



UK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

held at the Holiday Inn M6 J7 Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday 26th November

Present: Janice Kaufman (Vice Chair); Karl Ponty (Finance Officer); Marian Williams (Administrator) plus the following members of the management committee: Stuart Horsewood; Alan Johnson; Julian Starkey; Nichola Skedgel (UKA) plus:

The following clubs were in attendance:

Midland region (17 teams represented)

Birchfield Harriers; Cannock & Stafford AC; Coventry & Leamington; Derby AC; East Wales; Gwent Harriers; Kidderminster & Stourport AC; Leamington C&AC; Marshall Milton Keynes AC; Northampton AC; Rugby & Northampton AC; Solihull & Small Heath AC; Swansea Harriers; Swindon Harriers; Team Avon; Telford AC; Yate & District AC

Northern region (9 teams represented)

East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC; Gateshead Harriers; Kingdom Athletic; Liverpool Harriers; North Wales; Rotherham Harriers; Trafford AC; Wigan & District Harriers; Wrexham AC

Southern region (9 teams represented)

Bracknell AC; Brighton & Hove AC; City of Portsmouth AC; Poole AC; Portsmouth/Winchester; Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers; Team Dorset; Winchester & District AC; Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC

Scottish region (2 teams represented)

Dundee Hawkhill Harriers; Pitreavie AAC

Apologies: Grace Hall (Chair); Stuart Hall (Website manager); Leslie Roy (Scottish area co-ordinator); Arbroath & District AC; Basildon AC; Basildon Beagles; Bicester AC; Blackheath & Bromley Harriers; Bolton United Harriers; Border Harriers; Bournemouth, New Forest Juniors & Salisbury; Bristol & West AC/Mendip; Bromsgrove & Redditch AC; Burton AC; Charnwood AC; Cheltenham & County Harriers; City of York AC; Crawley AC; Daventry AAC; Doncaster AC; Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers; East Grinstead; Halesowen A & CC; Hastings AC, Havering AC; Inverness Harriers; Kilmarnock Harriers; Lasswade AC; Leicester Coritania AC; Leeds City AC; Macclesfield Harriers; Rushcliffe AC; Salford Metropolitan AC; Shrewsbury AC; South Wales; Spensborough AC; Southampton; St Marys Richmond AC; Stevenage & North Herts AC; Sutton in Ashfield AC; Tamworth AC; Team Bath; Team East Lothian; Team Green; Team North Cumbria; Tipton Harriers; Walton AC; West Cheshire AC; Wirral AC; Woking AC; Woodford Green w Essex Ladies.

1. Janice Kaufman, the vice-chair, informed everyone that Grace had had to pull out of today's meeting due to illness; she thanked everyone for making the effort to come to the AGM, she then introduced members of the committee seated around the room.

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

There were two amendments noted – Page 2 Item 2 and Page 5 Item 5.4.2 should read Jo Wood, not Jo Davis as seconder to the motions. The minutes were deemed to be an accurate record, and their acceptance was proposed by **Jo Wood (Swansea)** and seconded by **Joyce Tomala (East Wales)**.

The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Vice-Chair, in the Chair's absence.

3. Chair's Report.

In Grace's absence, **Janice Kaufman** highlighted that this was the 10th year of the YDL competition. 2022 had been a more normal season, albeit with a reduced number of volunteers on the committee, a long and arduous one culminating with the finals held in Manchester for both age groups in September. The winners of both being Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC, so congratulations to them. We wait for confirmation about the 2023 European Clubs competition held using the new DNA format, if it does take place Blackheath & Bromley will be nominated to take part as they did this year.

She commented that the impact that Covid had had on our sport was significant and would take some time to recover from, consequently we were starting from a low point when looking ahead. The number of new records in 2022 was, not unexpectedly, lower than in previous years.

She re-iterated Grace's thanks to our member clubs and to the management group.

Janice reminded everyone that EA were holding a Competition Conference next weekend looking at planning for the future.

There were no supplementary questions. Alan Johnson did however comment that the LAG final had been a very close result with Blackheath and Bromley just coming out on top having benefitted from one of their officials finally receiving confirmation of his Level 1 status in the week leading up to the event.

4. Administrator's Annual Report

Marian Williams, the administrator, suggested that as this report had been sent out in advance, she felt it was probably unnecessary to go through it in detail, but asked if anyone had any questions about it. Some commented that they hadn't seen the reports in advance, however Marian reminded everyone that each team's contacts had received them several weeks earlier and **Julian Starkey** pointed out that it had been on the website for a number of weeks also. Janice commented that scrutinising the results had been, as usual, an onerous task, especially bearing in mind some problems experienced with the software. Marian reminded everyone that it was vital that the results and paperwork was sent promptly after a match as there can be a very tight turnaround between some rounds and the Area finals.

5. Financial Report. **Karl Ponty, the finance officer**, pointed out that the accounts showed the figures for the last 4 years, which allowed a direct comparison between the last 2 full years of competition ie 2019 and 2022. There had been some tidying up to do but we are now at the level where everything is complete.

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

He pointed out that the number of matches being held around the country had fallen, and he had directly related this to the reduction in income as the number of teams registered to compete in the league had fallen. The increase in match fees from the AGM in 2021 had simply covered the shortfall but generated no additional income. When the number of teams decrease, the income is reduced but the central costs don't and are then spread across fewer clubs, there is a cost for running a league of this size. There had been a significant reduction in claims for travel costs in 2022. He suggested that as most teams don't travel by coach to fixtures, the outlay to clubs was relatively low. On the other hand, the hosting costs had risen, and this was the reason behind the proposal to increase match fees to enable the league to pay out more to host clubs. He was pleased to note that the use of technology at matches had shown a slight increase.

Details of this were outlined in the proposals.

5.2 Adoption of the Accounts

- **David Ashbourne (Leamington C&AC)** proposed that the 2022 accounts be adopted
- **Clyde Gordon (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers)** seconded the motion.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of adopting the 2022 accounts

With reference to the proposal to increase the amounts payable to host clubs, **Shaun Ainge (Cannock & Stafford)** asked if there was a maximum amount payable to host clubs, Karl replied that for a 6-team division using all the technology devices, the maximum amount would be £920, obviously matches with more teams would have an increased amount according to the number of teams.

David Ashbourne (Leamington) commented that his club had bought an EDM machine, and it was starting to pay for itself as other hosts had hired it for their matches.

Sandra Woodman (Team Avon) asked if they could apply to YDL for a grant to help with the purchase of electronic starting equipment. Janice suggested that they should contact EA to see if they could help.

David Little (Team Dorset) asked if double header matches doubled the length of the competition day. Marian replied that the Southern Premier league would not be involved in any double headers as, in the South, it was only for Division 2A and 3A due to an issue with available hosts and tracks, the athlete numbers are a lot smaller than the Premier division. She asked Shaun Ainge to comment as his club had been involved in double header matches for the last 3 seasons in both age groups. He commented that they had worked well given the number of athletes and had helped to ensure there were sufficient officials to cover events. They had initially started using the Premier timetable which was a slightly longer day.

Sandra Woodman (Team Avon) commented that they had been involved in double header matches with a Premier and a division 1 team. They had used a start team with 3 assistants.

Alan Johnson (Trafford) referenced a double header in the Northern region LAG involving a Premier team and a lower division team. They had run the match perfectly well with 1 starter and 1 assistant.

Marian pointed out that the cost to the league for double headers was less as there was only one standard fixed amount for track hire and technology costs to cover.

Karl however felt that we needed to be mindful that if tracks weren't utilised then they may not survive, so double headers had a negative impact on that. He further commented that the variable payment (currently £30) per team which was given to cover the cost of officials' refreshments would be the same if there was one venue or two.

Julian Starkey (Bracknell) thought that it wasn't widely understood that the variable payment was to cover the cost of officials' food and asked for it to be minuted so that clubs would be aware. He further commented that the UAG timetable was a long timetable for Photofinish, given that they had to set up the equipment for the start of the match and then pack away afterwards; Karl agreed that it needed looking at. He also commented that we shouldn't be asking our outlying clubs to host for environmental reasons, although as Marian pointed out, these tracks too needed to be supported with reference to Karl's earlier comments.

5.3 Subscriptions for 2021/2022.

"The Management Committee proposes that subscriptions be increased to £125 per match per team, plus such sum as the Management Committee may fix to attend any subsequent matches to include finals or promotion matches."

Mark Exley (Northampton AC) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 2

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of the motion

5.4 Travel and Hosting.

“The Management Committee propose to reimburse travel expenses for the 2023 season as follows:

5.4.1 *Less than 400 miles – no payment;*

400 miles or more - 50p per mile

The maximum support due to any team, attending a single away match, to a maximum of £500 per match in total (towards transport and accommodation).

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

Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletic) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the above motion.

“The Management Committee proposes that, for the 2023 season, the host club reimbursement should be paid as follows:

5.4.2 *A fixed amount of £350, and a variable amount of £35 for each team timetabled to compete at the match, plus £200 for the use of Photo Finish, £80 for the use of EDM and £40 each for the use of track and/or field wind gauges”*

David Ashbourne (Leamington C&AC) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the above motions.

Karl gave forewarning to those present that whilst income was reducing, the central administrative costs were not, so from 2024 he would be proposing that individual clubs should become members of the league to cover administration costs, so each club, including those in composite teams, would pay a membership fee towards the cost of matches, this would result in a reduction in the match fees.

Joyce Tomala (East Wales) suggested that some work should be done to look at the size of the clubs in composite teams as many of them are small clubs who in all likelihood couldn't afford a greater expenditure. She felt it was important not to overcharge.

David Little (Team Dorset) agreed with Joyce and felt that this should also be a matter for further consultation with the membership as Karl would need to sell the idea to clubs for 2024.

Alan Johnson (Trafford) commented that treating composite teams differently to clubs wasn't good, he suggested that would become over complicated and would require a lot of work.

Janice reminded everyone that as this would be a constitutional change it would require a two-third majority to be approved.

Joyce suggested that the management group should take on board the comments from this meeting.

Karl then reported on a £50 000 grant from EA which we will hopefully be receiving shortly; on a similar basis to the UKA grant previously awarded. **Janice** explained that the funding streams work differently now with a changing relationship between EA and UKA. The grant received from UKA came from Sport England channelled to us via UKA, now it comes direct from EA. Discussions are taking place between Home Countries.

Joyce Tomala (East Wales) informed the meeting that funding is totally different in Wales, and possibly Scotland, as there is no money available to support competition below elite level, in addition there is a reduction in funding this year. She had confirmed this with the Chief Executive, in her role as a member of WA Council and their T&F committee. **Karl** disagreed with her comments, adding that WA has more funding per athlete than EA.

Paul Farres (City of Portsmouth) commented that the EA grant is not an act of kindness, more of a repayment for all the work done by volunteers at grass root level.

Nichola Skedgel (EA) confirmed to the meeting that the grant comes from Talent funding. EA are seeking to develop their partnership with YDL, and there will be discussions as to how to support not just England, but all areas of the UK within the contract. The money is still from Sport England. The affiliation fees from clubs goes in part towards supporting clubs and competition providers in a variety of ways. With regard to the money EA make through the affiliation fees etc, they do support a number of initiatives from clubs across the country, as well as support for the regions and schools' organisations.

Alan Johnson (Trafford) pointed out that the £50 000 grant was a retrospective payment for 2022.

6. Resolutions.

6.1 Resolutions from Clubs - none

6.2 Management Committee proposals for rule changes:

4 COMPOSITE TEAMS

- 4.1 Composite teams as registered with UKA may be accepted as members of the League, subject to scrutiny and approval by Management Committee.

