



Minutes of the Annual Cross Country Meeting of the Mid Lancs League Held on Zoom on Wednesday 23rd July 2023

Clubs attending: Barrow & Furness Striders; Blackburn Harriers; Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC; Chorley Ath & Tri; Hyndburn AC; Liverpool Harriers; Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton H&AC; Kendal AAC; Kirkby Milers; Preston Harriers; Skelmersdale Boundary Harriers; Southport Waterloo AC; Thornton Cleveleys RC; Wesham RRs; Wigan Harriers; Wigan Phoenix (16 clubs).

Officers present: Nick Hume (Chairman), Norman Mitchell (Track & Field Secretary), Ron Scott (League General Secretary), Steve Armer (Cmtee member).

In opening the meeting, the Chair thanked those attending - probably the best attended meeting for some time! - and took the opportunity to thank the League's officers for keeping the League running with significant unfilled vacancies on the management committee.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Helm Hill Runners, Garstang RC, Trawden AC and Sedbergh School RC.

2 Minutes of the last Cross Country Meeting

The draft minutes of the Cross Country meeting held on Friday 24th August 2022 had been distributed. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

3 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

4 Treasurer's Interim Report

Steve Armer, currently looking after the League's finances with other Committee members in the absence of an elected Treasurer, reported that he expected the current year to show a small deficit but the final outcome will depend on current year T&F costs and the expected Medal meeting excess of income over expenses

Based on known club membership numbers and the subscription levels agreed at the last AGM, subscription income for 2023/24 should increase by nearly £900. However, whilst actual costs are difficult to pin down, venue costs are seen to be rising, in some cases significantly; and further subscription increases may be necessary to keep up with anticipated costs.

The Chair thanked Steve for his work on the League's finances.

5 Track Secretary's Update

Norman Mitchell, Track & Field Secretary, reported that the T&F league was continuing to struggle for officials, particularly graded officials but he was pleased to report that a full timetable of events had been achieved at all fixtures so far. Track availability remained another problem and we had to hire the out-of-area track at Bury for a July fixture.

A new results system was introduced this season, provided by Sportsoft. The actual results program has worked well but there were issues with on-line registration which caused some difficulties at the start of meetings as athletes queued for their numbers.

Norman thanked all host clubs for their assistance and the team for getting results online and subsequently scrutinised in

good time. The Chair thanked Norman for his work on maintaining the T&F league in often difficult circumstances.

6 To consider applications to join the League for Cross Country

The only application was for the annual renewal of the Kendal / Helm Junior Composite Team. The meeting agreed the composite for another year.

7 To agree dates, venues, and hosts for the 2023/24 season

The following proposed dates and venues were the result of exchanges with Member Clubs who had been reminded of the obligation to host or co-host at least once every three years. A further fixture in March may become possible at Hyndburn if permissions can be granted and sufficient help from co-hosting clubs can be assured. Otherwise, we may have to accept another limited season of just 5 fixtures.

Date	Venue	Host club	Co-host club(s)
14 th October 2023	Westmorland Showground, Kendal	Kendal AAC	Leven Valley AC
25 th November 2023	Sefton Park, Liverpool	BA Cross Challenge	Kirkby Milers AC S'port Waterloo?
9 th December 2023	Ryelands Park, Lancaster	Lanc & M'cambe AC	Garstang RC Lancaster Uni?
13 th January 2024	Lawson's Ground, Blackpool	Blackpool Wyre & Fylde AC	Lytham St Annes RRC Wesham RR
10 th February 2024	Towneley Park, Burnley	Trawden AC	-

Blackburn Harriers initiated a discussion about the ongoing difficulty of finding suitable venue, the costs and the reducing number of people willing to organise and assist in the running of these cross country races. They proposed that the League should consider a joint fixture with Red Rose XC League and to that end Blackburn would offer up an improved course at Witton Park for October 2024. The meeting also discussed the excess of fixtures in the January to March period, particularly for young runners, but there was no general consensus that we should restrict fixtures to October to December.

The meeting endorsed the fixtures offered in the table above with thanks to organising clubs and co-hosts. The meeting also asked that clubs consult internally about a joint fixture with Red Rose, feeding back to the league. League officers were also instructed to consult with Red Rose League on the practicality of a joint fixture, in good time for that to be included in the fixtures for 2024/25.

8 Date of AGM

The General Secretary announced that the Annual General and Track & Field Fixtures Meeting of the League would likely be held on Wednesday 22nd November, commencing at 7.30pm. The consensus was that these meetings should continue to be virtual.

Ron Scott

League General Secretary