

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

held at the Holiday Inn M6 J7 Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday 16th November

Present: Grace Hall (Chairman); Janice Kaufman (Vice Chairman); Karl Ponty (Finance Officer); Marian Williams (Administrator) plus the following members of the management committee: Stuart Hall; Alan Johnson; Leslie Roy; Julian Starkey; Joyce Tomala; Lorraine Vidler; Rob Logan (UKA) plus:

The following clubs were in attendance:

Midland region (22 teams represented)

Birchfield Harriers; Cannock & Stafford AC; Cwmbran Harriers; Derby AC; East Wales; Halesowen A & CC; Kidderminster & Stourport AC; Northampton AC; Solihull & Small Heath AC; Swansea Harriers; Team Avon; Wolverhampton & Bilston AC; Yate & District AC

Northern region (17 teams represented)

City of York AC; Kingdom Athletic; Leeds City AC; Middlesbrough AC (Mandale); North Wales; Rotherham Harriers; Spenborough & District AC; Trafford AC; Wigan & District Harriers; Wrexham AC

Scottish region (3 teams represented)

Dundee Hawkhill Harriers; Pitreavie; Victoria Park Glasgow AC

Southern region (13 teams represented)

Basildon AC; Basildon Beagles; Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC; Bracknell AC; Brighton & Hove AC; City of Portsmouth AC; Portsmouth/Winchester; Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers; Stevenage & North Herts AC; Team Dorset

Apologies: Donna Fraser (UKA); Chris Power (NI area co-ordinator); Altrincham AC; Amber Valley & Erewash AC; Bedford & County AC; Bicester AC; Bristol & West AC/Mendip; Burton AC; Charnwood AC; Cheltenham & County Harriers; Deeside AAC; Gateshead Harriers; Havering AC; Horsham Blue Star Harriers; Leamington C & AC; Liverpool Harriers; Marshall Milton Keynes AC; M60 Nomads; North Somerset AC; Reading AC; Rugby & Northampton AC; Sale Harriers; Salford Metropolitan AC; Thames Valley Harriers; West Cheshire AC; Woodford Green with Essex Ladies; and the following individuals: Bob Frost (Wrexham AC); Geoff Morphitis (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers); Sam Hillier-Smith (Yate & District AC); Keith Perry (Halesowen A & CC);

1. **Grace Hall, the chairman** extended a very warm welcome to everyone in attendance and introduced Rob Logan who was attending the meeting as the representative of UKA.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes were deemed to be an accurate record, and their acceptance was proposed by **Alan Johnson (Trafford)** and seconded by **Jo Davis (Swansea)**.

The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report.

As the report had been distributed prior to the meeting, Grace suggested that it be taken as read; she asked the representatives from Blackheath & Bromley for an update on the European Junior Clubs Cup in 2020, and it was confirmed that the future of the competition was

uncertain; at the moment there is no competition in 2020 and although it was still scheduled for 2021, if it does take place, it was possibly going to be in a different format. She then opened it to the floor for questions, there were none.

4. Administrator's Annual Report

Marian Williams, the administrator, also suggested that as this report had also been sent out in advance, she too would just take questions. **Lesley Nunn (Yate & District)** stated that she would like to bring up some issues but as they were also on the agenda under rules changes, it was agreed that she would bring them up at those points.

David Little (Team Dorset) asked what were the implications of double headed matches and if there were any plans to introduce any into the South? Lorraine Vidler replied that clubs in the UAG had been consulted and she had only received three responses who had all been in favour, the reasoning behind the query was the lack of officials in the South willing to work at league matches; at the moment, there were no double headers taking place in the South. Marian pointed out that another major benefit was the reduction in the number of venues needed. David commented that the double headers would effectively double the length of the timetables, but Marian refuted that and referred to those who had experienced double headers in 2019.

Mark Exley (Northampton) commented that they had worked well in the Midlands division he had attended; some of the teams in the divisions were quite small, so it allowed for doubling up in most events, he felt that it would depend on how strong the teams involved were.

Karl Ponty confirmed that the length of the meeting was slightly longer as the Premier timetable had been used, but they had provided a better competition for athletes and created a better buzz around the matches, there were also both financial benefits and for officials' numbers.

Alan Johnson reported that there had been 1 set of double headed matches in the North due to small divisions; there could be a disadvantage for clubs who may have to travel further.

Lesley Nunn (Yate & District) suggested that there may be difficulties in 2020 as one of the double headers involved a Premier division who generally had a full quota of long throwers and would have to embrace another 4 clubs' athletes as well. She thought it would inevitably lead to a lengthening of the day. She felt it had been presented as a fait accompli to the Midlands Area meeting and not enough consideration had been given to those who had expressed concerns.

Grace Hall assured her that the decision hadn't been made until after the area meetings had taken place, and further commented that the Midlands was the region where communications between clubs and league was better than the others.

Joyce Tomala also commented that this only came about due to the geography of the region and a reduction in the number of teams in that area, it is intended only as a trial for 2020, if it didn't work then we will look at it again.

Lyn Orbell (Birchfield) asked for confirmation about applying for permits as the Midland Counties had informed clubs that they will have to apply for licences individually rather than competition providers applying en bloc. She was assured that in 2020 the league will be applying for Level 1 licences for all fixtures, if hosts wished to apply for a level 2 licence, they would have to apply themselves. In 2021, when Trackmark is fully operational then host clubs will have to apply themselves. Alan Johnson confirmed that this was the case.