To be replaced by:

- 4.1 ***Applications and renewals for Composite teams must be submitted to the League Administrator by 30 September, for the following year. Each submission will be subject to scrutiny and approval by the Management Committee before it is forwarded to UKA for registration. There is no guarantee that existing composite teams will be approved for entry to the league.***

Marian explained that this was simply to remind all teams about the deadline for applications, and to re-inforce the fact that all applications are considered each year on merit.

David Little (Team Dorset) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

The proposal was approved

5 OFFICIALS

- 5.3.4 The above officials do not qualify for match points – see 5.4.

To be amended to:

- 5.3.4 ***Apart from the Track Referee and Chief Timekeeper, the above officials do not qualify for match points – see 5.4.***

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- 5.4.1 Each club, including the host club, shall provide one Track Judge, one Timekeeper and a team of 5 Field Judges. One of the Field Judges must be at Level 2 or above with

Health and Safety certification. For the host club these are in addition to the officials in 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 above. Field judges should be available to assist in additional events as required by the Field Referee.

To be amended to:

5.4.1 *Each visiting club shall provide one Track Judge, one Timekeeper and a team of 5 Field Judges, while the host club shall provide a team of 5 Field judges. The field team must include 2 qualified field officials to satisfy the licence requirements, and one of those must be at Level 2 or above with Health and Safety certification. For the host club these are in addition to the officials in 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 above. Field judges should be available to assist in additional events as required by the Field Referee.*

5.4.3 Points will be awarded for up to 7 officials who sign in as a Track judge, Timekeeper or Field judge on the league H & S signing in sheets, subject to satisfying the criteria above.

Eight (8) match points will be credited for each qualified official who signs in for the relevant discipline up to a maximum of 56 points. Unqualified volunteers who sign in for any of the above duties shall be awarded four (4) match points.

There will however be a deduction of 20 points if a club does not provide at least a Level 2 or above field official, reducing the points to 36 maximum if all officials are qualified in their relevant discipline.

To be replaced by:

5.4.3 *Points will be awarded for up to 7 officials who sign in as a Track judge, Timekeeper or Field judge on the league H & S signing in sheets, subject to satisfying the criteria above.*

Eight (8) match points will be credited for each qualified official at Level 1 or above who signs in for the relevant discipline up to a maximum of 56 points.

Unqualified officials who sign in shall be awarded four (4) match points.

A team who provides a full field team, which must include a Level 2+, a level 1+, and 3 additional officials, will be awarded the full forty (40) points. If a team falls short of this, then the usual eight (8) points will be awarded for a qualified official and four (4) points for an unqualified official.

There will be a deduction of 20 points if a club does not provide at least a Level 2 or above field official, reducing the points to 36 maximum if all officials are qualified in their relevant discipline.

Mark Exley (Northampton) queried what would be the outcome for a visiting club who provided one of the chiefs. Marian replied that this would make it simpler, as the host clubs will now just have to provide a substitute for that club (rather than 2 officials as now).

Clyde Gordon (SBH) asked whether there was a need for timekeepers if photofinish was going to be used more widely?

Julian Starkey (Bracknell) reminded everyone that it was important that TK have the opportunities to improve their competency as not all meetings will have photofinish. TK use the Photofinish results to compare their hand times against the electronic times. Timekeepers are also required for the longer distances to all lap times.

Shaun Ainge (C&S) asked if the officials at double header matches would also be adjusted. Marian agreed that they would as each double headed match had its own bespoke information which would be circulated to all the clubs involved.

Annette Brown (Solihull & Small Heath) said that she understood the situation with Track judges and Timekeepers but felt that the difficulty was with trying to find 5 field judges, to include 2 who must be qualified. Clubs are struggling to fulfil their requirements.

Paul Allen (Kingdom Athletics) commented that his team have 12 volunteers going through the process of qualification and they work in rotation at matches, so none are working a full day. Janice confirmed that Gateshead operate similar approach.

Sandra Woodman (Team Avon) said that they try to recruit older athletes. They're also looking to produce a 'Dummies' Guide to the events for reference. Janice asked if she would be willing to send it to Marian as it would be of benefit to a number of clubs.

Kevin Thomas (Rotherham) asked if a club can be credited for a timekeeper who was working on Photofinish, Marian confirmed that this was fine so long as there were the requisite number of timekeepers to fulfil the licence requirement.

Clyde Gordon (SBH) suggested organising training on club nights when parents may be more likely to attend.

Ron Oliver (Kidderminster & Stourport) pointed out that the courses are online, so it wasn't easy to use training nights, however Janice commented that it was possible to run a blended course to suit the circumstances.

David Little (Team Dorset) commented that having to provide 2 qualified officials is making it even more difficult. Marian reminded him that this was a licence requirement and not something we can control.

The change to the points for field events in rule 5.4.3 should help clubs to encourage volunteers to step up. **Janice** reminded everyone that YDL still has some funds for training officials and interested clubs should contact her.

Kevin Thomas (Rotherham) asked what would happen if there weren't enough field officials on an event? **Paul Farres (CoPortsmouth)** suggested that there needs to be a pragmatic approach and the referee has the option of moving officials from other clubs to over any shortfall.

Marian stated that some field cards are very difficult to read, in terms of which officials sign in for each event and would prefer if all officials on a field event write their names clearly on the cards, rather than just sign the card which is often unreadable. **Lesley Nunn (Yate)** suggested that officials write their names on the back of the field cards so they are legible.

Lynne Orbell (Birchfield) asked why the regulations for BMC are more relaxed than for other competitions? No-one was in a position to answer that.

Nichola Skedgel (EA) informed the meeting that EA are looking at a variety of issues round licencing of matches and are considering a level below 1 for development purposes. They are also looking at the option of post event reporting.

However, **Mark Exley (Northampton)** reminded everyone that we need to be mindful of the Health and Safety issues around the long throws in particular.

Margaret Grayston (Wigan Harriers) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The proposals were unanimously approved

6 NUMBERS

- 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 in Jumping Events where one is permissible worn either on the front or back. (Addendum: - due to a change in UKA rules, competitors in all field events may just wear one number front or back)

To be amended to:

- 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 track events; in Field Events one is permissible worn either on the front or back.***

This proposal was to bring the rule in line with UKA rules

Martin Smith (Swindon Harriers) seconded the proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The proposal was unanimously approved

7 Proposal from the management group to look at the future structure of the league:

“That for the 2024 season clubs commit to the league being re-structured to better reflect the competition requirements of developing athletes. This restructure will be consulted on widely across the sport and an Option(s) presented for final approval at an EGM to be held following the end of the 2023 league season”.

Janice gave the rationale behind the proposal:

It is now 10 years since the inception of the UKYDL and the league has evolved incrementally over that time. However, we have seen a steady drop in the number of clubs and teams competing, especially those from the more rural areas of the UK.

Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID pandemic we have also seen a decline in athletes numbers participating and it will take a few years for the sport to recover, particularly in the more technical events. The drop-out rate for U17 and U20 athletes has also increased over the past couple of years and whilst this is mainly due to other factors we need to be mindful that competition opportunities reflect athletes requirements, both in terms of performance and social activity.

The U15 age group has historically been the most successful in terms of participation but provides limited opportunities for athletes, how many times have clubs had to leave their 3rd or 4th best Long Jumper or thrower behind as they haven't had the opportunity to compete or are persuaded to compete in a different event.

The current league rules assumes that every club/team has 2 athletes in every event and the scoring reflects that, sometimes leading to athletes being put in an unfamiliar event for the points. Clubs no longer, if they ever did, operate like that with some clubs specialising in middle distance, sprints or have throws or jumps academies.

Before COVID it had been the committee's intention to hold roadshows with clubs, athletes and parents to garner opinion on a Way Forward for the league that best suits the changes in society over the past 10 years. This is now more important and if we are given the mandate then we will set up Webinars, Conference calls and some face-to-face meetings over the winter/spring to come up with a revised format for approval at an EGM to be implemented for the 2024 season.

Some of the questions that we will ask and explore solutions to are:

- How do we provide the best experience for U13 athletes at a more local level, enabling them to explore more events and for their parents to become more involved in officiating and running the events?
- Are we able to incorporate some limited U11 events into the above?
- How do we provide more opportunities for U15 athletes to compete in their favoured event?
- How do we make the competition more relevant for clubs who specialise in events and appeal to clubs in the more remote areas of the UK?
- How can we organise U20 competition to provide opportunities for all U20 athletes in the UK, whether they are going for performance or competing socially with friends?
- Can we include some U18 competitions to help aspiring athletes and bridge the gap in technical events from U17 to U20?

Given the cost of living and the increase in transport costs and the environmental impact can the league use technology more to restructure and compare competitions across the UK by increasing the number of matches held regionally, especially for the lower age groups.

Position the age groups so that any changes in the Rule Book for 2024 around age groups can be easily incorporated.

To enable any changes proposed for 2024 it would mean a change to the scoring mechanism so that scores are based on performance points in a similar way to that which multi events or para events are scored, rather than points for finishing positions. We will be running a trial in the results next season to see how that affects any scoring, although initial re-scoring of some of the matches in 2022 has indicated that the overall result is unaffected.

As Karl pointed out in his finance report the financial sustainability of the league relies on being more creative in how we invest our members monies, so we seek permission from the clubs to carry out this review and we recommend that the clubs vote with the committee on the proposal.

David Ashbourne (Leamington) asked if no agreement was reached during the consultation period, would things stay as they are now? Janice replied that 'No Change' would be one of the options put to the EGM.

Lesley Nunn (Yate) asked how clubs can vote for this proposal when there is insufficient information as to what they would be voting for? The information given suggested that U13s would be removed from YDL competition, and her club wasn't happy with that. She hoped that it would be more meaningful that the consultation in 2011 when there were many objections that were ignored.

Paul Farres (CoPortsmouth) asked what form the consultation would take. There were some misgivings about the suggestions being made and it would be helpful to know how clubs would be able to participate in the consultation. Janice replied that there would be several webinars or Teams meetings organised to accommodate as many clubs as possible, it was also an option to organise Face to Face meetings on a local level.

Sandra Woodman (Team Avon) asked why, in the light of a possible change to the Age Groups, it would not be more sensible to wait until that had been decided because it may be necessary to change things again. Karl replied that if we knew the timeline for that decision then we would be able to make our decisions based on that, but we could end up waiting indefinitely. Nichola thought that it could be around the end of July.

Mark Exley (Northampton) commented that the situation in 2012 was a different scenario and was hopeful that this time clubs would be listened to as part of the consultation process. It was confirmed that the EA meeting on 3 December was not connected to this proposal.

Karl Ponty (Derby) suggested that there were a lot of issues which needed airing, and people will need to contribute, **Paul Farres** remarked that it wouldn't be possible to please everyone.

David Little (Team Dorset) felt that the U13/U15 age group worked well and thought it would be a retrograde step to remove them from the YDL. He suggested that the argument given about encouraging U15s to stay in the sport was flawed, as it is reflected in many sports and is due to many external factors. **Janice** commented that we need to make sure the competition suits the athletes.

Alan Johnson (Trafford) stated that Trafford are happy with the LAG, the issues are with the UAG. **Janice** replied that U13s at Gateshead have to travel 2 hours on a bus to get to a match and this made the day much longer for them.

Craig Scott (Swindon) asked if this proposal was just a request to look at possible changes, and not necessarily a mandate to change.

Mark Exley (Northampton) commented that it seemed as if some people were looking at a return to the YAL format, but that had a much more limited timetable for U13s and was a longer day, He suggested that this wasn't a good idea.

