- ✚ U17s – YDL is down 29% (men) and 22% (women), nationally men are down 4% and women are up 6%.

The drop in U17s figures is due in part to the competition opportunities having been reduced from 8 to 4, and also because of those clubs whose U17 athletes previously competed in UKYAL but don't compete in the UAG of the YDL.

- ✚ U15s – YDL is up 5% (boys) and 20% (girls) – nationally it's up 16%
- ✚ U13s – YDL is up 15% (boys) and 16% (girls) – nationally it's up 36% (also includes U11s)

As part of our continual review process, we've met with representatives of the London regional council to hear their thoughts on where the league could, and should, go. We met with a group of clubs in the North West to hear their concerns about the league structure, and finally met with representatives from EA council to hear their thoughts as to how the league could best serve the athletes.

We consulted with all clubs about whether or not they wished to restructure the regions on a more geographical basis, in an effort to reduce the travelling; and recently we've asked

clubs to give us their suggestions as to how the timetable can be amended, in the Premier divisions particularly, so that the competition could be made shorter. Frustratingly, despite complaints about the length of the day in the UAG, very few clubs came up with anything constructive as to how we can realistically shorten the timetable.

We know it's not perfect, we are looking at how to make the league more enjoyable for all concerned, we've listened to clubs and where possible have made changes – but one thing is crystal clear, we cannot please everyone all the time. We're always mindful that we are a development league: -

And that is - developing athletes; helping to develop officials; and assisting clubs to develop and give their athletes the opportunity to compete at an appropriate level.

Finally, some thanks of my own:

To the area co-ordinators who worked very hard sorting out the regional structure and getting the venues sorted for all the matches this summer, and thanks to them we are now very close to finalising the fixtures and venues for next season too.

To the officers and committee who have supported me at all stages through my very steep learning curve. To Grace without whose help I could not have got through the checking of results and subsequent queries, and all the myriad of other things she has helped me with.

To the team managers who've worked hard to get their athletes onto the runways, the tracks and into the cages at the right time to compete; to the officials without whom none of the fixtures could happen, and finally to the athletes who give our work its raison d'être.

And thank you for listening, if you have any questions please feel free to ask.



Marian Williams

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	<b>2014</b>		<b>2013</b>
	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Computer Equipment - Cost		920	
- Accumulated Depreciation		<u>307</u>	
- Net Book Value at 30/09/2014			613
 <b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank - Current Account		99,430	53,386
- Deposit Account		<u>43,086</u>	<u>65,000</u>
		<u>142,516</u>	118,386
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Amounts Due Within One Year			
Creditors	<b>Note 1</b>	7,798	8,351
Proposed Distribution to Areas and Clubs		<u>57,000</u>	<u>60,976</u>
		<u>64,798</u>	<u>69,327</u>
 <b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>77,718</u>	<u>49,059</u>
		<u>78,331</u>	<u>49,059</u>
 <b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND RESERVES</b>			
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Balance as at 1 October 2013		49,059	
Surplus/(deficit) for Year		<u>29,272</u>	<u>49,059</u>
		<u>78,331</u>	<u>49,059</u>

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L. Vidler 20 October 2014  
Treasurer

**Examiner's Report**

I have examined the books and records of the Youth Development League for the year ended 30 September 2014, and from these and from explanations given to me I have prepared the Statement of Account set out on Pages 1 to 3 and can confirm they are in accordance therewith.

B M Abbott 20 October 2014



**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	2014		2013
	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Affiliation Fees		62,670	67,000
Grants from UKA/EA		115,000	115,000
Interest Received		86	
Sundry Income			2,711
		177,756	184,711
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration Costs			
Committee Expenses	5,794		2,480
Postage and Phone	665		588
Stationery	342		325
Honouraria	20,000		24,000
		26,801	27,393
Contribution to Clubs for Track Hire and Mileage		65,883	60,976
League Match Costs		23,319	12,367
Cost of Staging Finals	<b>Note 2</b>	31,309	34,406
Miscellaneous Expenditure			
Website and Software	374		
Affiliation Fee			60
Accounts Fee	450		450
Depreciation	307		
Sundries	41		
		1,172	510
		148,484	135,652
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) to Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>29,272</b>	<b>49,059</b>

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

	<b>2014</b>		<b>2013</b>
	£	£	£
<b>1 Creditors</b>			
Finals		7,348	7,901
Accounts Fee		<u>450</u>	<u>450</u>
		<u>7,798</u>	<u>8,351</u>
<b>2 Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Finals</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Gate Receipts and Sale of Programmes		2,700	2,321
Franchises		<u>510</u>	<u>390</u>
		3,210	<u>2,711</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Track Hire and Staffing Costs	6,685		7,901
Medals and Trophies	3,661		2,617
Programmes	758		1,236
Competitors' Numbers etc.	410		312
Officials' Expenses and Catering	14,662		15,993
Team Expenses	8,143		8,808
EDM Hire	<u>200</u>		<u>250</u>
		<u>34,519</u>	<u>37,117</u>
<b>Net Cost</b>		<u>31,309</u>	<u>34,406</u>