5. Financial Report.

5.1 Karl Ponty, the finance officer had produced a very detailed report which had been circulated, and he explained the rationale behind the accompanying financial documents.

He pointed out the increase in the use of technical equipment, which was a positive move, probably brought about by the league specifically setting funds aside to encourage the use of Photofinish, EDM and wind gauges. He hoped that by increasing the budget it would encourage more clubs to use them at matches.

He pointed out that the Hardship fund had been replaced by two new categories – Accommodation Support and Travel Overseas. The net result was a reduction in costs.

Another category introduced into the budget was Rewarding Team Performances and he was happy to report that the cost of the national finals had been reduced significantly from the previous year.

He reported that the league maintains sufficient funds in their accounts to allow it to continue to function in the unlikely event of there being no external funding, although he did feel that we must continue to stress our strong case for financial support to continue with the work of developing athletes.

Stuart Nunn (Team Avon) stated that whilst they had felt it to be a privilege to compete at the national finals, it was nevertheless a financial burden on their team, he asked if it were possible to include an amount to go towards supporting teams who qualify. Karl responded that this would have to be balanced against all the teams who cannot qualify for the finals but do make a contribution towards their costs through their registration fees. If we were to receive more funding from UKA then this could allow for the league to allocate a greater level of support for those teams who qualify.

Tim Soutar (Blackheath & Bromley) asked if it were possible to survey the clubs who attended the finals to get an overall picture of their costs, he indicated that it had cost them in the region of £20 000 to attend the finals in both age groups. Karl agreed that it would be worth knowing, he also felt that UKA could prioritise the finals and offer support for this.

Paul Blakey (Derby) – reported that as a host club this season they had received a lot more enquiries as to whether Photofinish and wind gauges were going to be used at the fixture; although there is a cost involved, it is what athletes are increasingly expecting at matches. Karl agreed that general feedback supported this, and this was one of the reasons we were recommending an increase in the payment for the use of Photofinish.

David Little (Team Dorset) commented that the cost of hiring Photofinish and a technician was in the region of £300 so the league's suggested rise would still only cover 50% of the cost.

He also queried the mileage rate payable and Karl assured him that payments were made on the total number of miles travelled across the season and not just per match, the amount paid was for all mileage travelled in excess of 400 miles, so a claim for a total mileage of 650 miles would result in a payment for the 250 miles excess. He stated that if a team had any unique circumstances, then an approach could be made to the league.

5.2 Adoption of the Accounts

- **Lorraine Vidler (Basildon)** proposed that the 2019 accounts be adopted
- **Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletic)** seconded the motion.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of adopting the accounts

5.3 Subscriptions for 2019/2020.

“The Management Committee proposes that subscriptions remain at £90 per match per team, plus such sum as the Management Committee may fix to attend any subsequent matches to include finals or promotion matches.”

Paul Baxter (City of York) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion

5.4 Travel and Hosting.

“The Management Committee propose to reimburse travel expenses for the 2020 season as follows:

5.4.1 *Less than 400 miles – no payment;*

400 miles or more - 50p per mile

(NB Claims amounting to less than £25 will not be reimbursed)”

“The Management Committee proposes that, for the 2020 season, the host club reimbursement should be paid as follows:

5.4.2 *A fixed amount of £200, and a variable amount of £30 for each team timetabled to compete at the match, plus £150 for the use of Photo Finish, £50 for the use of EDM and £25 each for the use of track and/or field wind gauges in the 2020 season”*

David Little (Team Dorset) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the above motions.

6. Resolutions.

6.1 **No Motions were tendered from clubs.**

6.2 **Management Committee proposals for rule changes:**

RULE 1: GENERAL

Rule 1.6 –

Club colours must be worn by all competitors

To be replaced with:

Club colours must be worn by all competitors *as per UKA rule 143 S1 (3).*

Rule 1.6.3

Any athlete failing to wear a club vest may not compete.

To be replaced with:

Any athlete failing to wear club **colours** may not compete.

Marian explained that this proposal was to make the rule less open to erroneous interpretation by individual officials at fixtures, as some competitors had been penalised unnecessarily by some chief officials during the season.

Tom Soutar (Blackheath & Bromley) wondered whether this rule may make things worse as the UKA rule makes specific mention of vests, however Grace pointed out that by referring

to the rule 143 S1(3) in the motion this should prevent any confusion, especially to any new personnel who may not be fully aware of the rule.

Several delegates raised the query about athletes who were unable to find a suitably sized vest and the varying ways to get around the problem. **Leslie Roy (Victoria Park Glasgow)** expressed astonishment at what she had heard and suggested that it may be put to the officials' conference that common sense should prevail at fixtures. **Paul Farres (City of Portsmouth)** suggested that most team managers would be carrying spare vests to matches, although he acknowledged that they may not necessarily be in the right sizes. **Nick Corry (Blackheath & Bromley)** commented that a development league should be about flexibility, to encourage people in the sport.

It was suggested that rule 1.6.3 was superfluous and only repeated what was already in the rule 1.6.

Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletic) proposed that Rule 1.6.3 be deleted rather than be amended

Kevin Thomas (Rotherham) seconded this amendment.

Voting then took place on Rule 1.6 proposal from the management

Paul Blakey (Derby) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

The meeting then voted on the amendment that Rule 1.6.3 be removed from the rules:

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

RULE 4: COMPOSITE TEAMS

Rule 4.1.3 –

If a club within an existing Premier division wishes to form a new composite team, they will be deemed to be a new team and will therefore apply to join the league at entry level.