Karl Ponty replied that the competition was a long day for U13s, and while the LAG may be considered a good day it doesn't involve all athletes. He pointed out that there are less opportunities for U13s than U17s which is contrary to development. We need to look at the athlete journey.

Paul Farres (CoPortsmouth) asked if it would be possible to organise consultation meetings between local clubs. Marian suggested that a series of Zoom meetings would work well both for local clubs and for those further afield. Karl felt that it was important to find the best procedure to consult with all clubs.

Sandra Woodman (Team Avon) commented that her club was more interested in restructuring the timetable rather than changing the age groups, so the starting point should be to go back to clubs to see what concerned them.

John Gercs (Rugby & Northampton) asked what structures were currently being looked at? But Karl replied that there were many different opinions on that, so we would need to listen to the clubs as no-one had all the answers. There were other issues that need to be looked at, eg where and how do clubs recruit officials?

Annette Brown (Solihull & Small Heath) asked how the consultation process would be funded? Karl replied that the EA grant could be used for that. Annette felt that the wording of the proposal suggested that change would happen whether or not clubs wanted it. She submitted an amendment:

That for the 2024 season clubs commit to the league being POTENTIALLY re-structured to better reflect the competition requirements of developing athletes. This restructure will be consulted on widely across the sport and an Option(s) presented for final approval at an EGM to be held following the end of the 2023 league season.

This was seconded by **Clyde Gordon (SBH)**.

Votes Against: 6

Abstentions: 2

The amendment was approved

Voting then took place on the reworded proposal:

Votes Against: 6

Abstentions: 0

The updated proposal was approved

As this was an important change to that which was sent out, it was agreed that the Administrator would circulate this information to all clubs to make them aware of the change. They can then start discussing this.

Karl commented that it could be useful if discussions involved those not in the league as well as our own membership.

Janice then stated that consultation will take place during winter and spring before meetings start up again.

8 Constitutional amendments:

8.1 Proposed by the management group:

The Management Group propose that all references to UKA's representation on the UK YDL committee in 6 instances in the Constitution be removed, namely: points: 8.4; 9.3; 10.3; 14.12; 15.23; 15.5.

For a number of years YDL have not had a UKA representative on the committee who was in a position to assist the league. At this point in time only one of the two UKA committee places are filled, and that by an EA member of staff. The management committee feel that we would be better served by using the co-option facility in the constitution.

David Little asked if UKA would still be kept informed about our discussions.

With no further questions the meeting moved straight to a vote:

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The proposal was approved

14.1 An Officer or a member of the Management Group shall cease to hold office:

14.1.2 In the event that a member does not hold a current valid CRB

To be amended to:

14.1.2 In the event that a member does not hold a current valid DBS.

This change is to correct the wording in the original rule.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The proposal was unanimously approved

15.2 Composition:

15.2.2 Up to eight other people elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with paragraph 11.1.7 to include Area Coordinators, Website Manager, Welfare Officer, Rules & Officials Coordinators.

To be replaced by:

15.2.2 Up to eight other people elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with paragraph 11.1.7 to include Area Coordinators.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The proposal was unanimously approved

15.2.4 Should any Home Country not have a representative on the Management Group after voting has taken place at the Annual General Meeting then the Member Clubs in that Country may elect an additional member of the Group so long as they have at least six Clubs as Members of The League (composite Clubs counting as one Club).

This clause to be removed.

The removal of this clause will require a renumbering of 15.2.5 to 15.2.3

The rationale for the above changes is due to the difficulty in filling vacancies in the management group and it was felt that it would be in the members' interest to reduce the number of specific roles and use sub committees to move forward with the workload. The reduction in the composition of the management committee would also assist the management in ensuring they were quorate.

In respect of 15.2.4, the committee could also utilise co-optation in relation to any home countries requesting a presence on the committee.

David Little (Team Dorset) queried the numbering, but it was correct in that number 15.2.5 would become 15.2.3 if this was approved.

As there were no subsequent questions on either of the above, the meeting moved to a vote:

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Both proposals were unanimously approved

18 FINANCES

18.2 The Finance Officer shall keep accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the League's transactions and are such as to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the League at that time. The records shall contain details of all sums of money received and expended by the League and the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and a record of the assets and liabilities of the League. The accounting records of the League to be inspected by an appropriate member of staff within UKA before the General Meeting.

To be replaced by:

18.2 The Finance Officer shall keep accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the League's transactions and are such as to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the League at that time. The records shall contain details of all sums of money received and expended by the League and the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and a record of the assets and liabilities of the League. The accounting records of the League to be inspected by a suitably qualified accountant who will prepare an independent examiners report.

This to bring the wording into line with current practice.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The proposal was unanimously approved

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

General Committee:

Alan Johnson (to 2024) serving as Northern Area Co-ordinator – nominated by Sale Harriers Manchester; Trafford AC; Wigan Harriers & AC

Stuart Horsewood (to 2024) serving as Southern Area Co-ordinator – nominated by City of Portsmouth AC; Winchester & District AC

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

PLUS

One vacancy to 2023 – to serve as Midland Area Co-ordinator

One vacancy to 2024

No nominations had been received for the above 2 vacancies; if anyone is interested in taking a role on the committee, they are advised to contact Grace Hall, Chair of UK YDL for further information. The UK YDL website contains information about the Roles and Responsibilities of all committee posts.

- 9 The 2023 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday 25th November 2023.**
(This to be confirmed)

The AGM closed at 14:15

The Chair thanked everyone for their input to the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Signed: | Date: |
|---------|-------|



UK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

2022 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the League's constitution, that the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the League will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Chapel Lane, Birmingham, B43 7BG on Saturday 26th November 2022 at 11:00

Marian Williams
League Administrator

November 2022

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM
3. Chairman's Annual Report
4. Administrator's Annual Report
5. Financial matters:
 - 5.1 Consideration of the accounts for the years ending 30th September 2021 and 30th September 2022
 - 5.2 Adoption of the accounts
 - 5.3 Subscriptions for 2022/2023. The Management Committee proposes that subscriptions be increased to £125 per match per team plus such sum as the Management Committee may fix to attend any subsequent fixtures to include finals and promotion matches.
 - 5.4 To approve the Management Committee's proposal to reimburse travel expenses for the 2023 season: -
 - 5.4.1 Less than 400 miles – no payment
400 miles or more – 50p/mile
The maximum support due to any team, attending a single away match, to a maximum of £500 per match in total (towards transport and accommodation).
(NB Claims amounting to less than £25 will not be reimbursed).



5.4.2 The Management Committee proposes that, for the 2023 season, the host club reimbursement should be paid as follows:

A fixed amount of £350, and a variable amount of £35 for each team timetabled to compete at the match.

plus £200 for the use of Photo Finish, £80 for the use of EDM and £40 each for the use of track and/or field wind gauges.

6. To consider the following resolutions. These resolutions need a simple majority to be passed:

6.1 **Proposals from clubs** – there are no proposals submitted from clubs.

6.2 **Proposed by the Management Group**

The Management Group propose the following changes to the Rules of competition:

4 COMPOSITE TEAMS

4.1 Composite teams as registered with UKA may be accepted as members of the League, subject to scrutiny and approval by Management Committee.

To be replaced by:

4.1 Applications and renewals for Composite teams must be submitted to the League Administrator by 30 September, for the following year. Each submission will be subject to scrutiny and approval by the Management Committee before it is forwarded to UKA for registration. There is no guarantee that existing composite teams will be approved for entry to the league.

Rationale: There has been some confusion as to the schedule for composite teams to apply to join the league, or to apply to renew their existing application. The above amendment clearly shows the date for all such applications to be made.

Furthermore, the existing rule doesn't make clear that an existing composite team will not automatically be renewed; the management group assesses each application at the first meeting following the deadline and it is their decision as to whether or not they feel that a composite team is working for the benefit of the athletes.

5 OFFICIALS

5.3.4 The above officials do not qualify for match points – see 5.4.

To be amended to:

5.3.4 Apart from the Track Referee and Chief Timekeeper, the above officials do not qualify for match points – see 5.4.

Rationale: our member clubs are telling us that following the Covid pandemic, the number of active officials is reducing, and host clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to supply both Chief officials and an additional team member. The management group are suggesting that, in the case of track officials and timekeepers, host clubs will not be penalised for not providing



an additional team member. Provided that all teams in each of the divisions fulfil their requirement, this would not present a problem with the license requirements.

5.4 In addition to the above:

5.4.1 Each club, including the host club, shall provide one Track Judge, one Timekeeper and a team of 5 Field Judges. One of the Field Judges must be at Level 2 or above with Health and Safety certification. For the host club these are in addition to the officials in 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 above. Field judges should be available to assist in additional events as required by the Field Referee.

To be amended to:

5.4.1 Each visiting club shall provide one Track Judge, one Timekeeper and a team of 5 Field Judges, while the host club shall provide a team of 5 Field judges. The field team must include 2 qualified field officials to satisfy the licence requirements, and one of those must be at Level 2 or above with Health and Safety certification. For the host club these are in addition to the officials in 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 above. Field judges should be available to assist in additional events as required by the Field Referee.

Rationale: In line with the potential changes outlined in Rule 5.3.4 above, this revises the wording as to the number and level of officials must be provided by each team.

5.4.3 Points will be awarded for up to 7 officials who sign in as a Track judge, Timekeeper or Field judge on the league H & S signing in sheets, subject to satisfying the criteria above.

Eight (8) match points will be credited for each qualified official who signs in for the relevant discipline up to a maximum of 56 points. Unqualified volunteers who sign in for any of the above duties shall be awarded four (4) match points.

There will however be a deduction of 20 points if a club does not provide at least a Level 2 or above field official, reducing the points to 36 maximum if all officials are qualified in their relevant discipline.

To be replaced by:

5.4.3 Points will be awarded for up to 7 officials who sign in as a Track judge, Timekeeper or Field judge on the league H & S signing in sheets, subject to satisfying the criteria above.

Eight (8) match points will be credited for each qualified official at Level 1 or above who signs in for the relevant discipline up to a maximum of 56 points.

Unqualified officials who sign in shall be awarded four (4) match points.

A team who provides a full field team, which must include a Level 2+, a level 1+, and 3 additional officials, will be awarded the full forty (40) points. If a team falls short of this, then the usual eight (8) points will be awarded for a qualified official and four (4) points for an unqualified official.



There will be a deduction of 20 points if a club does not provide at least a Level 2 or above field official, reducing the points to 36 maximum if all officials are qualified in their relevant discipline.

Rationale: There has been some confusion as to what constitutes a qualified official; according to the UKA licencing checker an official is not considered to be qualified in any discipline until they have achieved level 1 status, this rule seeks to clarify that. In addition, as previously stated, the number of active officials has dwindled, and it is suggested that the above rule may assist clubs trying to attract and recruit new officials into the sport. In order to satisfy the licence requirement, there must be at least 4 qualified timekeepers and 4 track judges and there must be at least 2 qualified field judges working at each field event, with specific events requiring at least one qualified at level 2 or above.

6 NUMBERS

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 in Jumping Events where one is permissible worn either on the front or back. (Addendum: - due to a change in UKA rules, competitors in all field events may just wear one number front or back)

To be amended to:

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 track events; in Field Events one is permissible worn either on the front or back.*

Rationale: This is to tidy up the existing rule to bring it in line with UKA rules.

