



**Minutes of the AGM of the West Midlands Young Athletes Cross Country League
Held on 23rd June 2021 by Zoom**

Attendees

Ray Morgan (C&AC), Bob Hughes (Can&Stf), Dani Sedgley (Tipton), Noel Butler (C&AC), Noel Mckakly (Wol&Bil), Sam Hale (Tipton), Bob Carey (Sphinx), Tim Hill (Rug&Nton), Robert Pinton (S&SH), Pete Bryan(Kenilworth), Stuart Albutt (S&SH), Colin Fox (Previous Referee), Chris Hitchman (LC&AC), Lee Woodward (Rug&Nton), Nick & Nikki Hillard (Stratford), Mark Bullock(Stratford), Ben Evans (Tamworth), Ruth Burton, Janette
(Apologies to Ruth and Janette but I don't have your last names and Clubs. Please advise)

1. Chairman's opening remarks

Noel Butler explained that, at a recent Executive meeting he was co-opted as Acting Chair until Paul Hawkins is well enough to resume office. There being no objections, Noel took the Chair for the AGM.

2. Apologies

Ron Oliver (KSAC), Wendy Kane (Referee), Wesley Campion(Wolerhampton&Bilston), Karen Davies (Birchfield), Suzy Lovett (Leamington C&AC)

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM.

The minutes had already been circulated and posted on the League web site. The meeting accepted the minutes with no changes.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

5. Sponsorship

The league's current sponsors Sportswear Deals has agreed to continue their sponsorship. Given the current uncertainties, the deal has been structured around individual fixtures rather than the whole season. The league will receive £100 per fixture completed up to a maximum sum of £400. If the full amount is received then the sponsorship will be £100 less than the previous amount. Given the circumstances we feel this is a generous offer from our long standing Sponsor. The meeting accepted the League Committee's recommendation to accept the offer.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mark Bullock, the League Treasurer presented a summary of the League's accounts covering two years. The full accounts are available on the AGM page of the web site. The League had built up a good balance. Previously affiliation fees had been set to a minimum of £100 per club plus an amount proportional to entries to being in a total of £4,000. Conscious that Clubs may be struggling at the moment and the League's finances are healthy, Mark recommends that the 2021/22 affiliation fees be a minimum of £75 (£25 reduction) plus a proportional amount to bring in a total of £3000 (down £1000).

Mark explained that there had been delays in collecting the annual affiliations during the 2019/20 season, however, on reflection it is better to collect them just after the first match when we have actual declarations rather than try and use figures from the previous season. That is how we will operate from 2021/22 therefore the Clubs will be invoiced in October.

Note that some clubs are in arrears because of Covid - Mark will be contacting them. It was agreed that all outstanding fees should be paid by the date of the first fixture.

The meeting accepted the accounts and the affiliation fees proposal with thanks to Mark for his management of the league's funds.

7. Secretary's Report

Dani Sedgley, the League Secretary reported that this is her second season in the role but, sadly, there was nothing to report because the pandemic had caused the cancellation of the entire 2020/21 season

8. Change of Rules

Some proposed rule changes had been circulated to the Clubs in preparation for the AGM. The meeting accepted all of the changes.
See Appendix A below for details

9. Adoption of a policy on photography

Dani Sedgley and the Committee have proposed a photography policy for better safeguarding our athletes. The policy has been posted on the web site and was accepted by the meeting. The meeting thanked Dani for a very comprehensive document

10. Election of Officers

The current committee is:-

- Chairman: Paul Hawkins (Stratford-on-Avon AC)
- Acting Chairman: Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC) – co-opted by the Committee
- Secretary: Dani Sedgley (Tipton AC)
- Treasurer: Mark Bullock (Stratford-upon-Avon AC)
- Registration Secretary: Bob Hughes (Stafford & Cannock AC)
- Results Secretaries: Ray Morgan (Leamington C&AC) & Alison Mills (Nuneaton)
- Trophies Secretary: Bob Carey (Sphinx AC)
- Officials Secretary: Noel Mckakly (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC)

The meeting re-elected the Committee en-bloc.

The Committee will co-opt Wendy Kane (Referee) and Chris Hitchman (Results).

The meeting agreed to the Committee's request to recognise two "new" posts on the Committee which are already established in practice.

- Social Media: Dani Sedgley (Tipton AC)
- Web Site Manager: John Constandinou

It was noted that Mark Bullock (Treasurer) and Bob Carey (Trophies & Medals) have given notice that they will stand down at the end of the coming season. If anybody is prepared to take on one of these roles please let any of the Committee know as soon as possible. It would be better to organise an overlap of the previous and next people if at all possible.

11. Application for membership

Cannock & Staffs has applied to re-join the League.

The meeting agreed their application.

12. Dates and Venues for the 2021/2022 season

The following dates were agreed:-

17th October 2021

14th November 2021

5th December 2021

16th January 2022

20th February 2022

Tipton has offered to host at Warley Woods

Rugby & Northampton are looking into a possible venue which looks promising

Aldersley cannot be confirmed because Covid restrictions are still in force.

Birchfield definitely cannot host because the venue is a building site preparing facilities for the Commonwealth Games.

The Chair appealed to the Clubs to look for venues otherwise it will be a shorter season than usual.

13. Any other business

Sam Hale told the meeting that Tipton are hosting a coaching course.

Nikki Hillard passed on Paul Hawkins' thanks for the kindness shown to him.

There was a discussion on the League's cancellation policy because the last match of the 2019/20 season was in doubt because of poor weather conditions – how are people to know if future matches will go ahead? It is hoped that the addition of social media to our portfolio will greatly help.

This is a difficult subject because the League could cancel in advance if conditions are clearly unacceptable however only the referee can cancel on the day. Note that poor course conditions are not a reason for cancelling a XC race.

Appendix A
PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Current Wording	New Wording	Reason for Change
<p>Rule 10: Affiliation fees will be charged per club with the amount to be agreed at the AGM. This is to be paid by 1st September prior to the season preferably by electronic transfer to the League's bank account. Any club having not paid by the 1st September will be deemed to have resigned from the league.</p>	<p>Rule 10: Affiliation fees will be charged per club with the amount to be agreed at the AGM. This is to be paid within 28 days of the first fixture each season preferably by electronic transfer to the League's bank account. Any club having not paid by the said date will be deemed to have resigned from the league.</p>	<p>Affiliation fees are now calculated based on the number of athletes declared and so we have to wait until after the first fixture to calculate the fee per club</p>
<p>Rule 6: The management of the League be vested in a Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon. Registration Secretary, Hon Results Secretary, Hon Officials Secretary and Hon Trophies Secretary.</p>	<p>Rule 6: The management of the League be vested in a Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon. Registration Secretary, Hon Results Secretary, Hon Officials Secretary, Hon Trophies Secretary, Hon Website Manager and Hon Social Media Secretary.</p>	<p>To remove the anomaly that the Website Manager is not a member of the committee and add the new position of Social Media Secretary.</p>
	<p>New Rule 7: The Annual General Meeting of the league will be held in June and the notice of the meeting must be circulated to member clubs at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting</p>	<p>This is to document what currently happens. All subsequent rules will be renumbered.</p>