To be replaced with:

If a club within an existing Premier division wishes to form a new composite team, ***they will need to submit their application in the usual manner to the league for consideration and, if successful, will re-enter the league at one division lower for the following season.***

Marian gave a brief outline as to why this had been proposed, it was intended to equalise the situation across all regions.

Questions were then taken from the floor:

Paul Farres (City of Portsmouth) asked what the corollary would be for an existing composite team, if they chose to split.

Alan Johnson (Trafford) gave an example of this from the Northern region, where the primary, or original, team remained in their current division and the other team dropped down.

David Little (Team Dorset) asked how this would affect promotion and relegation. Marian responded that the vacancy in the Premier division would be made up by another team being promoted in their place.

Andy Ward (Middlesbrough) asked what the situation is if a composite team already in a Premier division wanted to add a team to their number, Grace pointed out that this is already covered in the rules.

Alan Johnson (Trafford) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

RULE 5: OFFICIALS

Add:

Rule 5.4.6 –

Clubs/Teams who consistently fail (for at least 50% of matches) to provide at least one level 2 field judge, plus one other qualified field judge and at least one track judge and/or one timekeeper; at YDL matches during the year of competition; will not be eligible for promotion, or to participate in Promotion Matches or Finals.

If officials do not sign in in the correct manner (see clarification in 5.4.4 above) they will be deemed to be unqualified.

All official's qualifications will be checked using the UKA licence checker:

<https://myathletics.uka.org.uk/licencecheckofficial/>

Marian gave a brief introduction to this proposal and then took questions from the floor. **Grace** had also received a comment that this rule would be a double jeopardy for officials. She also referred to the checking mechanism for all officials and suggested that clubs can also check their own.

David Little (Team Dorset) suggested that as all officials are checked at matches was it likely that any team would gain enough points to be promoted if they didn't provide enough officials. He was assured that there were cases where it had happened.

Lesley Nunn (Yate & District) suggested that the signing in sheets should be improved. **Alan Johnson, the results co-ordinator**, then explained that the updated software for 2020 would ask for officials to be declared in the same way as athletes and could then be checked earlier to avoid any duplication of effort and save time for results recorders. Officials could then easily be selected and replaced for each match. He also pointed out that the sheets can be printed from the software which will give names & URNs.

Kevin Thomas (Rotherham) pointed out that some officials were added on the day depending on who turned up and **Pat Childs (Leeds City)** asked about any extra officials who may sign in.

Alan replied that officials who were added at the match could be done in the same way as athletes so long as they were on the system, otherwise they would sign in as per previous years and be checked post-match. He also explained that there would be spaces for additional officials to sign in. The system would allow chief officials from host clubs to check in advance how many officials, and at what level, they could expect, and could then make adjustments in advance where necessary.

Annette Brown (Solihull & Small Heath) added that it had been extremely helpful this year for chiefs to be able to see in advance who was likely to turn up, however she did feel that the portal hadn't been available early enough. She also commented that at times there had

been some uncertainty with timekeepers and track judges as to how many of each discipline would be there, Marian pointed out that this was specific to Midlands clubs but should be sorted by the system of pairing teams. **Mark Exley (Northampton)** also commented that many teams had turned up with spare officials, so it had worked out at matches.

Stuart Nunn (Yate & District) pointed out that some officials signed in but then either turn up late and leave early, or in some cases don't turn up at all, Marian assured him that in circumstances she had been made aware of, the points hadn't been awarded, she further suggested that so long as chiefs sign the sheets to confirm that all those declared had worked, it would be followed up and, if necessary, any erroneous points removed.

Jen Field (Halesowen) thought it was unfair that clubs who provided extra officials couldn't be awarded extra points, and **Pat Childs (Leeds City)** asked what happened when officials turned up to work but were sent away. **Mark Exley (Northampton)** suggested that in circumstances where there were additional officials it would be a good opportunity for mentoring and training.

Clyde Gordon (Shaftesbury Barnet) asked whether this referred just to Double headers and if there should be a separate rule for them. It was confirmed that it was more prevalent in single matches.

Paul Baxter (City of York) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour.

RULE 6: NUMBERS

Rule 6.1 –

The League will supply competition numbers/letters for all competing clubs in quantities to last the whole season. They must be worn, front and back, in all events except High Jump and Pole Vault where one is permissible worn either on the front or back.

To be replaced with:

The League will supply competition numbers/letters for all competing clubs in quantities to last the whole season. They must be worn, front and back, in all events ***except in Jumping Events*** where one is permissible worn either on the front or back.

This rule was proposed to bring YDL rules into line with UKA rules.

Jo Davis (Swansea) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

RULE 9: COMPETITION EVENTS

Rule 9.4 –

In throws and horizontal jumps, 3 trials are allowed in the Lower Age Group and 3 trials in the Upper Age Group, with a further 3 trials being offered to the top 3 athletes in the U20 competition and the top 3 athletes in the U17 competition subject to the requisite standard being achieved in the first 3 rounds (See Appendix 2).

To be replaced with:

In throws and horizontal jumps, 3 trials are allowed in the Lower Age Group and 3 trials in the Upper Age Group, with a further **1 trial** being offered to the top 3 athletes in the U20 competition and the top 3 athletes in the U17 competition subject to the requisite standard being achieved in the first 3 rounds (See Appendix 2).