7. Proposal from the management group to look at the future structure of the league:

“That for the 2024 season clubs commit to the league being re-structured to better reflect the competition requirements of developing athletes. This restructure will be consulted on widely across the sport and an Option(s) presented for final approval at an EGM to be held following the end of the 2023 league season”.

Rationale: These will be fundamental changes to the UK YDL effectively creating a rite of passage and structure more appropriate to youth athletes at different ages of development:

- To keep people in the sport for longer we may be better taking a different approach with the development of U13s. Very local club run development leagues/festivals between grassroot clubs may be much more appropriate for U13s. Ideally keeping travel to a minimum and competitions to under 3.5 hours.
- It may be more sensible to put U15 and U17 together which may reduce the numbers we lose, by encouraging U15s to stay on, both through an easier steppingstone for older U15s moving up, and by keeping a cohort of mid-teen athletes together for longer.



- An U20 League which was open to all U20 athletes in the UK (through composite teams or increased guest competitors) would essentially be U20 events (with possibly some U18 events) which would shrink the timetables significantly.

8. To consider the following amendments to the constitution. These resolutions amend the constitution and so require two thirds of those voting to vote in favour for it to be adopted; they may not be amended from the floor.

8.1 Proposed by the management group:

The Management Group propose that all references to UKA's representation on the UK YDL committee in 6 instances in the Constitution be removed, namely: points: 8.4; 9.3; 10.3; 14.12; 15.23; 15.5.

Rationale: Since Nigel Holl left UKA, UK YDL have not had any representative on the committee who was in a position to assist the league. At this point in time only one of the two UKA committee places are filled, and by an EA member of staff. The management committee feel that we would be better served by using the co-option facility in the constitution.

14.1 An Officer or a member of the Management Group shall cease to hold office:

14.1.2 In the event that a member does not hold a current valid CRB

To be amended to:

14.1.2 In the event that a member does not hold a current valid DBS.

Rationale: this change to correct the wording.

15.2 Composition:

15.2.2 Up to eight other people elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with paragraph 11.1.7 to include Area Coordinators, Website Manager, Welfare Officer, Rules & Officials Coordinators.

To be replaced by:

15.2.2 Up to eight other people elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with paragraph 11.1.7 to include Area Coordinators.

AND

15.2.4 Should any Home Country not have a representative on the Management Group after voting has taken place at the Annual General Meeting then the Member Clubs in that Country may elect an additional member of the Group so long as they have at least six Clubs as Members of The League (composite Clubs counting as one Club).

This clause to be removed.

The removal of this clause will require a renumbering of 15.2.5 to 15.2.3



Rationale: UK YDL is struggling to fill vacancies and we feel that it would be in the members' interest to reduce the number of specific roles and use sub committees to move forward with the workload. The reduction in the composition of the management committee would also assist the management in ensuring they were quorate.
In respect of 15.2.4, the committee could also utilise co-option in relation to any home countries requesting a presence on the committee.

18 FINANCES

18.2 The Finance Officer shall keep accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the League's transactions and are such as to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the League at that time. The records shall contain details of all sums of money received and expended by the League and the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and a record of the assets and liabilities of the League. The accounting records of the League to be inspected by an appropriate member of staff within UKA before the General Meeting.

To be replaced by:

18.2 The Finance Officer shall keep accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the League's transactions and are such as to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the League at that time. The records shall contain details of all sums of money received and expended by the League and the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and a record of the assets and liabilities of the League. The accounting records of the League to be inspected by a suitably qualified accountant who will prepare an independent examiners report.

9. Election of management committee vacancies (with Terms of office as shown).

Nominations received for:

General Committee:

Alan Johnson (to 2024) serving as Northern Area Co-ordinator – nominated by Sale Harriers Manchester; Trafford AC; Wigan Harriers & AC

Stuart Horsewood (to 2024) serving as Southern Area Co-ordinator – nominated by City of Portsmouth AC; Winchester & District AC

Plus

One vacancy to 2023 – to serve as Midland Area Co-ordinator

One vacancy to 2024

10. Date of the 2023 Annual General Meeting – Saturday 25th November 2023

NOTE

Tea & Coffee will be available from 10.15 in the Lounge

Delegates are advised to bring their own lunch however there will be further tea and coffee available during the lunch break



UK Youth Development League AGM 2022.

Chair's Report.

In what is the tenth year of the UK YDL competition, my hope from last year was realised, 2022 did give our member clubs much more of a normal season than the previous two years had. We were also able to have a National Finals weekend once more in Manchester. It may have been a long and arduous season, for the many reasons the administrator mentions in her report, but we did get to the end. Like Marian, I realise that it will take our member clubs quite some time to build back up, not only with their athletes, but the voluntary force that some are desperately seeking.

As you will see from the AGM agenda, your management committee realises that UK YDL needs to evolve and to that end we hope for your permission to conduct a consultation exercise which will provide a new way forward. We need our member clubs to fully participate in what could be a new concept which will give your athletes the competition they need.

The culmination of this season was the National Finals in Manchester and the outright winners in both the Upper Age Group and the Lower Age Group competitions were Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC. The lower age group finals were a very close affair, but the upper was more clear cut. We are waiting to see if there will be a European Clubs competition in 2023 in the new DNA format as happened this year, and if so, we will be nominating Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC upper team to participate in that.

The European Clubs 2022 competition took place in Castellon, Spain, under the new DNA format and Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC, represented GB, finishing in a very respectable 2^d place.

Congratulations, not only to Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC, but to all UK YDL teams for their successes this year.

The problems that athletes have faced in the last couple of years have shown in the lack of league records in 2022, only 7 new records and 1 equal record, but for all athletes who took part, we hope you enjoyed the experience.

Finally, none of this would happen without the clubs, their officials, and volunteers, 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. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2023.

Grace Hall.

Chair.

29.10.22





Administrator's Annual Report to the AGM November 2022

I think it's safe to say that although 2022 was a return to normality, it was nevertheless not an easy year. We tried to have a full programme for everyone but ended up with a few cancelled matches mostly due to our being unable to find host clubs for the dates we had. There are a variety of reasons for this: repairs to tracks, a lack of active officials, new volunteers in place who were just finding their feet, and sometimes just a clash of fixtures making it impossible to find enough volunteers (and in some cases, athletes) to run a match. Our round 4 matches especially proved problematic with the dates being scheduled against the Commonwealth Games on home turf, and we have tried hard this year to avoid school holidays as best we can. Whilst we accept that not all athletes and officials go away on holiday, a league is very different to an open meeting, as there can be a lot more at stake especially in the final round. We don't want to end the season in June, but the end of July and the whole of August are fraught with problems.

From a personal point of view, I found that having to sort out the fixtures in both the Midlands and Southern regions to be very time consuming in an already busy schedule, thankfully a volunteer did come forward for the post of Southern Area Co-ordinator, and I'm very grateful to Stuart Horsewood for stepping into the breach; we can't have put him off too much as he's willing to carry on. The Midlands is proving to be more of a problem, and we remain without anyone willing to take it on at the moment.

In all, this season there were 153 regional fixtures scheduled, 57 in the UAG and 96 in the LAG, however, 20 of those matches were held as double headers and there were 4 matches cancelled in the Northern or Southern regions, leaving a net total of 129 matches to support financially. The Midlands remains the biggest region in terms of teams and clubs competing, and, although they have the most divisions, there were fewer matches to host because half of the fixtures are organised as double headers which may go some way to explaining why they had no cancelled matches. Given that we've had 2 very disruptive years, it's been heartening to find so many clubs still in a position to be able to field teams in the league.

We had our usual quota of complaints, or possibly even more this year, as things took time to bed in; some were about the dates of fixtures, as alluded to above, some were regarding the results software, some about the officials' points, and others complaining about the travelling distances to get to some fixtures. In 2021 we operated a divisional structure based on geography rather than on a linear structure and it's clear that some preferred that; now may be the time to look again at this type of structure especially in the lower age group. There will always be some outlying teams whose travel is of necessity longer, but it's worth looking at a more blended approach to try to make the experience more enjoyable for everyone. One thing that's abundantly clear is that many clubs are still working their way back up to pre-pandemic numbers, and their needs may not be the same as they used to be.

As I said in my report of last year, it's crucial that we have clubs willing and able to host fixtures. Whilst we accept that not all are in a happy position of having a suitable home track to welcome teams, there are those who host at a neighbouring venue, or some, further afield. In 2022, we had a number of smaller clubs, without the infrastructure to host on their own who volunteered to share the responsibility, and cost, with another club, or, in the case of one fixture, with a number of other clubs. With the rising costs of tracks and other costs such as first aid cover it's important that everyone shares the load.



One thing I observed when scrutinising matches this year was that the drop off in numbers in some events seemed more marked than in others; the technical events appeared to be especially badly hit and I would suggest that this is a result of Covid when training, and possibly competition opportunities, were particularly difficult to accommodate. My feeling is that this will take some time to recover. When we look at what we offer as a league it would be very simple to reduce the opportunities in some of the less popular events, but how can those events develop if competition opportunities become few and far between? It is a conundrum and maybe that too is something we need to look at in conjunction with the HCAFs and event leads.

You will have noted that later in the agenda is a proposal to re-structure the league, I would ask all clubs to participate as best they can in the consultation process to make sure the league is offering the best for all your athletes. I'm sure there will be many and varied opinions about this but unless we know what everyone wants or needs, we will be in danger of just hearing the vociferous minority.

I am, as ever, grateful to the committee for their support and assistance during the year, in particular I must thank Grace and Janice for their hard work scrutinising and chasing anomalies for all the Northern region's results, and to Joyce Tomala (yes, she's still helping out in the background) who helped with some of the Midlands' results. They made a massive difference to my workload.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers in our clubs who continue to work hard supporting your athletes; without your enthusiasm and commitment there would be no matches, so, thank you all.

Marian Williams
UK YDL Administrator

Breakdown of divisions, teams, and clubs by region:

UAG

| | Divisions | fixtures | teams | clubs |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Midlands | 6 divisions | 12 divisional + 3 finals | 35 teams inc 6 composites | 52 clubs |
| Northern | 5 divisions | 14 divisional + 1 final | 32 teams inc 4 composites | 44 clubs |
| Southern | 5 divisions | 20 divisional | 34 teams inc 11 composites | 50 clubs |

LAG

| | Divisions | fixtures | teams | clubs |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Midlands | 9 divisions | 18 divisional + 3 finals | 51 teams inc 5 composites | 61 clubs |
| Northern | 7 divisions | 24 divisional + 2 finals | 43 teams inc 2 composites | 48 clubs |
| Southern | 7 divisions | 22 divisional | 43 teams inc 4 composites | 51 clubs |
| Scotland | 3 divisions | 9 fixtures + 1 final | 23 teams inc 7 composites | 37 clubs |

YDL Finance Officers Report to the AGM 2022

2022

2022 is a more “normal” year financially.