Mike Harris (Trafford) suggested that the length of the timetable was part of a wider issue and shouldn't be a deciding factor. His club felt that this was discriminating against field athletes and thus unfair. He suggested that it would be preferable to look at the standards for progression to see if they should be tightened up.

Paul Baxter (City of York) concurred with Mike's statement and suggested that it may reduce the number of athletes competing. **Mark Exley (Northampton)** also agreed that it was likely that better athletes may not compete under these circumstances.

Norma Harris (Stevenage & North Herts) further added that this was one of the reasons they entered the league so that their throwers had a better competition. She suggested that host clubs try to utilise EDM more as this cuts down the time of throwing events, she added that the athletes welcomed EDM and enjoyed using it.

Paul Farrer (City of Portsmouth) felt that it went against the principles of development.

Clyde Gordon (Shaftesbury Barnet) wondered why the league were trying to pre-empt a potential rule from UKA about the length of the competition day.

Lesley Nunn (Yate & District) suggested that this proposal went against what was in the Administrator's report regarding development. She brought to the attention of the meeting a throws development day which had now been organised to directly clash with the league which would also have a detrimental effect on that league fixture and wondered why this had been planned in this way.

As no-one was willing to second this proposal, it was defeated.

At this point, Janice asked for a show of hands to indicate whether the delegates felt it worth updating the standards for progression. Most were in favour.

RULE 10: CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

Rule 10.1.1 –

The host club will contact the Administrator who will contact the Area Co-ordinator as soon as an issue arises.

To be replaced with:

The host club will contact the **Area Co-ordinator** who will contact the **Administrator** as soon as an issue arises.

Rule 10.1.2 –

The Administrator will agree a course of action with the Area Co-ordinator.

To be replaced with:

The **Area Co-ordinator** will agree a course of action with the **Administrator**.

Clyde Gordon (Shaftesbury Barnet) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

RULE 11: SCORING

Rule 11.9 –

In the event of a tied match score in the National Final or the Scottish Qualifier the greatest number of 'A' string first places will decide the finishing order. If this does not resolve the matter, then it will be decided on the greatest number of 'B' string first places. If still unresolved, then 'A' string second places, 'B' string second places and so on, until a decisive result is achieved

To be replaced with:

In the event of a tied match score in **all finals and promotion matches** the greatest number of 'A' string first places will decide the finishing order. If this does not resolve the matter, then it will be decided on the greatest number of 'B' string first places. If still unresolved, then 'A' string second places, 'B' string second places and so on, until a decisive result is achieved

Nick Corry (Blackheath & Bromley) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

7 Constitutional amendments tabled by the management committee.

7.1 Proposed by the management group: In the interest of equality, the Management Group propose that the 16 instances in the Constitution, and 1 instance in the Rules where the words Chairman and Vice Chairman appear, shall be changed to Chair and Vice Chair.

Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletic) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

8 Also, in the interests of equality, the management group proposes to equalise those U13 track events where athletes compete over the different distances that fall outside governing body rules.

Grace Hall outlined the background to this proposal; she had initially been approached by a parent of an U13 girl who wanted to know why we discriminated against U13 girls as her daughter wasn't allowed to run 1500m like the boys. She received a further 3 queries during the course of the season. This was brought to committee and agreed that she would investigate further. She contacted the governing body who replied that there should be equality between the genders. Over the course of the season, it became clear that it was becoming an issue of being the same as other leagues, rather than looking at it as an equality issue, however there are a number of other leagues who also use non-standard distances, so this is a flawed argument.

This proposal therefore is purely one of whether we equalise the events in question, and not the process of equalising.

Clyde Gordon (Shaftesbury Barnet) asked which event the initial query was about. Grace informed him that it was the 1200m. **Paul Austridge (Blackheath & Bromley)** then asked for if this proposal would also involve the sprints and hurdles, but it was confirmed that the hurdles distances are in the UKA rule book and fall outside this proposal. It was clarified that the events in question were 75m/100m; 150m/200m and 1200m/1500m.

Shaun Ainge (Cannock & Stafford) agreed that the U13 girls and boys should run the same distances in these events but that he didn't agree that the boys' events should be reduced to that of the girls.

Grace then informed that meeting of the research she had undertaken into this, she had consulted coaches from all levels up to national coaches. There had been strong arguments that U13s are not mini adults, they don't train as adults and shouldn't be expected to compete over Olympic distances, they should be coming into the sport essentially to have fun and by expecting them to compete as seniors do, we're not doing them much of a service. It appears that Athletics is one of the very few sports that doesn't differentiate between age groups in their respective events. She reiterated that this proposal was about the principle of equality and not about the actual distances, although she was happy to take a consensus at the end of the debate.

Mike Harris (Trafford) pointed out that the U13 girls' distances had been initially set in the Girls only league, and it was agreed that even up to 100m there was a degree of endurance involved which could result in young athletes doing too much training. He agreed that U13s should not be treated as adults and endorsed the opinions Grace had referred to. His feeling was that the boys should come down to the U13 girls' distances not the other way around.

Jen Field (Halesowen) commented that they do the same distances in Cross Country, although it was pointed out that wasn't always the case.

Grace stated that there is no uniformity across all competitions, but someone has to make the decision as to what is right, not necessarily what may be popular. She referred to the governing body's decision to amend the rules regarding U15 boys who originally competed over 400m until it was reduced to 300m. She felt that the governing body would not do something about the short sprints until someone made a stand. She had promised the parents who had initially sent the queries that she would bring the matter to the AGM to ascertain if the league wished to stop the discrimination that currently exists, then we will look at how we do this.

Jen then asked what would happen about the relays, but the Chair replied that these are primarily regarded as a fun event at the end of the competition. The Vice Chair then pointed out that at this age athletes rarely run hard into, or out of, the changeover and so they are not running hard over the full distance.

David Little (Team Dorset) felt that they all run the longer distances in other leagues so must be training for them already.

Janice Kaufman, in her capacity as a sprints coach, refuted this and stated that U13s would generally train for speed over 60m, which made 75m a very good event which suits their energy systems, and helps them when they move into the next age group and start to mature. 100m is endurance at this age, so let us be the innovators and let the athletes run over the shorter distances which suit them more.

Nick Corry (Blackheath & Bromley) asked why we were only looking at these events for U13s, as there were others, such as hurdles which were different, however Grace pointed out that these were covered by governing body rules and we could not control that.

Leslie Roy (Victoria Park Glasgow) commented that we should take this back to the governing body for consideration. She expressed some concern that there seemed to be some suggestions in the room that U13s should be training seriously, and not for enjoyment.

Lyn Orbell (Birchfield) also agreed that we should not be treating children as adults, and not necessarily bowing to parental influence, who may not be the best informed as to what is best for their children. She referred to the Po10 rankings which shows numerous examples of athletes who had been at the top during their younger years but aren't even in the sport any longer because they'd been pushed too hard.

Tim Soutar (Blackheath & Bromley) commented that if we're being asked to provide an answer to UKA's Equality & Diversity division maybe we should be suggesting to them that they should be referring this matter to Safeguarding; as a sport, we should be making children's development a priority, this is a serious question to be considered.

Paul Farrer (City of Portsmouth) felt that parents are often motivated by Power of 10 rankings, and it's this which is driving a lot of the parents' discontent, rather than the consideration of what is best for the athletes, so rules shouldn't be changed to suit them.

Grace had checked the rankings and compared the U13 girls' distances, there were a number of competitions offering 75m, 150m and 1200m. She believes from what she is hearing that we are expecting too much of the younger athletes.

Lesley Nunn (Yate & District) felt that we should bear in mind that U13 athletes includes children in year 6.

At this point Grace asked for a show of hands to gauge the opinion in the room, before going to a formal vote on the proposal tabled:

33 people voted in favour of reducing the boys' distances in line with the girls'

5 voted to increase the distances for the girls, to bring them in line with the boys

7 voted to leave it as it was.

Julian Starkey (Bracknell) seconded the tabled proposal

Votes against: 9

Abstentions: 2

The meeting voted substantially in favour of the motion.

Grace informed the meeting that she would continue her research before taking this to the next management meeting when a decision would be made as to what events would be on the timetable for U13 athletes.

9 Election of management committee members for 2019-2021. Nominations received for: -

General Committee **Leslie Roy**
Joyce Tomala

Election of General Committee member (to 2021).

(Casual Vacancy currently filled by Julian Starkey).

Nominations received for: **Julian Starkey**

Voting was unanimously in favour of the above being duly elected onto the committee.

Grace reminded the meeting that there is still at least one vacancy on the management group, she asked if anyone was interested in serving on the committee to please contact her to discuss it.

10 The 2020 Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 21st November 2020.

The AGM closed at 14:11.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input to the meeting, and invited delegates to stay for the open discussion forum on the future of the league, which was due to commence after a short break.



Youth Development League AGM 2019.

Chairman's Report.

It is hard to believe that this is the seventh year of YDL competition, our sixth AGM, and clubs are still involved, along with people like me! Another great year of competition culminating in a successful National Finals, in a new venue, Manchester, which seems to have been given the approval of those in attendance.

I will therefore start by congratulating the winners from this year's National Finals weekend, which saw Sale Harriers Manchester crowned lower age group champions, and Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC upper age group champions.

The lower age group match was a close affair, and Sale secured victory by six points from 2nd placed Blackheath & Bromley Harriers. The upper age group match was totally different with Blackheath finishing the day 127 points ahead of 2nd place Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers

The upper age group match also saw Blackheath and Bromley Harriers and AC taking both gender split titles, just as they had done in 2017 and 2018, and they have now been nominated to UKA as the 2020 representatives for the European Champions Club Cup for juniors. The 2019 European competition took place in Leiria, Portugal, on the weekend of the 21st September and the club secured 3rd place in the women's competition, and 2nd in the men's competition.

Congratulations to all the teams for their successes this year.

Sticking with Blackheath & Bromley Harriers, one of their athletes set a league record, or two, in 2014, those records still stand in 2019. It can happen, YDL record holder, to UKA National record holder, European Champion and World Champion. Congratulations to Dina Asher-Smith, Olympic Champion next, with a little luck.

To all clubs who were divisional winners, or who gained promotion well done, and commiserations to the clubs who have been relegated; plus, to all the athletes who took part, we hope you enjoyed the experience.

Finally, none of this would happen without the officials, volunteers and our funding partner UKA, who have made it possible for our matches to take place. Plus, to the management committee members who have worked so hard, not just during the season, but all year round, thank you.

Grace Hall.

Chairman.