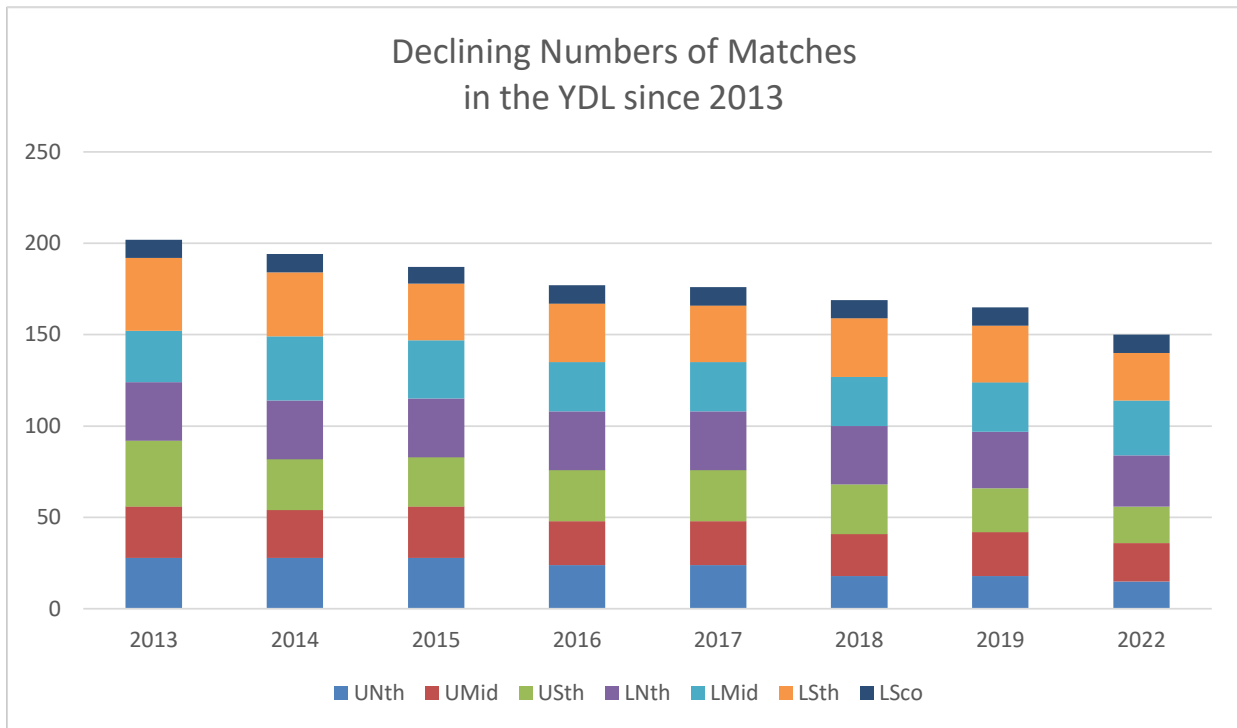
We have taken the unusual step to show four years in the Income and Expenditure Report to allow sensible comparison between the more “normal” years 2022 and 2019.

There is some tidying up shown in the accounts from the covid affected periods of 2020 and 2021. Match credits were brought forward and shown are in income and unused contingency has been returned to accumulated funds in keeping with our attempts to keep continuity and transparency in the league’s accounts.

The League has not received any grants during this financial year. Despite increasing the membership fees, the League had a predicted deficit of £10,874 which is be met from reserves.

Member and Match Fees for 2023

The number of matches in our league has dropped consistently from the league’s first season in 2013 at the same time the leagues governing body grant income has reduced from £115,000 a year to zero.



The number of matches in 2019 was 165 which dropped to 150 in 2022 due to a reduction in teams entered creating necessary restructuring. Currently our income from members is based on the total number of matches. The number of matches has reduced in both age groups in all regions over the years - with the exception of U13/U15 age group in the North.

This year’s increase of £10 per match has effectively met/hidden the reduction of income due to lower numbers participating in the league.

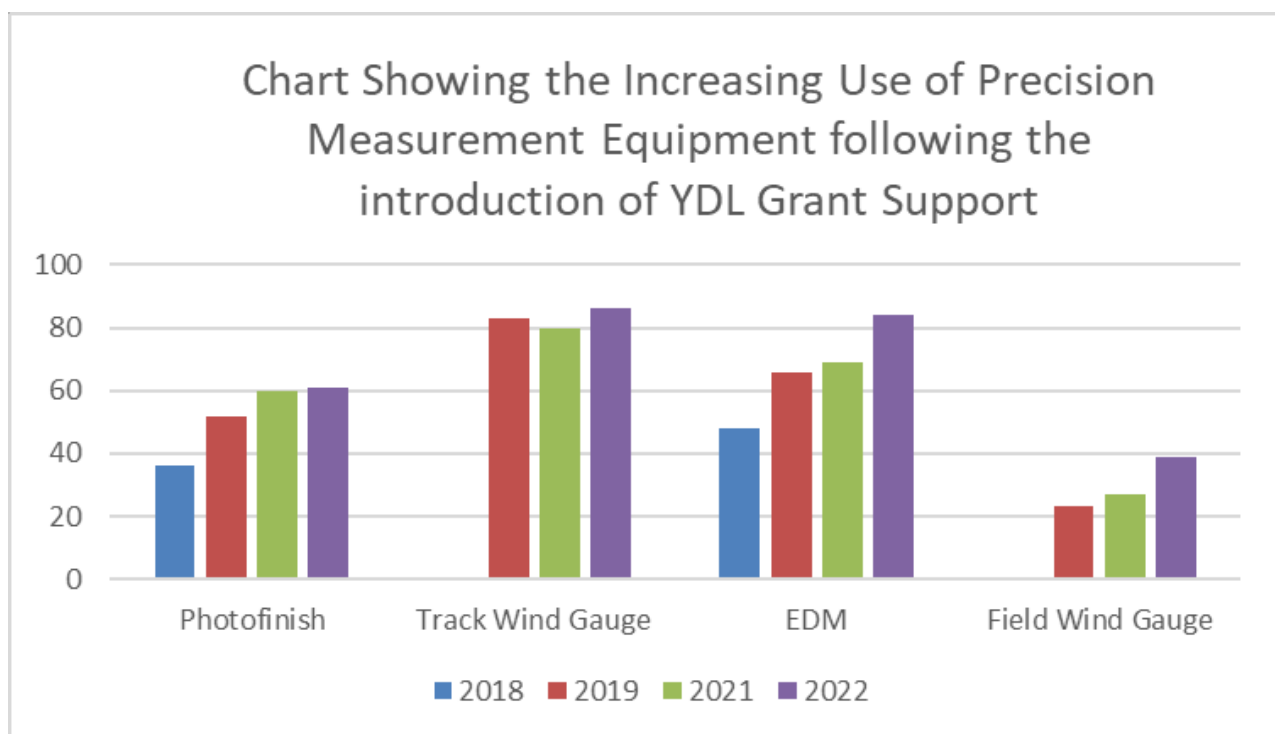
There have been expenditure savings over the past few years due to:

- less matches tending to involve travel/accommodation support essentially due to some peripheral teams (mostly composites) no longer competing;
- YDL Management meetings tending to be online (travel is a noticeable expense in face-to-face meetings of a UK League);
- Significant savings on the actual costs of National Finals consistently coming in under the forecasted budget.
- A few matches becoming double headers.

Helping the Hosts !

It is increasingly evident that hosting is not shared amongst clubs and that the same clubs (particularly in the South and Midlands) are having to host every year. This non-sharing means that costs of hosting are not shared. To spread the financial costs of hosting it makes sense to collect more in match fees and provide more financial support to those that do host.

Support for hosts providing and using Precision Measurement Equipment continues to encourage its use at YDL matches.



If we take precision measurement costs out of the match fee burden (previously this was met by UKA grants) and pay from this from potential grants or reserves, we can ensure a higher proportion of match fees is directed to further support to hosts.

By increasing match fees to £125 per match, we can further address the losses and concerns of those clubs that do host. Each host would now receive £350 fixed support and a variable support of £35 per team in the division. Dedicating £25K from grants/reserves to the precision measure costs for 2023, allows us to further increase Support per match for Photofinish to £200, Track and Field Windgauges £40, EDM £80.

We recommend that the variable match support to £35 per team is intended to support volunteer officials and will only be payable to the host provided that lunches and reasonable refreshments are provided free of charge to the officials of visiting teams. To make this variable payment more obvious, it can be called a variable payment for the consideration allocated team officials. An application for the variable payment would not be accepted from a host if it did not supply lunches and refreshments to team officials.

A host of a 6-team match could claim:

£350 (Fixed)

£210 (Variable – supporting officials through lunches & refreshments, £35 per team)

£360 (maximum claim for Precision Measurement)

£920 Total Claim Possible

This would be net from

Increasing match fees from £100 to £125 per match to cover increased support to hosts. Increases to Precision Measurement Support costs met from reserves or grants.

Forewarning of a proposal to a change in how fees are calculated from 2024

With reducing teams in the League, the fixed central administration expenditure becomes an increasing burden on the remaining teams.

During 2020, the league had central costs but held no matches. Teams having more matches effectively pay more towards the central costs. Clubs benefiting from the league but in composite teams pay significantly less towards central costs. Taking all of these considerations on board, it may be time to have a fixed Club Membership Fee and a match fee, with the Club Membership Fee being a fixed fee payable by all clubs.

A proposal of this nature would make the YDL a “Club” league rather than a “Team” league. Changes to the constitution would need reflect this.

For a Club Membership Fee to meet the current central administration costs of the league, currently this would mean a fee of approximately £60 per club. Team match fees would then be estimated to meet actual match costs which would be likely to be reduced. For clarity, every club would be expected to pay the Club Membership Fee once only each year. A club entering the lower league would pay the Club Membership Fee (including each individual club in composite teams). Each club entering the upper League (individually or part of a composite team) that had not paid the Club Membership Fee for the lower league would be expected to do so.

This proposal was discussed by the Management Committee. It was decided to delay taking it to this year’s AGM to seek further consultation with members. As this proposal may be put to (and accepted) by members at 2023 AGM (for the 2024 season), it was decided that it was important to forewarn members of this possibility now.

UKA Grants for 2023

None expected and none likely for the foreseeable future.

England Athletics Grants

The League received a small grant from England Athletics during the covid period, part of which was distributed to teams hosting matches in England to help with Covid costs. The remainder of these funds reside in the league's Accumulated Fund and there are notes to this effect in the published year end accounts.

During this year the League has worked closely with England Athletics looking at opportunities for developing talent through the YDL.

In the recent past UKA's reducing "Talent Monies" granted to the YDL have been directed to three areas:

- Precision Measurement for Talent (Photofinish, EDM, Wind gauges);
- Developing Talent from across the UK (travel and accommodation support);
- Rewarding Team Performance (meeting the deficit costs of National and Regional Finals).

The budgeted cost of these three areas has been £50,000.

After the League Financial year of 2021-22 had ended and reports had been written, England Athletics offered support of £50,000 with conditions likely to be acceptable to the YDL. Final details have yet to be confirmed but the grant will hopefully land with the YDL before March 2023.

There are some complications with other home nations not coming forwards to offer our UK League financial support and as with the Covid support, England monies can realistically only be targeted to support English Clubs or events happening in England.

The support of England Athletics Officers from the start of covid, and this £50,000 financial contribution to the league, are greatly appreciated. It is hoped that if YDL and England Athletics objectives and processes for developing youth talent are closely enough aligned, that this officer and grant support will continue and benefit youth athletics for many future years.

Finance Proposals.