31.10.19



Administrator's Annual Report to the AGM November 2019

The 2019 season came and went in much the same way as each year before, some memorable moments interspersed with some more challenging issues, a little like the proverbial swan where everything looks calm and serene on the surface, but hides a lot of background work to make it look so. In all we have organised a total of 165 matches including 5 area promotion matches and 4 regional finals, with only 2 cancelled fixtures, one due to extreme weather and a second one due to the shortage of officials. The culmination of the league's programme ending on a fine weekend in Manchester for our national finals, and warm congratulations go to Sale Harriers Manchester and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers & AC who won their respective age groups, and as our divisional awards have demonstrated, we have 43 different teams winning their respective divisions, with just 3 teams taking awards in both age groups.

We have over 20 000 athletes on our portal, spread between 295 teams from over 250 different clubs across the country. This is a slight decrease in the number of teams on 2018 figures, with 8 of those teams from Northern Ireland who were trialling a different competition jointly organised with ANI. We had new teams apply to join the league and equally others who left for a variety of different reasons, but our aim is still to provide a competition suitable for athletes across all abilities; it was wonderful to see athletes from our 'alumni' making their mark at the World championships in Doha, but it's also a pleasure to note the number of athletes competing in this year's YDL fixtures who achieved PBs during the year, and others who just take pleasure in earning valuable points for their team, some of whom may well go on to compete on the world stage in future years. Who knows – the young athlete who trails in a distant 6th in the 400m hurdles running for your team may one day don their national vest at the European or World championships a few years down the line?

We've started looking at the future of the league and how best we can serve the athletes of the future and Janice Kaufman, our Vice Chair, will be giving a presentation at the end of the meeting with more information about that. Retention of athletes is one of the issues in the forefront of our minds; we're certainly not the only sport whose numbers decline as you go through the age groups, but we do need to find ways of keeping athletes in the sport and being part of the process that identifies and nurtures talent so that those athletes who are successful at major competitions in their earlier years convert this success at senior level. Suffice to say, many of the issues we're confronting aren't all new, but based on evidence accrued over the last few years, and experience from our member clubs; we're taking a serious look at what works well and what doesn't, because it's important that we get it right.

One issue which never really goes away is that of officials; last year we started building up some statistics on the number of officials working at all our fixtures and Julian Starkey has continued with this work to give us a pretty comprehensive overview of the situation across the country. I personally checked all the officials' signing in sheets to verify the qualifications of those who signed in and ensure that the matches were suitable and safely covered – and also therefore eligible for inclusion in the Po10 rankings. We are trying to make that system less onerous and hope to incorporate officials' declarations on the TM portal so that they can be checked at the start of the season, hopefully this will reduce the number of emails to and from team managers requesting further information post-match.



One of the newer innovations to the league this year was the introduction of double headed matches, - 1 in the North East, and a number of matches in the Midlands; although met with some trepidation initially, the comments back from clubs has been very positive, and it has been decided to continue this in 2020 with more divisions going to joint matches. The main benefits of double headers being a greater number of athletes competing at fixtures, which has had a positive benefit to athletes, and, in the Midlands, the number of officials required from each club has been reduced which has really helped those clubs with less officials and also given greater opportunities for mentoring new ones. The number of tracks needed is reduced and, with the problems around throwing cages and Trackmark being of concern to many clubs, this is an added bonus. Well done to Joyce in the Midlands and Alan in the Northern regions for steering these matches through all the teething problems.

We will continue to apply for licences for all YDL matches for 2020, although this may change in subsequent years; the licences will be at level 1, but if any host club feels that they have the facilities and personnel for a level 2 licence then they will be able to apply independently for this. In reality, it's generally more pertinent to UAG fixtures as it's this age group of athletes who are looking for meetings that fulfil selection criteria for national teams.

Area co-ordinators have been busy sorting out the divisional structures for next year, never an easy job and this year is no exception. The fixture calendar is very congested, although the annual fixture planning meeting does try to address the concerns we have about possible clashes – needless to say it's not usually the athletes who present us with a problem but the number of officials who are needed to run the various fixtures.

The results software has again proved to be popular with the majority of users; the team managers' portal is working well and cuts down on a lot of work for everyone involved in the results process. We are constantly looking at improvements in the way it works, and area co-ordinators and I are always available to answer any questions for those new to the system, as is the results co-ordinator.

Finally, on behalf of our committee, I would like to extend our thanks to all those volunteers in clubs across the country who continue to work hard week in, week out supporting their athletes; without their enthusiasm and commitment we would have no matches, so, thank you all.

I would also like to express my personal thanks to my fellow members of the management committee, who are also volunteers juggling their own commitments both within and outside of athletics. I look forward to another year of working together to ensure the future success of our sport.

Marian Williams
YDL Administrator



YDL Finance Officers Report to the AGM 2019

It has been another busy year with the changes agreed at last year's AGM implemented this year. I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee, team contacts and club administrators for their patience, understanding and support during the processes of these changes.

Summary Explanation of 2018-19 Accounts

Income

Income was slightly below expected with Northern Ireland teams not affiliating and small changes in teams leaving and entering the league.

Expenditure

Total Expenditure was significantly less than forecast.

League Match Costs

Hosting Support had a generous forecast initially including reasonable contingency for a new funding method. The introduction of "Double Headers"; no matches in Northern Ireland and a small number of matches not claimed reduced the actual expenditure.

Precision Measurement for Talent

Less money than budgeted was spent support the use of precision measurement equipment. These were generous budgets to encourage development of the equipment use.

There was an expectation the optimistic targets might not be met but a significant increase in use of precision measurement equipment was observed.

	2018	2019
Photofinish	36	52
Track Wind Gauge	n/a	83
EDM	48	66
Field Wind Gauge	n/a	23

Developing Talent from Across the UK

Introducing parity across Hardship and Travel Support schemes, with the introduction of tighter guidelines for funding support resulted in a significant reduction of expenditure in this area.

Rewarding Team Performance

Substantial savings were made in hosting the National Finals in Manchester.

Suggested Changes to Current Support

It was agreed by the Management Committee to increase support for providing Photofinish from £100 per host per match to £150. It is believed that this may encourage and support more hosts to provide Photofinish.

Grants

We now enter a period of uncertainty regarding the UK Athletics (UKA) grant. UKA make their next funding submission early next year. The league will receive £50,000 in April 2020 as part of the previous agreed funding round but any funding from April 2021 onwards has yet to be established.

The £50,000 UKA grant in 2020 effectively covers the forecasted support for:

- encouraging the use of precision measurement equipment (Photofinish, EDM and Track/Field Wind gauges);
- developing talent from across the UK (travel and accommodation support);
- rewarding team performances by supporting 7 regional finals (3 Upper Age Group, 4 lower Age Group) and 2 National Finals.

Contingency

To mitigate for uncertainty of future grants and other unknowns we have set aside surplus funds (accumulated by raising team fees in 2018 and maintaining that level in 2019) as contingency. We believe it is prudent to set aside 40% of the current administration and league match costs as League Function Contingency which we should strive to maintain in future years.

We also believe it is prudent to make set aside contingency funds to ensure stability in the currently grant funded support expenditure (Precision Measurement, Developing Talent from across the UK, Rewarding Team Performance).

Since the current UKA grant is for ongoing development and support, we want to ensure that the committee and membership has reasonable time and resources to adapt to any circumstances outside of our control.

We propose that where a sizeable grant is made available for ongoing development and support that it is prudent to have 100% of that grant in reserves to ensure support for the following year, 50% for the subsequent year and 25% for the year after that.

In summary:

League Function Contingency	£	£
AC + LMC	99,500	
40% of Admin costs and League Match Costs	39,800	40,000

Development and Support Grant Contingency

PMfT + DTUK + RTP	50,050	
- 175% of current support (100% Yr1, 50% Yr2, 25% Yr3)		
2021 Contingency 100% Grant	50,050	
2022 Contingency 50% Grant	25,025	
2023 Contingency 25% Grant	12,513	
		85,000
Total Contingency		125,000

Karl Ponty
Finance Officer, YDL Athletics
24th October 2019

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

		2019	2018
		£	£
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets			
Computer Equipment	- Net Book Value	0	0
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	- Current Account	84,211	123,622
	- Deposit Account	<u>60,580</u>	<u>60,458</u>
		144,791	184,080
Debtors		1,479	1,204
Current Liabilities			
Amounts Due Within One Year:			
Creditors		10,031	20,309
Proposed Distribution to Areas and Clubs		<u>0</u>	<u>55,224</u>
		<u>10,031</u>	<u>75,533</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>136,238</u>	<u>109,751</u>
		<u><u>£136,238</u></u>	<u><u>£109,751</u></u>
CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Funds			
Balance as at 1 October 2018		109,751	63,594
Prior Year adjustment			-2,634
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		<u>26,487</u>	<u>48,791</u>
		<u><u>£136,238</u></u>	<u><u>£109,751</u></u>

.....
K Ponty 24 October 2019
Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined the books and records of the Youth Development League for the year ended 30 September 2019, and from these and 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.

.....
L J Lancaster 18 October 2019

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019**

	2019		2018	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
UAG Division Affiliation Fees				
Midlands	11,160		11,610	
Northern	11,250		10,800	
Southern	<u>13,680</u>		<u>14,130</u>	
		36,090		36,540
LAG Division Affiliation Fees				
Midlands	14,400		14,310	
Northern	17,730		18,000	
Northern Ireland*	0		1,280	
Scotland	6,480		6,210	
Southern	<u>19,080</u>		<u>19,570</u>	
*(under payment £880)		57,690		59,370
Grants from UKA		60,000		80,000
Donations		870		1,000
Interest Received		<u>121</u>		<u>115</u>
		<u>154,771</u>		<u>177,025</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Administration Costs				
Committee Meetings (Oct, Jan, April, May)	2,296		1,937	
Sub Group Meetings (Finance, Finals)	1,046		1,057	
Website and Support	1,715		1,650	
Officer Expenses	299		476	
AGM	2,661		2,411	
Professional Fees	502		325	
Results Software Development	4,866		6,524	
Administration Fees	<u>7,500</u>		<u>7,500</u>	
		20,885		21,880
League Match Costs				
Hosting Support	59,230		45,044	
Competitor Numbers	4,629		5,298	
League Programmes/Handbooks			3,008	
Results Match Support	750		750	
Administration Fees	7,500		7,500	
Area Administration Fees	2,625		3,000	
Area Administration Expenses	696		895	
Area Trophies	<u>500</u>		<u>489</u>	
		75,930		65,984
Precision Measurement for Talent				
Photofinish Support	5,100		3,600	
Track Wind Gauge	1,950			
EDM Support	3,050		2,400	
Field Wind Gauge	<u>575</u>			
		10,675		6,000
Developing Talent from Across the UK				
Hardship Payments			16,000	
Travel Support	4,337		4,792	
Team Accommodation	3,544			
Travel over Sea	3,495			
Area Consideration				
Administration Fees	<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>	
		11,876		21,292
Rewarding Team Performance				
Cost of Staging National Finals	5,608		10,613	
Cost of Staging Area Finals	3,544		3,330	
Competitor Numbers	982		422	
Results Software Developer Support	500		500	
Administration Fees	<u>850</u>		<u>850</u>	
		11,484		15,715
Miscellaneous Sundries				86
Adjustment to Bank Balance 2017				-89
Prior Year adjustment		<u>-2566</u>		<u>-2,634</u>
		<u>128,284</u>		<u>128,234</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) to Accumulated Funds		<u>£26,487</u>		<u>£48,791</u>