1. To increase team affiliation to £125 per match to increase support to those clubs that host.
2. To continue to further encourage use of precision measurement equipment across the UK by offering support towards costs per match of:
 - £200 for Photofinish
 - £80 for EDM
 - £40 for Track Wind gauge
 - £40 for Field Wind gauge

Karl Ponty
Finance Officer
YDL Athletics

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

| | | 2022 | | 2021 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | | |
| Cash at Bank | - Current Account | 19,213 | | 162,658 | |
| | - Deposit Account | <u>180,747</u> | | <u>60,739</u> | |
| | | 199,960 | | 223,397 | |
| Debtors | Note 1 | 270 | | 519 | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | |
| Amounts Due Within One Year: | | | | | |
| Creditors | Note 6 | 1153 | | 2,985 | |
| Income deferred | | | | <u>13,500</u> | |
| | | | | <u>16,485</u> | |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>199,077</u> | | <u>207,431</u> | |
| | | <u>199,077</u> | | <u>207,431</u> | |
| CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND RESERVES | | | | | |
| Accumulated Funds | | | | | |
| Sport England Covid Follow on Funds | | | | 50,000 | |
| England Athletics - Grant | | | | 10,320 | |
| Balance as at 1 October 2021 | Note 2 | <u>207,431</u> | | <u>115,363</u> | |
| Adjustments | Note 3 | 2520 | | 903 | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | | <u>-10,874</u> | | <u>30,845</u> | |
| | | <u>199,077</u> | | <u>207,431</u> | |

K Ponty 1st October 2022
 YDL Finance Officer

Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined the books and records of the Youth Development League for the year ended 30th September 2022, 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.



H ASHLEY (ACMA)

27th October 2022

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

| | 2022 | | 2021 | | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|------|----------------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Affiliation Fees | | 81,320 | | 74,820 | 0 | 93,780 |
| Affiliations deferred to 2022 | | 13,500 | | | | |
| Grants from UKA | | 0 | | 50,000 | 0 | 60,000 |
| Donations | | 764 | | 837 | 68 | 870 |
| Interest Received | | 8 | | 38 | 212 | 121 |
| Other | | | | 0 | 72 | |
| | | 95,592 | | <u>125,695</u> | <u>352</u> | <u>154,771</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
| Administration Costs | | | | | | |
| Committee Meetings | | 144 | | 144 | 1,196 | 2,296 |
| Sub Group Meetings | | 0 | | 0 | 282 | 1,046 |
| Website and Support | | 2,050 | | 1,715 | 1,117 | 1,715 |
| Officer Expenses | | 577 | | 182 | 284 | 299 |
| AGM | | 1,101 | | 0 | 2,619 | 2,661 |
| Professional Fees | | 374 | | 303 | 473 | 502 |
| Results Software Development | | 750 | | 750 | 2,250 | 4,866 |
| Administration Fees | | <u>7,000</u> | | <u>7,500</u> | <u>6,750</u> | <u>7,500</u> |
| | | 11,996 | | 10,594 | 14,971 | 20,885 |
| League Match Costs | | | | | | |
| Hosting Support | | 46,735 | | 55,838 | | 59,230 |
| Competitor Numbers | | 4,347 | | 5,228 | | 4,629 |
| Results Match Support | | 2,000 | | 750 | 150 | 750 |
| Administration Fees | | 8,000 | | 3,310 | 3,650 | 7,500 |
| Area Administration Fees | | 1,875 | | 3,125 | 2,625 | 2,625 |
| Area Administration Expenses | | 0 | | | | 696 |
| Area Trophies | | <u>0</u> | | | | <u>500</u> |
| | | 62,957 | | 68,251 | 6,425 | 75,930 |
| Precision Measurement for Talent | | | | | | |
| Photofinish Support | | 8,850 | | 9,000 | | 5,100 |
| Track Wind Gauge | | 2,100 | | 2,000 | | 1,950 |
| EDM Support | | 4,100 | | 3,450 | | 3,050 |
| Field Wind Gauge | | <u>925</u> | | <u>675</u> | | <u>575</u> |
| | | 15,975 | | 15,125 | 0 | 10,675 |
| Developing Talent from Across the UK | | | | | | |
| Travel Support | | 2,033 | | | | 4,337 |
| Team Accommodation | | 0 | | | | 3,544 |
| Travel over Sea | | 0 | | | | 3,495 |
| Administration Fees | | <u>500</u> | | | | <u>500</u> |
| | | 2,533 | | 0 | 0 | 11,876 |
| Rewarding Team Performance | | | | | | |
| Cost of Staging National Finals Note 4 | | 7,290 | | | | 5,608 |
| Cost of Staging Area Finals | | 2,803 | | | | 3,544 |
| Competitor Numbers | | 500 | | | | 982 |
| Results Software Developer Support | | 250 | | | | 500 |
| Administration Fees | | <u>850</u> | | | | <u>850</u> |
| | | 11,693 | | 0 | 0 | 11,484 |
| Miscellaneous Sundries | | 200 | | | | |
| Prior Year adjustment Note 5 | | <u>1,112</u> | | | | <u>-2566</u> |
| | | <u>106,466</u> | | <u>93,970</u> | <u>27,821</u> | <u>128,284</u> |
| Bad Debt Expense | | | | 880 | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) to Accumulated Funds | | <u>-10,874</u> | | <u>30,845</u> | <u>-27,469</u> | <u>26,487</u> |

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

| | 2022 | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1 Debtors | | |
| AGM Deposit | | 270 |
| | | <u>270</u> |
| 2 Accumulated Funds Includes remaining England Athletics Grant* | | 10,320 |
| <i>less</i> | | |
| Officials Training | 200 | |
| | | <u>10,120</u> |
| | | |
| 3 Unused contingency for refunding non-competing teams | | 2,760 |
| <i>less</i> | | |
| Partial refunds paid | 240 | |
| | | <u>2,520</u> |
| 4 Cost of National Finals | | |
| Income | | |
| Gate Receipts | 2,287 | |
| Franchises | 500 | |
| National finals team receipts | <u>1,300</u> | |
| | 4,087 | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Track Hire and Staffing Costs | 4,671 | |
| First Aid | 1,350 | |
| Medals and Trophies | 1,060 | |
| Officials' Expenses and Catering | <u>4,296</u> | |
| | 11,377 | |
| | | <u>7,290</u> |
| | | |
| 5 Prior Year adjustment | | |
| Late Hosting Claim 2021 | 445 | |
| Late Travel Claim 2021 | 427 | |
| Partial match refund 2021 | <u>240</u> | |
| | | <u>1,112</u> |
| | | |
| 6 Creditors | | |
| Regional Finals Payment | <u>1153</u> | |
| | | <u>1,153</u> |

*These monies are only available to English Teams for projects agreed with England Athletics

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

held at the Holiday Inn M6 J7 Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday 20th November

Present: Grace Hall (Chair); Janice Kaufman (Vice Chair); Karl Ponty (Finance Officer); Marian Williams (Administrator) plus the following members of the management committee: Stuart Hall; Alan Johnson; Julian Starkey; Joyce Tomala; Katie Brazier (UKA) plus:

The following clubs were in attendance:

Midland region (21 teams represented)

Birchfield Harriers; Bristol & West/Mendip; Cwmbran Harriers; Derby AC; East Wales; Halesowen A & CC; Kidderminster & Stourport AC; Marshall Milton Keynes AC; Northampton AC; Royal Sutton Coldfield AC; Solihull & Small Heath AC; Swansea Harriers; Team Avon

Northern region (13 teams represented)

East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC; Gateshead Harriers; Liverpool Harriers; Sale Harriers; Spenborough & District AC; Trafford AC; Wigan & District Harriers

Southern region (8 teams represented)

Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC; Bracknell AC; City of Portsmouth AC; Portsmouth/Winchester; Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers; Team Dorset

Apologies: Nichola Skedgel (UKA); Leslie Roy (Scottish area co-ordinator); Lorraine Vidler (Southern area co-ordinator); Amber Valley & Erewash AC; Ashford & Thanet; Banchory Stonehaven AC; Basildon AC; Basildon Beagles; Bexley AC; Blackburn Harriers; Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC; Bolton United Harriers; Bournemouth, New Forest Juniors & Salisbury; Brighton & Hove AC; Bromsgrove & Redditch AC; Burton AC; Camberley & District AC; Camberley & Woking; Cannock & Stafford AC; Cardiff Archers; Cardiff Athletics; Charnwood AC; Cheltenham & County Harriers; City of Sheffield & Dearne AC; City of Stoke AC; City of York AC; Colwyn Bay AC; Croydon Harriers; Daventry AAC; Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers; East Grinstead; East Notts; Gloucester AC; Halesowen A & CC; Harrow & Dacorum; Hastings AC, Havering AC; Hereford & County AC; Herne Hill Harriers; Herts Phoenix AC; Horsham Blue Star Harriers; Kilmarnock Harriers; Kingdom Athletic; Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers; Lancaster & Morecambe AC; Leicester Coritanian AC; Leeds City AC; Leigh Harriers; Macclesfield Harriers; Manchester Harriers; Mansfield Harriers; Medway & Maidstone AC; Menai Track & Field; Newham & Essex Beagles; North Wales; Notts AC; Paddock Wood & Folkstone; Preston Harriers; Reading AC; Rugby & Northampton AC; Rushcliffe AC; Saffron AC; Salford Metropolitan AC; Shettleston Harriers; South Wales; Southport Waterloo AC; St Helens Sutton AC; St Marys Richmond AC; Stevenage & North Herts AC; Stockport Harriers & AC; Sutton & District AC; Sutton-in-Ashfield AC; Swindon Harriers; Tamworth AC; Team ATIP; Team Bedfordshire; Team West London; Thames Valley Harriers; Telford AC; Tipton Harriers; Tonbridge AC; Walton AC; West Cheshire AC; West Notts; Wirral AC; Wolverhampton & Bilston AC; Worcester AC; Yate & District AC

- 1. Grace Hall, the chair,** thanked everyone for making the effort to come to the AGM, she then introduced members of the of the committee seated around the room and extended a warm welcome to Katie Brazier, who was attending her first AGM as one of the UKA representatives on the YDL committee.

2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

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

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

3. Chair's Report.

Grace Hall commented that with an unusual two years of competition, she had felt it important in her report to draw attention to the achievements of the athletes over the season, as they are the main reason we are here; she invited questions from the floor, but there were none.

4. Administrator's Annual Report

Marian Williams, the administrator, suggested that as this report had also been sent out in advance, she too would just take questions. Marian suggested that it was encouraging that over 169 YDL fixtures took place in 2021 which is about a third of the total of all league fixtures that took place, and she thanked everyone for their efforts to make these happen. There were no questions, however **Lynn Orbell (Birchfield)** felt it was an appropriate time to thank all those who had organised the matches in 2021.

5. Financial Report.

As the 2020 AGM had not taken place, the accounts for 2 years would need to be approved.

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

Following the deferment of the 2020 AGM a copy of the accounts had been circulated along with the annual report. As the decision to cancel all matches in 2020 had been taken after half the year had passed there were a lot of expenses already undertaken at that point and appeared in the 2020 accounts; all registration fees had been deferred to cover the 2021 registration fees.

He had hoped to include all three years on the accounts to make the position clearer but had been advised that this wasn't possible on continuity grounds.

Some of the fixtures clubs had paid for had not taken place due to Covid, and clubs who fall into this category will be credited with the match fee for the forthcoming season.

In 2021 there had been no expenditure on finals and very little outlay for travel. One team had sent in a late claim which will appear in the 2022 accounts as an adjustment.

There had been an increase in the number of matches using Photofinish, EDM and wind gauges although there were actually less matches which was positive.

As Covid had disrupted the normal process of applying for funding aid, Sport England had maintained the payments to UKA resulting in a payment of £50 000 being paid to YDL for 2021.

Karl then went into some detail about the future scenarios. Whilst the accounts look to be in a healthy position, if the league receives no payment in 2022 then we will run up a deficit and the reserves will start to disappear. If we continue as before there will be a large deficit of approximately £50 000 - £60 000 which will need to be found. The proposal to increase the fees from £90 per match to £100 will help to reduce the potential deficit. Karl reminded everyone that this had been considered in 2019 but it had been decided to defer the increase at that time.