Note 5

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Fixed Assets Depreciation Policy

Depreciation is provided, on a straight line basis, at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its expected useful life:

Computer and PA Equipment 33%

	2019	2018
	£	£
2 Fixed Assets - Computer Equipment		
Cost		
Brought Forward	1374	1374
Carried Forward	1374	1374
Accumulated Depreciation		
Brought Forward	1374	1246
Charge for the Year	128	128
Carried Forward	1374	1374
Net Book Value	£0	£0
3 Debtors		
Prepayment for website hosting	108.97	324
NIR Team fees underpaid from 2017	880	880
Overpayment of finals - Cardiff Archers	90	
AGM Deposit	400	
	£1,479	£1,204
4 Creditors		
Committee Expenses		380
League Costs		3,401
Independent Examiner's Fee	350	325
Hardship Payments		16,000
Area promotion/Relegation matches		153
3 Match Credits		50
Rewarding Team Performance - Cost of staging National Finals	4,279	
Developing Talent from Across the UK - Travel Support	528	
Developing Talent from Across the UK - Team Accommodation	2,584	
Developing Talent from Across the UK - Travel Oversea	1,748	
Administration Costs - Professional Fees (Bank charges)	43	
League Match Costs - Area Trophies	500	
	£10,031	£20,309
5 Cost of Staging National Finals		
Income		
Gate Receipts and Sale of Programmes	2130	2,198
Franchises	400	350
National finals team receipts	1170	1,170
	3,700	3,718
Expenditure		
Track Hire and Staffing Costs	4242	3,490
Medals and Trophies	946	798
Programmes		449
Officials' Expenses and Catering	4099	7,924
Administration	21	500
First Aid		990
EDM Hire		180
	9,308	14,331
Net Cost	£5,608	£10,613
6 Contingencies		
League Function Contingency		
40% of Admin costs and League Match costs	£40,000	
Development and Support Grant Contingency		
175% of current support	£85,000	
2021 Contingency Grant 100%		
2022 Contingency Grant 50%		
2023 Contingency Grant 25%		
Total Contingency	£125,000	

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT Forecast**

	Forecast 2018-19		Actual 2018-19		Forecast 2019-20	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Division Affiliation Fees		96,500		93,780		93,000
Grants from UKA		60,000		60,000		50,000
Donations		750		870		
Interest Received				121		
		<u>157,250</u>		<u>154,771</u>		<u>143,000</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Administration Costs						
Committee Meetings (Oct, Jan, April, May)	2,500		2,296		2,500	
Sub Group Meetings	1,000		1,046		1,500	
Website and Support	1,500		1,715		1,750	
Officer Expenses	500		299		500	
AGM	2,500		2,661		2,500	
Professional Fees	350		502		500	
Results Software Development	6,500		4,866		5,000	
Administration Fees	7,500		7,500		7,500	
		22,350		20,885		21,750
League Match Costs						
Hosting Support	68,000		59,230		60,000	
Competitor Numbers	5,300		4,629		5,000	
League Programmes/Handbooks	0				0	
Results Match Support	750		750		750	
Administration Fees	7,500		7,500		7,500	
Area Administration Fees	3,000		2,625		3,000	
Area Administration Expenses	1,000		696		1,000	
Area Trophies	500		500		500	
		86,050		75,930		77,750
Precision Measurement for Talent						
Photofinish Support	8,300		5,100		9,000	
Track Wind Gauge	500		1,950		2,500	
		8,800				11,500
EDM Support	4,200		3,050		4,200	
Field Wind Gauge	2,100		575		2,500	
		6,300		10,675		6,700
Developing Talent from Across the UK						
Hardship Payments	0					
Travel Support	10,000		4,337		6,000	
Team Accommodation	7,500		3,544		5,000	
Travel over Sea	2,000		3,495		4,000	
Area Consideration	1,500				1,000	
Administration Fees	500		500		500	
		21,500		11,876		16,500
Rewarding Team Performance						
Cost of Staging National Finals	11,000		5,608		9,000	
Cost of Staging Area Finals	5,000		3,544		4,000	
Competitor Numbers	500		982		1,000	
Results Software Developer Support	500		500		500	
Administration Fees	850		850		850	
		17,850		11,444		15,350
Miscellaneous Sundries						
Adjustment to Bank Balance 2017						
Prior Year adjustment				-2566		
		<u>162,850</u>		<u>128,284</u>		<u>149,550</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) to Accumulated Funds		-5,600		<u>£26,487</u>		-6,550