The grant money from UKA has been designated to fund the finals, travel & accommodation, and precision & measurement support. If we don't receive that funding, then we will need

to either find alternate ways to cover those costs or cut back on what we do. There is no guarantee of any payment from UKA at the moment.

Katie Brazier (UKA) explained that the money comes through the Talent Support Fund from Sport England, the submission will be made shortly with a decision expected in the New Year. If the money doesn't come through, then UKA and the HCAFs will discuss their priorities for funding. Karl pointed out that EA had given some financial support for various initiatives in 2021, but other HCAFs had not. Katie added that in this scenario UKA would try to bring everyone together, she commented that it is difficult for UKA to support initiatives outside the Elite Support programme. The money from clubs is paid directly to the HCAFs and doesn't come to UKA at all. Part of her role is to try to ensure that major events generate a surplus to create funding to cover other initiatives.

Karl commented that what the league asks for is a very small amount of money for what we actually do, Katie assured everyone that she was committed to taking this back to UKA but there is no money provided for anything other than Elite sport, so they have to generate extra for the other areas that they need to support, such as safeguarding. The income being generated currently doesn't cover everything that UKA is committed to doing.

Paul Farres (Portsmouth & Winchester) pointed out that while UKA's primary concern is Elite athlete support, it needs to remember that those elite athletes come from the grass roots clubs and in the long term UKA will benefit from the work done by YDL.

Katie totally agreed with that statement but stressed that the role of UKA is to look after the very top of the pyramid and it is the HCAFs who are tasked with looking after the grass roots. Her role is to try and influence and encourage them to support YDL.

Karl felt he had to point out that money from Sport England should only be spent on supporting English clubs and not across the four nations.

Janice Kaufman (Vice Chair) commented that this is why we fall into the Talent Funding umbrella.

In answer to a question about the league seeking their own sponsorship Karl commented that this was UKA's remit.

Grace explained that it hadn't been possible to find a sponsor after the McCain funding had finished. As UKYAL couldn't survive without further funding initiatives, the YDL was formed because this enabled UKA to access different funding arrangements. Over the years, they have tried, there used to be a specific department dealing with trying to attract sponsors. Katie informed the meeting that UKA has a commercial working group set up to find ways of attracting alternative funding sources; under the framework agreement they are charged with seeking out sponsorship deals; that process is under way and there are conversations taking place however the majority of potential funders will be looking to have access to the whole sport.

Janice commented that the current committee do not have the expertise to take this on and asked if anyone has expertise in this field to get in touch. Grace felt we had to exercise caution as to the type of sponsorship we may attract. Our website does state that if anyone wishes to advertise on there they can apply, and we have had approaches made but they have proved to be unsuitable for our circumstances. We are not perceived to be offering much to benefit large companies.

David Little (Team Dorset) commented that anyone putting in money would rightly expect something in return, Covid had limited the number of people attending a match, so the impact of advertising had been minimalised this year. Karl pointed out that we have been running the league since 2013 and hadn't managed to attract anyone in those 9 years. Sponsorship cannot be relied upon to run indefinitely, so we had been prudent in building up a reserve which would allow us to exist in the short term, but those funds would drain,

we don't need a lot of money in the overall scheme of things. David asked if it would be helpful if we knew what sponsorship deals clubs have engaged with, Karl suggested that it may be of interest to UKA and the HCAFs. He felt that working with 5 different bodies has its difficulties especially when it had been UKA who had pushed us into this situation. Katie had been very helpful in securing the £50 000 from UKA for 2021, but if further funds aren't forthcoming, some hard decision will have to be made about the league's future pathway.

5.2 Adoption of the Accounts

- **Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers)** proposed that the 2020 accounts be adopted
- **Hilary Nash (Bristol & West/Mendip)** seconded the motion.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of adopting the 2020 accounts

- **Hilary Nash (Bristol & West/Mendip)** proposed that the 2021 accounts be adopted
- **Lynne Moody (Solihull & Small Heath AC)** seconded the motion.

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of adopting the 2021 accounts

5.3 Subscriptions for 2021/2022.

“The Management Committee proposes that subscriptions be increased to £100 per match per team, plus such sum as the Management Committee may fix to attend any subsequent matches to include finals or promotion matches.”

Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers) 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 2022 season as follows:

5.4.1 ***Less than 400 miles – no payment;***

400 miles or more - 50p per mile

The maximum support due to any team, attending a single away match, to a maximum of £500 per match in total (towards transport and accommodation).

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

Margaret Grayston (Wigan & District Harriers) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the above motions.

“The Management Committee proposes that, for the 2022 season, the host club reimbursement should remain 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”***

Jo Davis (Swansea Harriers) seconded the management proposal

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the above motions.

6. Resolutions.

6.1 Resolutions from Clubs

6.1.1 Proposed by Bristol & West with Mendip and supported by: Cheltenham & County AC; Newport Harriers; North Somerset AC; Team Avon and Yate & District AC

Proposals for the YDL LAG only

“That the number of trials in the field events be increased from three to four for all competitors”

That if approval is not given to increase the number of trials from three to four then the second proposal be considered:

6.1.2 **“That the field referee be granted discretion to allow a fourth round in field events where such action will not delay the start of another scheduled event”**

Hilary Nash (Bristol & West) spoke to the motion 6.1.1. He pointed out that having been involved in athletics as a match organiser, field referee, track referee and team manager, he felt that he was eminently qualified to propose this motion. Those in support of the motion would like to see 4 attempts allowed in the LAG instead of 3 although this may require some timetable adjustments which would require some re-organisation and the co-operation of field referees. This may not be something that the league wants to go ahead with at this time because of the practicalities needed. He thought we should be looking forward to make things better for the athletes and increasing the number of throws from 3 to 4 would do this.

Arwel Williams (Liverpool Harriers) explained that he had also been involved in various roles with leagues for young athletes and had also worked as field referee, he pointed out that there were 15 events involved and if all had a full complement of athletes it would take an extra 90 minutes to get through the timetable.

Grace commented that in the last few years we had been asked to shorten the length of the day and given that officials are looking at a maximum length of day around 6 hours, this would have repercussions.

David Little (Team Dorset) thought that there was a potential hazard if throwing were to take place at either end of the field, as accidents had happened under those circumstances.

John Hubbard (Blackheath & Bromley) asked if it was envisaged that all competitors would have 4 throws or the top 3 getting the additional throw? Hilary suggested that this would take too long for officials trying to sort out the positions after round 3 so it would be quicker to just offer 4 trials for all.

Tim Soutar (Blackheath & Bromley) commented that if minimum standards were applied that would give more time and more opportunities for the better athletes.

Grace suggested that this proposal should be added to the list for the consultation group, led by Janice Kaufman, to look at prior to carrying out a meaningful consultation.

Stuart Hall (Spensborough) pointed out that not all facilities have the facility to offer 2 javelin throws to take place at the same time.

Marian Williams then went through the comments that had been raised and agreed at the previous management meeting:

- If a track did have the option of holding 2 javelin competitions at opposite ends of the field, this would raise a safety issue as it would require additional officials to run both events simultaneously, it's not possible at this stage to guarantee that a host club would be able to find the extra officials needed in addition to an experienced official to act as 'policeman' in the centre of the midfield.
- There is an assumption in this proposal that all officials are experienced enough to increase the pace of an event in order to complete within a tighter time frame.
- Whilst this primarily refers to the long throws adding to the length of the day, it's also worth remembering that additional trials in Shot Put and Long Jump will also lengthen the time for officials to be at an event who then may be late moving to their next event.
- She had been working on a Gantt chart for a 6-team division and it wasn't possible to do this without adding to the length of the day.
- With a number of divisions being either larger than 6 teams or having 2 divisions competing at the same venue (double headers) you will have even more competitors at matches.
- On the other hand, a division of 5 teams competing as a standalone match would be unlikely to have sufficient officials to allow for 2 long throws to take place simultaneously.
- The only way to increase the number of trials without adding time to the length of the match would be to reduce the number of events and that had not been well received when mooted before. It needs more thought.

Paul Farres (City of Portsmouth) asked whether we should also consider emulating the UAG and having 3 athletes across both age groups rather than the 4 we have now? Grace responded that this would not be in the interests of development, and that rotating events would not be popular.

Janice Kaufman suggested that many of the younger athletes compete in other events at matches and 3 trials at any one of them was enough at that age.

Lyn Orbell (Birchfield Harriers) commented that, as a throws coach, she would be unhappy to have 2 long throws taking place simultaneously, it only took one good athlete to make it potentially unsafe.

Hilary declined the opportunity to sum up

The chair then called for a vote on this proposal:

Votes For: 2

Abstentions: 4

The proposal was defeated by a large majority.

Hilary then moved to proposal 6.1.2. He commented that he was not convinced that holding 2 javelin throws simultaneously would cause a problem if you look at the performances of athletes in that age group.

He suggested that the Shot Put events are usually completed well within the time allocated and that neither the long jump nor the shot would impact the timetable in the same way as the long throws so it wouldn't therefore be a problem to increase the number of attempts in those events.

Vertical jumpers had no such limit on attempts, he felt that allowing four attempts in the Long Jump and Shot would give the athletes a better experience. With regard to the long throwers, this proposal asked for field referees to be given the dispensation to allow for athletes to have 4 trials if the numbers of competitors were low enough, for example 9 athletes with 4 throws produces the same number of attempts as 12 athletes having only

3. He didn't feel that rotating events was a good option as this limited the opportunities for athletes to compete.

Paul Farres asked for confirmation that the rules for HJ and PV were no different in the LAG.

David Little felt that by allowing referees to use discretion as to which athletes could have additional attempts was as unfair concept as some would get more attempts than others in the same match.

Margaret Grayston agreed with David but also commented that Field referees have enough to do without having to sort this out.

Joyce Tomala (Cwmbran) felt that we need to clarify exactly what we will be voting on as there seems to be some muddying of the waters with the discussion moving away from what the proposal is stating.

Arwel Williams recommended that this should be referred back to the consultation group for them to look at.

John Hubbard commented that as a general principle he would be in favour of referees being able to exercise discretion but pointed out that they may not know how many competitors are actually going to turn up for each event.

Ann Virgo (Royal Sutton Coldfield) commented that three attempts was enough for the younger athletes because they are usually doing other events as well which would be impacted.

Marian reminded everyone that although the Long Jump and Shot Put may not have a time impact on the scheduling of other events, it does affect athletes who are competing in other events and also impinges on field officials who themselves are also moving on to cover other events.

It may also mean that events at the start of the day would have a more flexible approach to the detriment of the later events.

As a national league it's important that all athletes are offered equality of opportunity, this proposal which gave referees the responsibility of deciding which athletes should be allowed additional opportunities, would create an inequality not only between matches across the country, but also differences between events at individual matches.

Grace felt it was too subjective, some referees would allow the increase in the number of attempts whilst others may be less accommodating.

David Little commented that the larger divisions wouldn't have the same options.

Hilary summed up by asked for the meeting to consider allowing 4 trials to take place in the Shot and Long Jump and, in the long throws where numbers were low enough. Grace pointed out that this did not form part of the proposal. He moved on to state that allowing referees to exercise discretion would enhance the experience for athletes and that we need to look at innovations for the future.

The meeting then moved to a vote:

Votes For: 5

Abstentions: 8

The proposal was defeated by a substantial majority

The rationale behind the proposal would be considered by the consultation group.

6.2 Management Committee proposals for rule changes:

RULE 7: DECLARATIONS

7.1 Declarations must be made on the Team Managers' portal and must be made at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

(For clarification: This refers to declarations for athletes and officials)

- 7.2 Second-claim athletes (applicable only to upper age group athletes – subject to a maximum of 5 male and 5 female per club per match) must be clearly identified on the portal.
- 7.3 The declarations should be fully completed giving full name, age group and first- or second- claim competitor, or non-scoring athlete.
All athletes' details must be fully completed on the portal showing the correct URN and accurate date of birth.
- 7.4 Changes on the day should be submitted 10 minutes before the scheduled event time, either on the portal, or using the bespoke league change slips, whichever is appropriate.
- 7.5 In the event of an athlete competing without having been declared in the correct manner, all points gained will be deducted.

Be replaced by:

- 7.1 All athletes' details must be fully completed in the Squad list on the portal. The details must include the athlete's full name, age group, correct URN and accurate date of birth, and indicate first- or second- claim competitor; in the case of composite teams, athletes' first claim club must also be indicated.
- 7.2 Declarations must be made on the Team Managers' portal and must be made at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting. This includes non-scoring athletes.
(For clarification: This refers to declarations for athletes and officials)
- 7.3 Second-claim athletes (applicable only to upper age group athletes – subject to a maximum of 5 male and 5 female per club per match) must be clearly identified on the portal.
- 7.4 Changes on the day should be entered on the portal 10 minutes before the scheduled event time. This to include non-scoring athletes.
- 7.5 In the event of an athlete competing without having been declared in the correct manner, all points gained will be deducted.

Marian went through the rationale behind the above proposed changes:

The original rule had been written before the inception of a team managers' portal or the existing software which has had a significant effect on how we declare athletes.

The starting point logically is when athletes are added onto the portal and so the new rule 7.1 is a reworking of old rule 7.3 to show this in an updated form to comply with current practice. The old rule 7.1 is now showing as 7.2; 7.2 has now become 7.3.

Rule 7.4 has been re-worded as we no longer use paper declarations, and rule 7.5 is unchanged. The references to non-scorers in rules 7.2 and 7.4 was to ensure that there could be no doubt that non scorers must also be declared in the same way as scoring athletes. In addition, rule 7.4 has been amended in line with current declaration procedures.

David Little asked about athletes who were declared but didn't turn up, he felt that team managers may not get around to changing the portal accordingly. Marian replied that although this was less of a concern, it became a problem if someone else was put into the event instead without changing the declaration, she commented that sometimes the athlete themselves may

decide to compete if they see no-one has turned up. Marian asked that team managers just take time to tidy up the portal and make sure that the correct athletes are declared.

Richard Pownall (Marshall Milton Keynes) queried rule 7.5 and asked if there was any flexibility allowed with this, as sometimes circumstances meant that it wasn't always possible to declare the athletes 10 minutes prior to an event.

Marian replied that in reality she can only check that all the athletes have been declared when she receives the results either 2 or 3 days after the match. This gave team managers plenty of time to go through their portals and check that the team is correct. In fairness, most do this, but it's the small percentage who don't bother to check that causes a lot of extra work, and time, to chase them up. We have been very lenient because we don't want athletes to be left out of the results, but if team managers haven't declared them over 48 hours after a match, then they're not being fair to their athletes. Scrutinising all the results takes a lot of time when there are missing names, and then we have to update Power of 10 which can also take a lot of time. **Stuart Hall** commented that the rule has been relaxed from its original form.

Margaret Grayston commented that not all tracks have wi-fi to allow the team managers to update the teams, and **Arwel Williams** also agreed that sometimes results recorders were unable to update the results at the track, but when the results go out to teams there is sufficient time for them to be updated before they're sent to the administrator for scrutiny.

Marian agreed that this could easily be done post-match, and so long as the team was carefully checked on the portal and the host notified, it was just a simple refresh needed to bring the changes through. She also commented that she had done the results at tracks with no wi-fi link and had used her smart phone as the wi-fi source. This worked well and takes very little data this could be an option moving forward.

Paul Farres commented that it was important that team managers get the results quickly so they can check for gaps, and accuracy. This was agreed, and the rules do specify that the results are sent out the same evening.

John Hubbard referred to the declaration of officials on the portal, he suggested that this needed to be aligned to other national leagues, but this had not been the case in 2021 and it had been difficult to enter officials onto the portal. In fact, it wasn't working as a useful resource for host clubs.

Alan Johnson (Results Co-ordinator) replied that Simon Fennell has agreed that the software will be looked at and should be ready for checking and updating by the end of December, he pointed out that the NAL also have a meeting managers portal.

David Little asked if n/s athletes can use different bib numbers in the LAG to identify them rather than team numbers as this caused confusion with athletes sometimes competing in the same numbers in races. Marian replied that separate numbers can be used, but the software can only pick up names via team numbers and from experience a number of host clubs give out numbers with no reference whatsoever as to how they have been declared on the portal hence there are a lot of missing names in the results which takes a lot of unravelling.

Arwel Williams in reference to the query on officials reminded everyone that all officials can be checked on the UKA Officials' checker. With regard to non-scoring athletes while he could see what was being referred to, in the fixtures he had attended it hadn't been an issue since they tend to run in separate races.

Katie Brazier commented that administration errors shouldn't affect the results from the field of play, she further commented that some sports use fines to penalise rule breakers, and if a club doesn't fulfil its obligations to declare the athletes there could be a threat of a penalty. She also asked where Simon Fennell was pulling his information from, there is a lot of data and technology sitting in different systems, but it doesn't always seem to work together, which makes for a lot

extra admin work, she felt that a technological eco structure can help to tidy up competitions. All the data is held in Trinity and that should be the point of reference for everyone.

Hilary Nash pointed out that in the LAG there are a specific number allowed for particular events, the problem arose because start teams were mixing non scoring and scoring athletes but not making it clear to track judges what they had done. If it's not possible to differentiate the scorers and non-scorers they shouldn't run together.

Grace Hall assured everyone that our guidelines for host clubs would be updated to make sure everyone understood what was required.

Julian Starkey (Bracknell) said that as a Starter he would find it much easier if athletes wore individual numbers because in many instances a lot of athletes turn up to run but don't know which number they should be wearing.

Alan Johnson said that host clubs need to provide an extra sheet to identify which athletes were wearing which numbers.

The chair then moved to a vote on this rule change:

Alan Johnson seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously approved

RULE 12: NON-SCORING EVENTS

12.1 In the Lower Age Group, two U13 and two U15 athletes per gender per team will be allowed in the non-scoring 800m and 75m/100m events. These athletes shall be declared on the relevant declaration sheet.

Be replaced by:

12.1 In the Lower Age Group, two U13 and two U15 athletes per gender per team will be allowed in the non-scoring 800m and 75m/100m events ONLY. These athletes shall be declared on the relevant declaration sheet.

Marian explained the addition of the word 'ONLY' will serve as a reminder to team managers and host clubs that these are the only events where non-scoring athletes are permitted within the timetable. This saves disappointment for athletes who subsequently find that their results cannot be displayed in the results or on Po10.

David Little seconded the proposal, and this was unanimously approved.

7 There were no constitutional amendments tabled.

8 Election of management committee members for 2021-2022. Nominations received for: -

Officers

Grace Hall (to 2024) serving as Chair nominated by Derby AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC; Wigan Harriers & AC

Janice Kaufman (to 2025) serving as Vice Chair nominated by Derby AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC

Karl Ponty (to 2025) serving as Finance Officer nominated by Derby AC; Gateshead Harriers & AC

General Committee:

Alan Johnson (to 2022) serving as Northern Area Co-ordinator – nominated by Blackburn Harriers; East Cheshire AC & Tameside Harriers; Gateshead Harriers & AC; Trafford AC; Warrington AC; Wigan Harriers & AC

Stuart Hall (to 2022) serving as Web Manager – nominated by Gateshead Harriers & AC; Derby AC; Wigan Harriers & AC

Julian Starkey (to 2023) serving as Statistician – nominated by Gateshead Harriers & AC; Derby AC

Leslie Roy (to 2023) serving as Scottish Area Co-ordinator – nominated by Edinburgh AC; Kilmarnock Harriers & AC; Shettleston Harriers; Team North Lanarkshire and Victoria Park City of Glasgow AC

One vacancy to 2023 – to serve as Midland Area Co-ordinator

Two vacancies to 2022 – one of which to serve as Southern Area Co-ordinator

Grace explained that as a result of deferring the AGM in 2020, the whole committee needed to be re-elected, but in order to maintain the alternating retirement dates as set out in the constitution, each candidate was showing their individual term of office.

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

Geoff Morphitis asked what the contingency was if no-one came forward to take on the roles of the Area Co-ordinators. **Grace** told the meeting that though we have tried to recruit volunteers, we have as yet been unsuccessful in replacing the two Area Co-ordinators; so we will be depending on the clubs to work with us in trying to sort out the fixtures; she asked if anyone knew of someone who may be interested in serving on the committee to please contact her to discuss it. The roles and responsibilities are on the YDL website and there is a small remuneration paid for those roles. If anyone does step forward this would be considered as a casual vacancy for the one year, whereupon they would stand for election in the normal way at the AGM. We are acutely aware that volunteers at club level already have a lot to do, we thank them for their continued support and will continue to do the best we can.

David Little asked if no-one was prepared to do the Area Co-ordinators's job, would we be looking for a volunteer to sort out each division? **Grace** replied that that wasn't the intention, but that clubs would need to work together. If clubs don't come forward with offers to host, there will be no matches for that division. **David** asked for clarification about match 4 which seems to be allocated to an area final, **Marian** explained that it varied from region to region, and Southern region didn't have area finals and promotion matches. **David** said that he was prepared to try to sort the fixtures for his division.

Additional comments

Grace then congratulated the Vice Chair **Janice Kaufman** who, along with her son **Richard** had received the BBC Unsung Sporting Hero award for the North-East.

Grace then reminded everyone that there is an election for the UK Members, there are 2 candidates, herself and **Andy Paul**, she encouraged everyone not to waste their vote but to make sure they voted for one of the candidates. **Julian Starkey** pointed out that if clubs don't vote, they will get the candidate that they deserve.

Grace then brought everyone's attention back to the 2 retiring Area Co-ordinators – **Joyce Tomala**, the Midlands representative, and **Lorraine Vidler** from the Southern region. **Joyce** has been involved in athletics for many years, initially with the Boys' Young Athletes league which had then merged with the Girls league to become the UKYAL; when that league disbanded and became part of the YDL she had once more thrown herself into the role of Area Co-ordinator for the Midlands. In addition to this she has been working as a volunteer for Welsh Athletics in many capacities; she has given a lot of her life to athletics. It was therefore fitting that on her

retirement from this league we present her with a memento of her long-standing commitment. Grace presented her with an engraved bespoke slate paperweight and hoped that this will serve as a regular reminder of our gratitude to her.

Lorraine has also been involved in the sport of athletics in numerous roles for a number of years, latterly serving as Finance Officer and the Area Co-ordinator for the Southern region. As she wasn't at the meeting, Julian Starkey agreed to take her gift and present it to her at a suitable venue in the South.

Janice Kaufman reminded everyone about the Officials Training initiative; we have had about 40 officials going through the process, but there was still further money available in the fund for L1 training and as an incentive for L1 officials to progress to L2. Anyone interested in taking up the opportunity to contact her. John Hubbard commented that there was a need for more courses to be available, Janice agreed that it wasn't as straightforward as it should be.

9 The 2022 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday 26th November 2022.

The AGM closed at 13:55

The Chair thanked everyone for their input to the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.

| | |
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| Signed: | Date: |
|---------|-------|

DRAFT